



# HOLY WEEK

**Date: 3.30.25 | Title: Jesus Shares the Passover Meal |  
Scripture: Matthew 26:17-30, Mark 14:12-26, Luke 22:7-30**

## LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

### Middle School Students:

- Jesus is fully God and fully man, and He is altogether Holy.
- Jesus lived for the glory of the Father and taught that we should do the same through lives of worship.
- Jesus is the only way people can connect with God.
- Because Jesus is God, He had the power to perform miracles.

### High School Students:

- From the beginning, God planned that Jesus would save people from their sins.
- Jesus is fully God and fully man, and despite being tempted while on earth, remained altogether free from sin.
- Because of Jesus, we who were once separated due to sin are now accepted into His presence due to Christ's righteousness.
- Whereas many claim that Jesus was a good man or a great teacher, the truth is that Jesus is God



### MEMORY VERSE

**"If you confess (declare) with your mouth that  
Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God  
raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."**

**Romans 10:9**



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## INTRODUCTION TO THE LESSON

Play a quick game of Would You Rather Food and Drink Edition with the students. Have the group move to one side of the room or the other to make their choice. Students can also make a choice by sitting/standing or turning backwards/forwards. Below are a few example questions, but feel free to add your own or allow the students to make up additional questions.

Would you rather eat pizza or tacos?

Would you rather eat hotdogs or spaghetti?

Would you rather eat fruit or vegetables?

Would you rather drink lemonade or sweet tea?

Would you rather drink water or soda?

Would you rather drink apple juice or orange juice?

Ask the students, “Are there certain times of the year when you and your family share a big meal together? When? What foods do you eat during these big meals?” Share with the group about a special time of the year where your family traditionally shares a special snack or meal.

Tell the students, “Today we will learn about a last meal Jesus shared with His disciples and why this meal is important for us today.”



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## BACKGROUND INFO FOR LEADERS

God made a promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob that He would always be with His people. When the Jewish people were enslaved in Egypt, God had a plan to rescue them. The celebration of Passover reminded them that they couldn't save themselves—it was only through God's power that they were freed. God was faithful, but His people did not always keep their promise to obey Him. No one is perfect like God. Even Jesus' closest followers, His disciples, were sinners. Since everyone sins and no one fully obeys God, we need a Savior. We need someone perfect who can take the punishment for our sins. Jesus came to sacrifice Himself so that we could be forgiven.

When Jesus taught His disciples about the bread and the cup at the Last Supper, He was showing them that He came to start a new covenant. This new covenant wasn't based on people being perfect but on Jesus' sacrifice.

As the time for Passover came closer, Jesus and His disciples prepared to celebrate together. Jesus knew that He would soon be betrayed, but He still wanted to share this special meal with His closest friends. Jesus was about to become the true Passover Lamb, sacrificed for the sins of the world. Before, the Passover meal had always been about looking forward to the Messiah. Now, Jesus showed them that He was the fulfillment of that promise. The meal also pointed forward to the great celebration in heaven, called the "marriage supper of the Lamb" (Revelation 19:9-10). Even though Jesus knew He would suffer greatly, He willingly went to the cross for our salvation.

Passover was a time for the Jewish people to remember how God freed them from slavery in Egypt. Every year, they celebrated so they would never forget what God had done for them. Out of this tradition came the Lord's Supper, or Communion, which celebrates Jesus' new covenant with us.

There were six key elements in a traditional Passover meal:

1. Passover lamb – a reminder of God's protection through the blood of a lamb.
2. Unleavened bread – a reminder of how quickly they had to leave Egypt, without time to let their bread rise.



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3. Bowl of salt water – a symbol of the sorrow and tears of their slavery.
4. Bitter herbs – a reminder of the bitterness of slavery in Egypt.
5. Fruit puree – a symbol of the clay they used to make bricks while they were enslaved.
6. Four cups of red wine mixed with water – representing God’s promises in Exodus 6:6-7

Why was the Last Supper on the first day of Unleavened Bread, and how does this connect to Jesus’ new covenant? The Festival of Unleavened Bread lasted seven days (Leviticus 23:5-6), and the Israelites sacrificed their Passover lambs on the first day. They did this to remember how the blood of the lamb saved them from the last plague in Egypt. Jesus and His disciples ate the Passover meal after sundown on Thursday night, and later that evening, Jesus introduced the Lord’s Supper. The next afternoon, on Friday, Jesus was crucified. After that, people continued to sacrifice lambs in remembrance of how God saved them, but Jesus’ sacrifice was different—He was the ultimate and final Lamb of God.

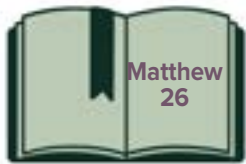
Even though Jesus had told His disciples that He would die, they didn’t fully understand what He meant. As He shared the bread and cup with them, they couldn’t imagine all that He was about to suffer so that they could have forgiveness and eternal life. The priests before Jesus could only offer animal sacrifices to cover sins temporarily. But Jesus, the perfect Lamb of God, gave His life so that we could be truly saved. He died in our place so that we could have real, everlasting life.

