

Adventures with GOD!

JESUS AND THE LAST SUPPER (B.1.SPRING.5)

Biblical Reference	Matthew 26:17-30
Key Verse	Matthew 26:28, John 6:35
Key Concept	I remember the sacrifice that Jesus made for me on the cross through symbols that Jesus himself gave us.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tell the story of Jesus' last meal with his disciples 2. Name the symbols used by Jesus (bread, wine) 3. Express gratitude for Jesus and what Jesus did

Life Application

These symbols are not easy to understand, especially for children of this age. We need to explain carefully the elements that are used in Holy Communion (the bread which represents the body of Jesus and the wine or grape juice that represents the blood of Jesus). That way children will be able to come to an understanding of what these symbols mean in their lives. God has invited us to celebrate the Lord's Supper as a way of remembering what Jesus sacrificed for us. Through this lesson children will also come to appreciate the important place symbols have in our Christian life, as they help us remember significant events in our life of faith.

Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
My GROW Adventure	GROW Adventure w/God materials	5 minutes
Opening Prayer	Candle	1 minute
Craft	Paper, crayons, scissors, glue	10 minutes
Bible Story	Bible, cup, bread, bowl, towel	15minutes
Craft	Paper plates and cups, markers, yarn	15 minutes
Craft	Paper cups, red tissue paper, yarn, fabric, bread, crayons	10 minutes
Activity	Scroll	
My GROW Adventure	Review	5 minutes
Closing Prayer	Candle	1 minute

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INSTRUCTIONS

My GROW Adventure with God Weekly Review: As children enter take time to have them reflect on their adventure with God booklets and either discuss or use art materials to express their journey during the past week. You may wish to add any art work, written poems, prayers or songs to a GROW wall in the room. You can find my GROW Adventure with God materials on the Covchurch.org website in the same place as the Adventures with God sessions.

Opening Prayer: Gather children around a candle. Light the candle and explain that we are entering into a special time with God. Encourage the children to hold their hands out in front of them palms up as a sign they are ready to receive what God has for them today.

Prayer Example: Lord God, thank you for making us, for loving us, for forgiving us, and guiding us. We know you are here with us right now. As we enter into your word, the Bible, help us draw close to you, to understand and to listen to what you have to say to us. Amen

(For safety sake, you may wish to extinguish the candle after the prayer)

Craft: The symbol the children will make today is that of the cup, which represents the cup used in Jesus' last supper with his disciples; it also symbolizes Jesus' blood. The children can color the picture and write the verse out as well.

Bible Story: Matthew is the disciple who will tell the story today. Have the person who plays this role first talk about symbols. Ask the children what symbols they know (symbols of sports teams, food, flags, etc). Tell them that God has always liked to use symbols. Ask them if they can think of some symbols that God has used (answers could include: rainbow – symbol that God would not send another flood to destroy the earth, altar – a symbol of thanksgiving to God, bread without yeast – symbol of the exit of the Israelites from Egypt). Tell them that today they are going to talk about other symbols God has given us. Have the person who is playing the role of Moses come in. The person can begin by saying, "Hello, my name is Matthew. I don't know if we've met before. Before I met my friend Jesus I worked for the government. A lot of people didn't like me because of my job, but Jesus invited me to be a part of his group of disciples. My life has not been the same since. I want to tell you about something amazing that happened. I want to tell you about what happened when we were together in Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. Jesus called two of us and asked us for help..."

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Matthew can continue to tell the story about when Jesus washed the disciples' feet (have the person talk about what they felt when Jesus did that). Have a bowl or tub, as well as a towel there so Matthew can reenact it. Also when Matthew talks about the Passover have the person show some things that would have been common to have at that feast (bitter herbs, wine/juice, bread without yeast, etc.). Matthew should explain that every year when they celebrated the Passover, they celebrated it the same – with the same symbols and rituals. However, when they were together Jesus used different words and said some pretty amazing things. For example, when he served the bread he said it was a symbol of his body that would be given for them. And the cup was a symbol of the commitment between God and them, sealed with the blood that he would shed on the cross. Matthew can talk about the confusion the disciples felt when Jesus talked like this.

Some important concepts from the story can be found on the sheet that follows: **Communion – tips for talking with children**. End the story by letting a child put the symbol for the day on the tree/branches.

Craft: In the following pages you will find instructions for a symbolic craft the children can make using paper plates, paper cups, etc.

Activity: In the scrolls, have the children add the phrase, "I am the bread of life."

Today's GROW Adventure with God Review:

G: God's Word: What is the story? (give children an opportunity to express their understanding of the story).

R: Relationships: Is there anything in today's bible story that shows us how we should or shouldn't share God's love with others? (Remind children that sometimes God uses the stories of the bible to show us how we shouldn't act toward God or others and give them a chance to consider how we might show God's love instead).

