

General Church Education



# The Last Supper

Mark 14:12-26

## Lesson 32

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Level 3: The Lord Is Our Lawgiver

For ages 8-9 years

# The Last Supper

## Mark 14:12-26

### For Parents and Teachers

The two sacraments in the New Church are baptism and the Holy Supper. The Lord asks us to observe them because they are the two external rituals that forge long-term internal bonds with Him and with heaven. In this lesson the Lord gives His disciples bread and wine for the first time as He begins the practice of the Holy Supper. As the Lord departed from people's earthly sight He was providing a unique and ongoing means for us to be connected to Him and receive His goodness and truth into our lives.

As adults we can see the significance of the Lord's directions to Peter and John to follow a man carrying a pitcher of water. The Gospel of Matthew account of the Last Supper also includes the washing of the disciples' feet. Both of these events with water remind us of the need for repentance or spiritual washing as preparation for the Holy Supper. The Lord asks us to reflect on the things we have desired, said and done with the purpose of being cleansed of the evils that plague us. If we acknowledge these things from a sincere desire to change, our prayers to the Lord will be answered. Taking the bread and wine of the Holy Supper can dramatically aid us in this process. It represents making the goods and truths from the Lord our own, trying to make them part of our life. In doing this our internal connection to the Lord and to heaven grows stronger and stronger.

### Ideas for Children

- The Passover feast is celebrated in remembrance of the Lord's powerful and protective love for the children of Israel.
- The Holy Supper has a similar purpose for Christians.
- We cannot get to heaven alone, much as the children of Israel could not get to Canaan alone.

### From the Writings

All who are in heavenly love, have confidence that they will be saved by the Lord; for they believe that the Lord came into the world in order to give eternal life to those who believe and live according to the commandments which He taught; and that He regenerates these, and so makes them fit for heaven; and that He does this Himself alone, from pure mercy, without the aid of man. This is meant by "believing in the Lord." *Arcana Coelestia* 9244

Humankind must remove evils, because the Lord does not do this immediately, without man's co-operation. *True Christian Religion* 522

# The Last Supper

## Mark 14:12-26

### Words to Understand

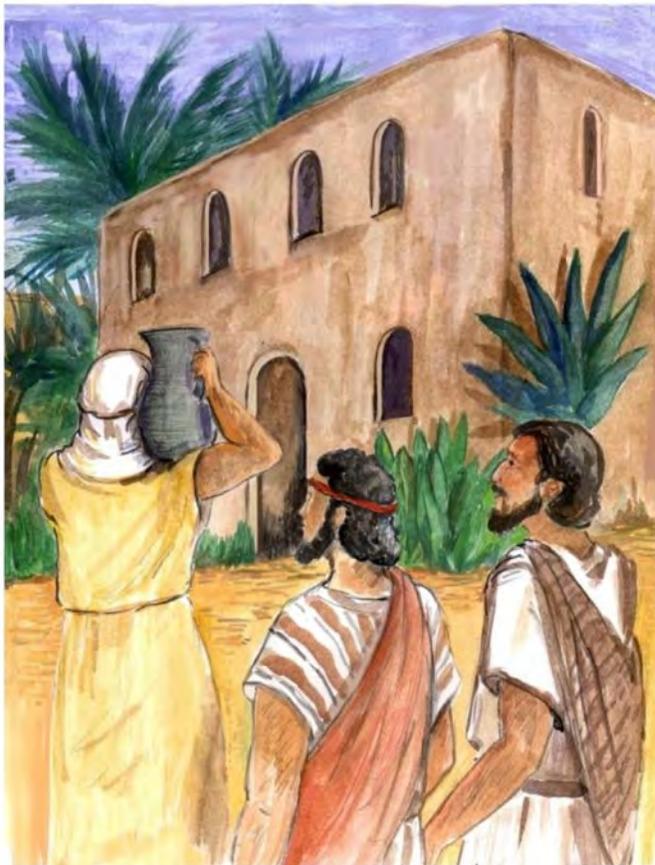
**assuredly**—convincingly, certainly

**betray**—to aid or give information to an enemy

### Preparations for the Feast Begin

Jesus and His disciples went into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday to celebrate the Passover feast. The feast was to remember how the Lord saved the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. Preparations for this feast lasted several days. Everyone took care to follow the directions given by the Lord to Moses long ago. The disciples probably thought that this would be like all the other Passovers. But this special meal would be the last one they would eat with the Lord. The Lord knew He would be arrested that very night. He knew He would be put on trial. He knew that the people who hated Him would crucify Him the next day. But He also knew He would not be leaving people behind when He left this world. So to remind all people that He is still close to them He changed the Passover to

something new. We call it the sacrament of the Holy Supper.



### Jesus Prepares His Disciples

As His time on earth was growing short, Jesus saw that after this night His disciples would miss their daily contact with Him. They would miss being taught by Him and being able to ask Him questions. They would be worried and afraid when they thought He was dead. They would feel lost and confused. So He prepared them by telling them that He would die and that He would rise again on the third day. But, even though they were told, it would have been very difficult for the disciples to believe that this could happen to their wise, dear teacher and friend.