Unlike the disciples, we now have the entire Bible to show us God’s great plan of salvation. We can put our faith in Jesus, knowing that He is the Savior who gives us eternal life.



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## LOCATE THE SCRIPTURE & TELL THE STORY



Locate the scripture in the Bible: Matthew 26:17-30, Mark 14:12-26, Luke 22:7-30

Remind your group that we are now studying the New Testament. The first four books, the gospels, tell the story of Jesus' time as a man on earth from the voice of different authors.

**TELL  
THE  
STORY**



**Tell the story:**

Jesus' time on earth was soon coming to an end. Our Bible story today takes place just before Jesus was arrested and crucified. Today we will learn that Jesus shared a last meal with His disciples and taught them more about the sacrifice He would make to save people from their sins.



Read directly from Scripture, use The Jesus Storybook Bible, The Biggest Story Bible, or the summary provided in the lesson

Jesus and His disciples were in Jerusalem to celebrate Passover and remember how God had delivered His people from slavery in Egypt. Jesus sent Peter and John to get the Passover meal ready. He said, "Go into the city, and you will meet a man carrying a jug of water. Follow him." Getting the meal ready would have included having the lamb sacrificed at the temple, roasting it, preparing the room for the meal and preparing various side dishes.

Jesus said that the man with the water would go to a house, and the homeowner would show Peter and John a large room upstairs with furniture in it. That was the place Jesus wanted them to get the Passover meal ready. Peter and John did as Jesus said.



Put the events in order, draw a comic strip, build it with blocks or playdough, act it out, etc...

During formal dining like this Passover meal, guests traditional reclined on a couch that stretched around three sides of a room. The host, in this case Jesus, would take the center seat at a U shaped set up of low tables. The most honored guests would recline on either side, of Jesus with the guests' heads reclining toward the tables and their feet toward the wall.



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When the Passover meal was ready, Jesus and His disciples reclined to eat. Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray Me.” The disciples were upset but Jesus knew this was part of God’s plan. Each of Jesus’ disciples asked, “Surely not I Lord?”

But when Judas Iscariot said, “Surely not I, Teacher?” Jesus said, “Yes, it’s you.”

Then Jesus took the bread, gave thanks to God for it, broke it, and then gave it to His disciples to eat. Jesus said, “This is My body, which I am giving for you. Do this to remember Me.” (Matthew 26:26)

Jesus took the cup and gave it to His disciples. They drank from it, and Jesus said, “This is My blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.” (Matthew 26:28). Jesus showed His disciples with the bread and the drink that He is the true Passover Lamb.

They sang a hymn together, and then they went out to the Mount of Olives outside the city.

**Re-tell the Bible Story:** Have students re-tell the story as best they can.

**Share the GOSPEL:**

Today we learned how Jesus shared a special meal with His disciples the night before He was arrested and later crucified. This special meal was called Passover, and it was a time to remember how God saved His people from slavery in Egypt. God was faithful to keep His promise and rescue His people, but this rescue pointed to an even greater rescue—one that would save people from their sins forever.

God’s people had broken the old covenant, and God promised to make a new covenant to forgive sins. The OT sacrifices required the shedding of an animal’s blood. The Bible tells us that our sin leads to death, and so there is no forgiveness without the shedding of blood. The animal sacrifices had to be repeated over and over again. The author of Hebrews teaches us that it was impossible for the animal sacrifices to completely take away sins. Jesus told His disciples that the cup represented His blood of the new covenant. The new covenant says that everyone who turns away from sin and trusts in Jesus’ death and resurrection will be forgiven of his sins and will have eternal life. Only Jesus’ shed blood on the cross takes away our sin and offers us forgiveness of sins. The sacrifice He made is once and for all. The new covenant made a way for anyone who trusts in Jesus to be saved.



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## ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

**ATTENTIVE** - God hears and responds to the needs of his children.

**COMPASSIONATE** - God cares for his children and acts on their behalf.

**CREATOR** - God made everything. He is uncreated.

**DELIVERER** - God rescues and saves his children.

**ETERNAL** - God is not limited by time. He exists outside of time.

**FAITHFUL** - God always keeps his promises.

**GENEROUS** - God gives what is best and beyond what is deserved.

**GLORIOUS** - God displays His greatness and worth.

**GOOD** - God is what is best and gives what is best. He is incapable of doing harm.

**HOLY** - God is perfect, pure, and without sin.

**IMMUTABLE/UNCHANGING** - God never changes. He is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

**INCOMPREHENSIBLE** - God is beyond our understanding. We can comprehend Him in part but not in whole.

**INFINITE** - God has not limits in His person or on His power.

**JEALOUS** - God will not share his glory with another. all glory rightfully belongs to him.

**JUST** - god is fair in all his actions and judgements. He cannot over-punish or under-punish.

**LOVING** - God feels and displays infinite, unconditional affection toward his children. His love for them does not depend on their worth, response, or merit.