O: Outward Action: Is there anything in the bible story that shows us how we should help or serve God or others? (Explore concrete ways the children could live this out in the coming week).

W: Worship: Is there anything in the bible story that shows us how we should accept God's love for us and others? Ask: How do you feel about God? How would you like to respond to God? What would you like to say to God?

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Closing Prayer: Gather children around the candle again. As you light the candle explain that the flame is something that is present in the light and the darkness. In the same way, it reminds us that God is always with us. Today the children can give thanks to God for the guidance and directions that we have been given in the Bible, by our leaders and our parents. Before praying, reflect for a few minutes on the advantage that we have today to have the word of God which gives us direction. Remind them that we are all given the decision to choose the path that follows God. We each have to choose. Is there anything anyone wishes to say to God? After children have responded, close the prayer time.

Prayer Example: Lord God, we thank you that you are always with us, and always love us. It's good to be with you. Thank you for what we have learned today. Thank you for being with us and for teaching us through the Bible. Help us to remember what you have taught us today and to live it out when we leave. Amen

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Communion: Tips for talking with children

Communion

Here are some suggestions for exploring and preparing children to participate in communion.

First ask children what they think communion is about and what it means to them. Affirm them for those parts they understand. You may also gently guide them toward deeper understanding if needed by using the questions below.

Communion means sharing something with others.

Communion is a special time of God sharing and being with us, and our sharing and being with God and each other. It is a time of joining with Jesus.

We celebrate communion because Jesus asks us to. Luke 22:17-19

We call it a celebration because of Jesus love for us, and because it is a gift to us from God.

Juice and bread are the kind of things we need in order to live. We can't live unless we have something to drink and eat. When we drink the juice and eat the bread during communion it reminds us that:

1. Jesus is God and Jesus gives us life.

How do you feel knowing Jesus is the one who made you and gives you life?

Why do you think Jesus made you?

2. Jesus loves us so much that he gave up his life to remove our sin so we can live with Jesus now and forever. (Sin is any thought, word, or action that is contrary to the will of God.) Because of Jesus love for us, Jesus died on the cross, taking on our sin and giving up his body and life-blood. The bread that we break is a reminder of Jesus broken body on the cross, which he lovingly gave for us. The juice that we drink is a reminder of the life-blood of Jesus poured out for us. That's why we say the bread is Jesus body and cup is Jesus blood. Both point to the promise of our new eternal life with Jesus. A life that begins the moment we accept Jesus as our God. This is why we say Jesus is our Savior, because Jesus death and resurrection has saved us from sin and death and has given us new life.

I wonder what Jesus is like that he would do this for us? What do you think?

3. Jesus gives life and has power over death. Jesus over came death through the resurrection. Jesus is risen from the dead and promises that he will do the same for you. But Jesus also rose from the dead so he could share life with you right now.

What is life with Jesus like for you now?

Do you ever talk with Jesus or feel Jesus is near? Tell me about that.

Or if they can't answer, ask; When do you feel closest to Jesus?

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4. Jesus is gracious. Our life, God's love, and the forgiveness of sin are not things we can earn, or things we deserve. They are unmerited gifts from God. Given freely to us because of God's gracious love for us. Communion is a sacrament, a visible and outward sign of an inward invisible grace.

How do you feel knowing you can't earn Jesus love?

I wonder why Jesus is always with us, gives us life, and forgives us even when we aren't perfect?

5. In the Evangelical Covenant Church everyone who has accepted Jesus as Savior and Lord is invited to participate in communion.

What do you think it means that Jesus is your Savior?

What do you think it means that Jesus is your Lord?

* Savior and Lord

- Savior comes from the word save. It means we recognize that Jesus loves us and has saved us from our sinfulness and from death. When we sin, we can ask Jesus to forgive us, and Jesus will remove our sin and help us to turn away from sin.

- Let's do that now.

Are there any thoughts you have had, or words you have said, or actions you have done that you want to ask Jesus to forgive you for?

The bible reminds us that when we confess/share our sin with Jesus, that Jesus does forgive us. (See 1 John 1:8-9)

- Jesus is also our Savior because he has saved us from our old life apart from God and given us a new life with God.
 - *I wonder how a new life with Jesus is different than our old life apart from Jesus?*
- We recognize Jesus as Lord because Jesus has power and authority over all creation and we seek to follow and live for Jesus because of Jesus love for us and our love for Jesus.
 - *How do you think Jesus wants us to live?*
 - *What are some ways you are following and living for Jesus?*

6. There is a mystery present in communion.

What does mystery mean to you?

(Something that is not fully understood)

I wonder what it means that Jesus is with us in a special way during communion?

