

4. Jesus Breaks the Bread (Mark 14:12-26)

"If I, your Lord and teacher, have washed your feet, you too must wash each other's feet." (John 13:14)



PLAN

Session Outline

1. Gather

Greeting
Puzzlers
Hurry! Set the Table
Transition to Explore

2. Explore

Sacred Conversations
Hear and See the Bible Story
Interact with the Bible Story
Say the Bible Verse
Transition to Respond

3. Respond

Compare the Stories
Unleavened Bread
Loving God,
Loving Neighbor
Transition to Bless

4. Bless

Inviting
Praising
Blessing
At Home with God

Supplies

Basic Supplies: Offering basket | Pencils | Paper | Cups | Hand-washing supplies

Gather: TV/DVD player | Four plastic or paper plates and cups | Two sets of utensils | Two place mats | Two tablecloths | Two tables | Two large bags

Explore: TV/DVD player

Respond: Grape juice | Bread (optional) | Measuring cups | Measuring spoons | Bowl | Baking sheet | Forks | Oven | Whole wheat flour | Salt | Olive oil | Water | Tablecloth | LED candle | Plate

Bless: Tablecloth | LED candle | Plate | TV/DVD player

Before You Teach

Our Bible story begins as Jesus and the disciples are preparing for Passover. Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread were celebrated to remember the Israelites' deliverance from Egyptian slavery. Unleavened bread, or bread made without yeast or a leavening agent so that it does not rise, was eaten every day during the weeklong festival. It is said that when the Israelites fled Egypt, they left so fast that there was no time for bread to rise, so unleavened bread became a Passover tradition.

The disciples prepared a place for Jesus to eat the Passover meal. Jesus was aware of the course his life would take and announced that his betrayer was among them. The disciples were sad and concerned. During this meal, Jesus broke bread and blessed it and took a cup and gave thanks. He shared this meal with his disciples, declaring the bread is his body and the cup is his blood, beginning the ritual we know as Communion, and giving the disciples and all of us a way of remembering him.

This week, we'll explore the story by making and tasting unleavened bread, learning about Passover, comparing different versions of the Bible story, and playing a fun game. You'll want your children to come away with a better understanding of the story and of the sacrament than they may have had at younger ages.

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GATHER

Greeting

Before class: Display either attendance chart (Class Kit—pp. 16–17 or 15 & 18) at eye level.

- Play “A Whole New Level of Love” (Adventure DVD), as you welcome each child.
- Show the children where to place their offerings on the worship table.
- Have the children mark the “Attendance Chart” by signing their first names on week #4.

SAY: Today, we are learning about a time when Jesus shared a meal with his disciples.

A—Puzzlers (Activity Sheets)

Before class: Tear out the Session 4 Activity Sheets for each child.

- Give each child a copy of “Special Meal” (Activity Sheets—p. 9). Let them complete the puzzle.
- Allow them to work on the “The Disciples Asked” activity (Activity Sheets—p. 10).

SAY: The meal that Jesus shared with his disciples was a special meal called the Passover meal.

OR

B—Hurry! Set the Table (Game)

Before class: Gather four place settings of plastic or paper cups and plates, utensils, napkins, place mats, two tablecloths, and two large bags. Place items for two table settings and a tablecloth in each bag. Clear off two tables.

SAY: In our Bible story, Jesus’ disciples asked him where he would like for them to prepare for him to eat a special meal called the Passover meal. Let’s play a game to remind us of preparing for a special meal!

- Have the children form two teams, and give each of them one of the bags of table items. Assign each team a table, and have them line up on the opposite side of the room from their table.
- Tell the teams that each person will take the team’s bag to the other side of the room, reach into the bag and pull out one item and place it in the proper place on the table. Then bring the bag back to the next person in line. That person will do the same, until the table is entirely set up. Remind them, that depending on what they pull out of the bag, they may have to move or adjust items that their teammates have already placed on the table. The first team to set up their table (neatly) wins.

ASK: What do you imagine the disciples did to prepare for Jesus to eat the Passover meal?

Transition to Explore

- Encourage children to bring a chair or to sit on the floor in a carpeted area.
- Invite children to form a circle on the floor.

TIP: *Transitions are a helpful way for children to move easily from one activity to the next.*

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EXPLORE

Sacred Conversations

- Encourage children to join and sit in the circle.
- Demonstrate a listening position for the children.
- Ask wondering questions.

ASK: I wonder:

- What special meals do you enjoy?
 - Have you ever done anything to help prepare for a meal? If so, what did you do?
 - What do you imagine sharing a meal with Jesus would be like?
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Hear and See the Bible Story

- Read the Bible story together (*CEB Deep Blue Kids Bible*—Mark 14:12-26).
- Watch the Adventure DVD Session 4.

SAY: Today, we’re exploring a story about a time when the disciples shared a special meal with Jesus.

ASK: When have you had a special meal with your friends?