**MERCIFUL** - God does not give his children the punishment they deserve.

**OMNIPOTENT/ALMIGHTY** - God holds all power. nothing is too hard for God. What He wills He can accomplish.





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## ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

**OMNIPRESENT** - God is fully present everywhere.

**OMNISCIENT** - God knows everything, past, present, and future - all potential and real outcomes, all things micro and macro.

**PATIENT/LONG-SUFFERING** - God is untiring and bears with His children.

**PROVIDER** - God meets the needs of his children.

**REFUGE** - God is a place of safety and protection for his children.

**RIGHTEOUS** - God is always good and right.

**SELF-EXISTENT** - God depends on nothing and no one to give him life or existence.

**SELF-SUFFICIENT** - God is not vulnerable. He has no needs.

**SOVEREIGN** - God does everything according to His plan and pleasure.

**TRANSCENDENT** - God is not like humans. He is infinitely higher in being and action.

**TRUTHFUL** - Whatever God speaks or does is truth and reality.

**WISE** - God knows what is best and acts accordingly. He cannot choose wrongly.

**WORTHY** - God deserves all glory and honor and praise.

**WRATHFUL** - God hates all unrighteousness.





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## QUESTIONS TO REBUILD THE STORY

**“Storying” Questions:** As you ask these questions, have your students find the answers in the actual verses of scripture instead of recalling them from your re-telling of the story. We always want to encourage all of our students to go directly to God’s Word over a commentary on or summary of scripture. Use the Bible Study Bookmark Questions as well as these questions to help students understand the text:

- 1. What are some common foods used in a traditional Passover meal? What do they symbolize?**
- 2. Why is the new covenant better than the old covenant? Under the old covenant, animals were sacrificed for sins but under the new covenant, Jesus sacrificed Himself for our sins. Only Jesus’ blood washes away our sin for all time and gives us complete forgiveness.**
- 3. Jesus’ meal with His disciples is also called Communion or the Lord’s Supper. Why did Jesus say to take this in remembrance of Him? Passover was celebrated to remember how God saved His people from slavery in Egypt. It is practiced to remember how God saved us through Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross. This meal is meant to remind us that we cannot save ourselves, and to give thanks for Jesus’ sacrifice.**
- 4. Can anyone take the Lord’s Supper? Why not? It is a practice for born again believers only. Anyone who has trusted in Jesus and has repented of their sins can take the Lord’s Supper.**
- 5. What do the bread and the cup represent? The bread is a symbol of Jesus’ body and the cup is a symbol of Jesus’ blood. Both elements remind us of the sacrifice Jesus made so that we could be forgiven. Only Jesus lived a perfect life. Only His sacrifice can save us from our sin. The new covenant made a way for anyone who trusts in Jesus to be saved.**



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## QUESTIONS TO REBUILD THE STORY

6. Who did Jesus say would betray Him?
7. What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
8. What does the story teach me about myself?
9. Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
10. Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
11. How does this story help me live on mission?



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## PRAYER PROMPTS

God, thank you for sending Jesus to make a new and better covenant that saves anyone who trusts in Him. Help us in our temptations so that we do not sin. We love You!

## IF TIME ALLOWS:

Play a game of Bible drill using only scripture passages from the Gospels.

## MISSIONS EMPHASIS:

For the months of March and April we will collect money for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering in the giving funnel at the top of the lobby. Encourage your group to bring change to drop in as you head to the worship center after SS.

## REVIEW UNIT VERSE:

Spend time reviewing memory verse with students.

IYCWYMTJILABIYHTGRHFTDYWBS - Romans 10:9



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## Application Questions

LOOK UPWARD



- How does this story apply to your relationship with God?
- What does it teach you about Him- His will and His heart?
- What aspect of His character is He inviting you to experience and enjoy?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story in your relationship with God?
- What practical steps can you take to live out these truths in your relationship with God?

LOOK INWARD



- How does this story apply to your heart and your own spiritual growth?
- What does it teach you about yourself, your needs, or your goals in life?
- In what aspects of your personal life is God inviting you to grow and mature?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story inwardly?
- How will those around you benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to allow these truths to help you grow spiritually?

LOOK AROUND



- How does this story apply to your relationship with others?
- What does it teach you about how to see others and relate to them?
- What is god inviting you to do differently in your relationships?



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## Application Questions

### LOOK OUTWARD

- How does this story apply to your ministry and mission in life- to your role in God's kingdom, in society, and in the world?
- What does it teach you about God's purposes for the world?
- What part of His mission is He inviting you to participate in?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story in your ministry?
- How will the world benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to live out these truths in the world?

### LOOK FORWARD

- How does this story apply to your future, both in this age and in eternity?
- What does it teach you about God's plan for your life, now and forever?
- What aspects of eternity is God inviting you to participate in?
- How will you benefit in the future by applying these truths now?
- How will God's kingdom benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to impact eternity now with these truths?