**GROWING TOGETHER:** FOR OLDER CHILDREN

Session 3 of 4

# The last supper

### MEETING AIM

To see the way that Jesus shares with his disciples what’s about to happen and begins the great Christian tradition of Holy Communion / Eucharist / Lord’s Supper.

### BIBLE PASSAGE

Mark 14:12-26

### BACKGROUND

This session plan is intended for use either in-person or online, depending on how you’re meeting. Adapt the activities to fit your situation.

Jesus is preparing to complete the rescue plan to bring his people into a forever-relationship with him. It’s the time of the Passover, when Jews remembered how the blood of an innocent lamb had protected them as God brought them out of slavery in Egypt. Unbeknown to the disciples, Jesus is about to show them how these events were a prophetic foreshadowing of what they are going to see unfolding before them in the next few hours.

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### STARTING OUT – 5 mins

Start your time together with some simple refreshments (if you can). Chat about what the children have done this week and ask them what traditions they have to celebrate, or remember certain things in their families.

### INTRO ACTIVITY – 10 mins

**You will need:** story sections below printed out

Put the children into small groups (or work as one group), and give each group a set of these story sections:

• God’s people were slaves in Egypt

• God spoke to Moses and said: “Get my people out!”

• Moses spoke to Pharaoh the king and said: “Let my people go!”

• Pharaoh said: “No.”

• God used Moses to send plagues to Egypt.

• In the last plague the firstborn children died.

• God’s people were protected by putting lamb’s blood on the doorposts.

• Finally, Pharaoh said: “Go!”

• God’s people escaped.

• Pharaoh changed his mind and chased them.

• God opened up the sea.

• God’s people went through safely.

• When the Egyptians went through, the water covered them.

Mix them up and challenging the children to put them in the right order. If they’re struggling, read from Exodus 11-14 or watch clips from *The Prince of Egypt*.

### BIBLE STORY – 10 mins

**You will need:** tablecloth; flatbreads (pitta or matzah); grape juice; cups

Spread the tablecloth on the floor and ask everyone to sit around the edge. Set out your flatbread and grape juice. Explain that the story you’ve just pieced together was so important for God’s people that they celebrated it with a special meal every year called the Passover. Tell this story:

We saw last time how Jesus washed the disciples’ feet at the start of the meal. Jesus continues to do some surprising things as they eat together. At the Passover meal, Jewish people ate (and still eat) certain things in a certain order and drink wine at particular points too. The meal tells the story of how God rescued his people from Egypt. Jesus and his disciples would’ve known exactly how this went as they would’ve done this every year since they were children.

This time, however, was different. Jesus had started the meal by telling the disciples that one of them was going to betray him. They were upset because they couldn’t imagine how that was going to happen. One of the disciples, Judas Iscariot, knew very well, though: we don’t know exactly why, but Judas had become disillusioned with Jesus. Perhaps he thought that Jesus was going to overthrow the Romans or maybe there was another reason, but whatever it was, Judas had agreed with the chief priests to sell Jesus out and to make it possible for him to be arrested.

Of course, no one except Judas and Jesus know this during the meal. Jesus picks up the bread, thanks God, breaks it and tells the disciples that this is his body. That was a bit odd. *Break the bread you have and give a piece to everyone.*

Then it gets even weirder: Jesus picks up a cup of wine, tells everyone that it’s his blood which is a sign of a new promise to God’s people, and then he offers it around. *Give everyone some of your juice.*

At some point in the meal, Judas sneaks off to betray Jesus. Peter and Jesus have a conversation where Peter promises that he will never betray Jesus, but Jesus tells him that he’ll say he doesn’t know him three times before the night is finished. All in all, it’s a very strange meal. At the end of the meal, they sing a hymn together. *You can sing a familiar worship song at this point too.* And then they leave and go to a place they knew called Gethsemane. Jesus goes off by himself to pray for a while, and then Judas shows up with some soldiers who arrest Jesus and take him away.

### CHATTING TOGETHER – 5 mins

Ask the children these questions, encouraging everyone to take turns to contribute:

* What do you think the disciples thought when Jesus said someone would betray him?
* How do you think Jesus felt, knowing that Judas would betray him?
* What do you think Jesus was talking about when he said the bread and wine were his body and blood?
* Do you think the story of the Passover is going to be linked somehow to what happens next?
* What do you think they thought would happen next?

### CREATIVE TIME – 10 mins

**You will need:** paper; felt-tip pens

Show the children how to draw an outline of a wine glass and then colour it in so that it looks like a glass of wine. Let them continue to talk about the story of Passover from ‘Intro activity’ and of the last supper from ‘Bible story’ as they do this. Especially prompt them to chew on the question of why blood is important in both stories.

### PRAYER – 5 mins

Ask the children to find a space, get comfortable and close their eyes. Read Mark 14:17-18 and 22-24. Read slowly and leave a gap after each bit, encouraging the children to imagine they are part of the scene and to have a conversation with Jesus in their hearts.

**JENNY CHEUNG**

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