Interact with the Bible Story

- Assign parts and act out “Jesus Breaks the Bread” (Bible Story Sheets—Session 4).
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Say the Bible Verse

Before class: Display the “Unit 1 Bible Verse” poster (Class Kit—pp. 5 & 28).

- Tell the children the Bible verse: “If I, your Lord and teacher, have washed your feet, you too must wash each other’s feet” (John 13:14).
 - Have the children repeat the verse after you.
 - Then have the children pair up and say the verse to another child.
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Transition to Respond

- Encourage children to put away their chairs and/or get back to their places.

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RESPOND

Compare the Stories (Activity)

Before class: Gather a CEB Deep Blue Kids Bible, pencils, and paper for each child, and a markerboard and dry erase markers.

ASK: Did you know that our Bible story for today is found in all four Gospels?

SAY: The Gospels are the first four books of the New Testament. They tell the story of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Though the Gospels are similar, some parts of Jesus’ story are told differently in each one. Let’s compare the Last Supper story in each Gospel.

- Give each child supplies. Select four strong readers, one for each Gospel. Have the reader for Matthew (26:17-30) read, followed by the reader for Mark (14:12-26). Write the words *same* and *different* at the top of a markerboard. Have the children call out similarities and differences. Write these down in the appropriate space on the markerboard. Then have the children assigned to Luke (22:1-23) and John (13:1-30) read their versions. Discuss how Luke and John’s versions are similar or different to each other and to Matthew and Mark’s versions. Add to your list as necessary.

OR

Unleavened Bread (Cooking)

Before class: Photocopy “Unleavened Bread” (Leader Guide—p. 30 for each child). Gather whole wheat flour, sugar, salt, olive oil, water, cooking spray, measuring cups and spoons, mixing bowls, spoons, forks, baking sheets, an oven, hand-washing supplies.

- Have the children wash their hands, and form small teams.

SAY: Today, we are going to make unleavened bread. Unleavened bread is bread that does not have a leavening agent in it such as yeast. Since this bread will not have leavening in it, it will be flat.

- Give each group of children a copy of “Unleavened Bread” (Leader Guide—p. 30), and make bread.

TIP: Check for allergies ahead of time.

Loving God, Loving Neighbor

Before class: Unleavened Bread from the “Unleavened Bread” activity or bread of your choosing, and grape juice.

- Serve bread and juice as a reminder of the special meal that Jesus shared with his friends.

TIPS: Check for allergies ahead of time. If this activity does not work for your church, just taste the bread.

Transition to Bless

- Ring a bell to announce the transition.
- Create a worship center on a small table with a tablecloth, plate, and an LED candle.

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BLESS

Inviting

Before class: Display “Unit 1 Bible Verse Signs” poster (Class Kit—p. 29) on a wall or bulletin board.

SAY: Today, we learned about a special meal that Jesus shared with his disciples. Let’s learn to sign a verse about another special thing that Jesus did with his disciples.

- Gather the children around the Bible Verse Signs poster. Have the children read the Bible verse.
 - Teach the children to sign the verse.
 - Have the children pair up and practice signing the verse with a partner.
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Praising

Before class: Gather a TV/DVD player and the Adventure DVD.

SAY: In our Bible story, Jesus showed love for his disciples by sharing a meal and creating a special ritual that would be passed down for generations, even to us. Let’s sing a song about love.

- Play “Taking Love to a Whole New Level” on the Adventure DVD.
 - Let the children sing the song.
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Blessing

Before class: Invite a guest to share about Passover.

- Ask your guest to speak to your class about the traditions of Passover, past and present.
- Allow time for the children to ask questions.
- Gather around the worship center, and light the candle.

PRAY: Dear God, thank you for sending a friend to help us better understand Passover. Bless each one of us throughout the week ahead. Amen.

At Home with God

SAY: What was one thing that you learned today about the special meal that Jesus shared with his disciples? Can you share what you learned with your family?

- Send Bible Story Sheets—Session 4 and the Unit 1 Song Sheet home with each child.

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Unleavened Bread

Unleavened Bread Recipe and Instructions

Ingredients:

2 cups whole wheat flour
1 Tbsp. sugar
1 tsp. salt
2 Tbsp. olive oil
1 cup water

1. (Adult) Preheat oven to 400 degrees.
2. Spray a baking sheet with cooking spray.
3. Combine all ingredients in a mixing bowl.
4. Stir well.
5. Dust the work surface with extra whole wheat flour.
6. Place the dough on a floured work surface. Knead the dough by repeatedly folding it over and pushing it down for several minutes.
7. Divide dough into 12 pieces.
8. Use your hands to shape each piece of dough into a circle and flatten it onto the prepared baking sheet.
9. Use a fork to prick holes over the surface of each bread piece.
10. (Adult) Bake bread at 400 degrees for 10 minutes.
11. Wash your hands and clean up.