The Lord sent two disciples to get ready for the Passover meal. We know from other books of the New Testament that they were Peter and John. He told them that they would find a house by following a man



who carried a pitcher of water. Let's find out what else He told them. **Read Mark 14:12-26.**

Were you amazed that everything happened just as the Lord had said? Peter and John followed the man carrying the water pitcher and came to a house with a large upper room that was furnished and prepared for their use. Then these two disciples made everything ready. Do you recall all the parts of the Passover meal? The lamb was roasted with herbs and the bread was unleavened. There were bitter herbs and wine. At sunset Jesus and the other disciples came into Jerusalem and gathered around the table.

As they were eating the Passover meal, the Lord told His disciples that one of them would betray Him. How did they find out which one it was? Jesus said it was the disciple who dipped with Him in the dish. In the book of Matthew we are told that it was Judas and that Judas immediately left the room. He knew he was guilty because he had already gone to the chief priests and agreed to betray the Lord to them for thirty pieces of silver.

### **The Holy Supper**

As Jesus took some of the Passover bread, He said a blessing and then broke it into pieces. As He gave the bread to the disciples, He said that "this was His body." He was telling them that they could think of this bread as a very important part of His life that He was giving to each of them, like the love that He had given them. Then He took a cup of wine, gave thanks and passed it around for each of the disciples to take a drink. He told them that "this wine was His blood." Again, He wanted the disciples to think of this wine as something very important from His life for them, like the wisdom that He had given them. The Lord asked them to "do this to remember Him." Then they sang a

hymn and they went out into the night..

### The New Covenant

This ceremonial feast is known as the Holy Supper. Christians today celebrate the Holy Supper instead of the Passover. The Lord gave clear instructions to His disciples, asking them to do it to remember Him. New Church adults are invited to regularly come to the sacrament of the Holy Supper. The minister reads the words the Lord spoke in this story and the people eat unleavened bread and drink wine.



Every time people celebrate the Holy Supper, they are participating in the new covenant with the Lord that He began with His disciples at His final meal with them. In this way people are reminded of the good things from the Lord's life that they need in order to get to heaven. We cannot get to heaven alone, much as the children of Israel could not get to Canaan alone. When people take the Holy Supper, they often ask the Lord to help them in some way.

What good things do we have from the Lord's life? Every time we hear or read from the Word truths come into our minds from the Lord. When we listen to Him it is like being one of His devoted disciples when He was on earth. And when we bravely use the Lord's truth to stand up against evil, it is as if we are taking the special gifts that He offers us—the bread and wine—into our lives. Our part of the covenant is to learn from the Lord and become His loving and faithful servants.

### Discussion Ideas

- Let children ask questions about the Holy Supper, such as how much bread you eat, or how much wine you drink. Answers to children's questions about the connection between Holy Supper and the Lord's body and blood need not be complicated. They should know that the Lord wants to share His love and wisdom with all who wish to receive it.
- Although repentance is an adult process, children can prepare for it by taking responsibility for wrongdoings. Talk about regretting misdeeds, trying not to do them again, and asking the Lord's help.
- As the Lord prepared for His resurrection He provided the Holy Supper as a tangible way of staying close to us. We are never alone because the Lord is always protecting us and leading us to heaven.

# Activity Overview | The Last Supper

## Recitation

Learn the recitation by heart.

But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away for it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a long white robe sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed.

But he said to them, “Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him.

But go, tell His disciples and Peter that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you. Mark 16:4-7

## Songs

*Lo! They Come in Glad Procession*

Listen or download at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-lo-they-come-in-glad-procession/>

*Lift Up Your Heads, Rejoice*

Listen or download at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-lift-up-your-heads-rejoice/>

## Projects

Choose one or two activities.

- Activity 1 | Compare Passover with Holy Supper
- Activity 2 | How Did Jesus and the Disciples Feel?
- Picture to Color—The Last Supper (Mark 14)

## Additional Activity Ideas

- Watch GCED’s HeartFelt Bible video, *The Last Supper*, at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-the-last-supper/>
- Prepare and enjoy eating a Passover meal. Passover foods include roast lamb, bitter herbs and unleavened bread. (See Exodus 12)

## Activity 1 | Compare Passover with Holy Supper

Look at the list of customs and decide whether they are used during Passover, Holy Supper, or both. Write the number of the custom in the correct box.

### Customs

1. Roast lamb
2. Wine
3. Unleavened bread
4. Bitter herbs
5. Annual celebration
6. Can be done any time of the year
7. Started by Jesus Christ
8. Instructions given through Moses
9. Began with the Hebrews
10. Began with the twelve disciples
11. Celebrated by Christians
12. Celebrated by Jewish people today
13. An important Jewish ritual
14. A sacrament of the New Church
15. Done to remember the Lord Jesus Christ
16. Done to remember the Lord's power and protection of the Jews

Passover

Passover and Holy Supper

Holy Supper

Passover: 2, 3, 6, 7, 10, 11, 14, 15

Passover and Holy Supper: 2, 3

Holy Supper: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 12, 13, 16

Answers

## Activity 2 | How Did Jesus and the Disciples Feel?



### Directions

1. People going to the same event often have different feelings. For example a guest at a birthday party may feel quite differently about the party than the person celebrating a birthday.
2. Look at the picture of the Last Supper. Jesus had just told His disciples He was going to be betrayed by one of them. How does He feel? How does Judas, the disciple who would betray Him, feel? How might some of the other disciples be feeling?
3. Choose one person from the group in the picture and draw your own picture of that person, showing a facial expression of how he might be feeling.
4. Explain how this person might have felt.