When we participate in communion, God is present in a special way drawing us near to Jesus and to those we are participating with. This can be one of those times when you feel closest to Jesus. That's why communion is not something we rush through.

We will take time to pray and draw close to Jesus before, during and after we receive the bread and juice.

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7. We remember, celebrate, and live

We remember that:

Jesus is God

Jesus gives us life

Jesus loves us

Jesus is gracious

Jesus died for us

Jesus rose from the dead

Jesus lives

Jesus will come again

We thank and praise Jesus through

Song

Prayers

Communion

We live with and for Jesus who is always:

With us

Guiding us

Life with Jesus

I wonder how Jesus guides us?

If you can remember, tell me of a time when Jesus guided you.

Explain the steps of communion in the church and ask if they have any questions.

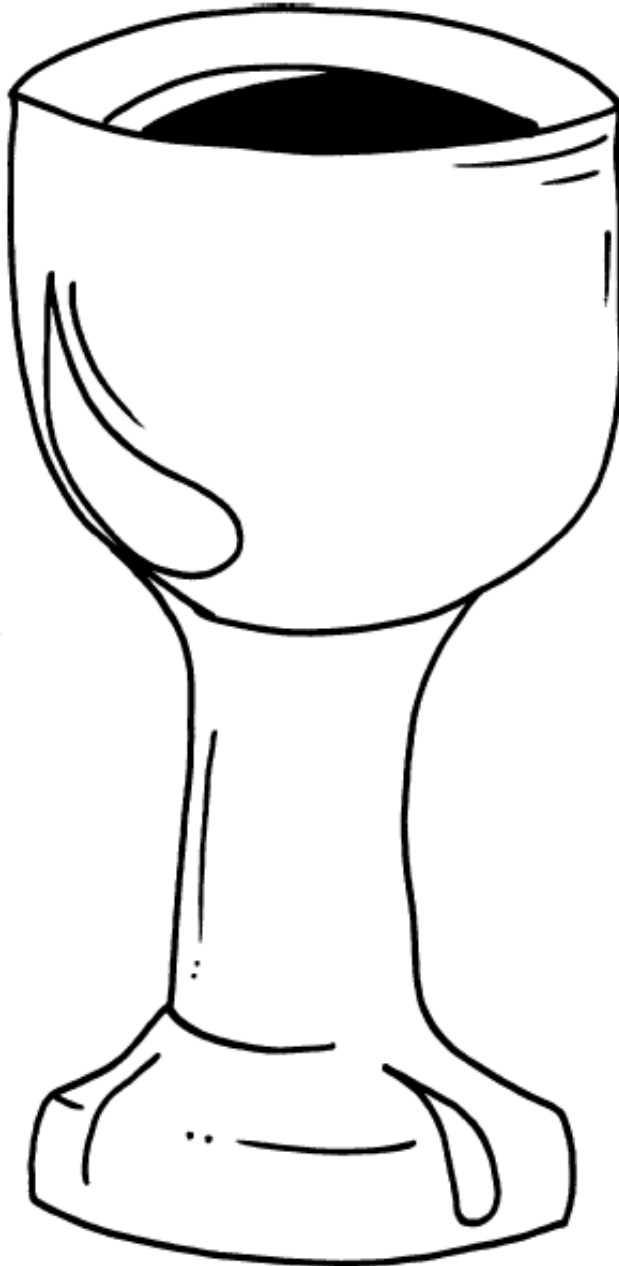
You may also want to eat some bread and drink some juice while you have this discussion. Then talk about how just eating bread and drinking juice is different from prayerful and focused moments of eating the bread and drinking the juice during communion.

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SYMBOL

Cup



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ILLUSTRATION



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ILLUSTRATION

Jesus washes the disciples' feet



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CRAFT

Matthew 26:26-30, John 13:1-17, 1 Corinthians 11:23-35

Jesus wanted to explain to his disciples who he was and why he had come. As God, Jesus knew that humans learn best when they can see symbols. Jesus was with his disciples before he was arrested and killed and he instituted a very special meal that is known today as the “Lord’s Supper” or “Holy Communion.” The symbols we use in this Holy Communion are; bread, cup, bowl, towel.

Materials: disposable plate, 2 small paper cups, red tissue paper, yarn, piece of fabric, small bit of bread, crayons or markers.

Instructions:

1. Write “Remember me” in the middle of the plate.
2. Glue a small paper cup on the plate and put red tissue paper in it to represent the wine/grape juice that is a symbol of Jesus’ blood.
3. Glue a small piece of bread to the plate.
4. Cut the other small cup in half, so that it looks like a small bowl or container and glue a small piece of fabric in it to represent the bowl and towel Jesus used when he washed his disciples’ feet.
5. Make holes in the plate and in the bottom of the small cup and use yarn to connect the small cup to the plate.

