**FIRST STEPS TOGETHER:** FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN

Session 3 of 4

# The last supper

### MEETING AIM

To experience the events of Jesus eating with his friends before his arrest.

### 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 particular situation.

There is more symbolism here, in Jesus’ actions with the bread and wine. Again, much of this will go over the children’s heads, but introducing these symbols – ones which play such a large part in the life of the Church – will start the children on the road to renewed revelation about what Jesus has done for them. As ever, when using food in a session, be aware of food hygiene and allergy issues.

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### STARTING OUT – 5 mins

Start your time together with some simple refreshments (if you can) and ask them what their best meal was this week. What is their favourite food? Chat together about what food they would like to have as a special meal, such as their birthday.

### PLAY – 10 mins

**You will need:** chairs and tables

Choose two children or leaders to be ‘on’. Everyone else sits on a chair and puts their heads down on a table. They should close their eyes, and put their hands on the table with their thumbs sticking up. Those who are ‘on’ should creep around the room and press the thumb of another child. The object is to correctly guess who pressed your thumb. Explain that in the story today the disciples did not know who Jesus was talking about; perhaps they looked at each other, trying to work out who he meant.

### BIBLE STORY – 10 mins

**You will need:** tablecloth or placemats; plastic plates and cups; play food; bread rolls; jug of squash or water

Sit the children around a table and tell this story:

The time had come for Jesus and his friends to celebrate the Passover. This meant they would have a special meal together. The disciples asked Jesus where they would have this meal. He told them about an upstairs room in the city and they set off to prepare it.

*Bring out a tablecloth and ask the children to help you spread it on the table. Together, lay the table with plastic plates and cups, play food, a basket of bread and a jug of squash.*

As they were eating, Jesus said: “One of you is going to let me down. They are going to tell the people who want to hurt me where I am.”

The disciples were very shocked and sad. Each one said: “Surely you don’t mean me?”

Jesus answered: “One of you eating here with me will betray me and it will be terrible for that man.”

Jesus picked up the bread. He said thank you to God for it and shared it with his friends. He said: “This is my body.” *Break a bread roll open as you say this. Share it out.*

Then he took the wine. *Hold the jug of squash.* He said thank you to God again and all his friends drank some. *Pour out some squash or water into the cups and all drink together.*

Jesus explained that the wine was a sign of a new agreement between God and his people. Then Jesus and his friends sang a song praising God. *Ask the children to choose their favourite praise song and sing it together.*

### CHATTING TOGETHER – 5 mins

Ask the children these questions, making sure everyone has the chance to contribute:

* What was your favourite part of the story?
* How do you think Jesus’ friends felt as they ate the meal together?
* How do you feel when you eat a special meal?
* Do you want to say anything to Jesus after hearing this story?

### CREATIVE TIME – 10 mins

**You will need:** play food; bread rolls and drink from ‘Bible story’

Stay seated at your Passover table (if you’re doing this at home). Ask the children if sitting at a table reminds them of anything. They might mention Sunday lunch or Christmas dinner and you can talk about how that is similar to families gathering to celebrate Passover together.

Talk about when they might see bread and wine in church. Explain the communion traditions of your church and take them back to the part of the story where Jesus tells us to use bread and wine to remember him.

You may wish to share the bread and drink with the children. Allow them to role-play the last supper with the play food, bread and drink. Allow as much time as you can for this – as children play with a story, their understanding of the events and their significance grows.

You could take them into church to watch or take part in a communion service, or watch one online, depending on what seems appropriate to your setting.

### PRAYER – 5 mins

**You will need:** bread rolls and drink from ‘Bible story’; cups

Give each child a piece of bread and a cup with some squash or water. Ask them to think about today’s story and talk to God about anything that they’d like to say. Allow as long as the children can stay settled. Then say this prayer:

Thank you, Jesus, for giving your body for us. *Hold up your pieces of bread.*

Thank you, Jesus, for giving your blood for us. *Hold up your cups.*

Help us to remember you always. Amen.

The children can then eat their bread and drink their squash or water, if they wish.

**XANA RIDLEY**

is an early years’ specialist and lives with her two daughters and their pets, including a bearded dragon.