



Lesson 21: *The Lord's Supper* (Condensed Version)

Objectives: To explain that:

- As Jesus and the disciples were gathered for the Passover meal, Jesus shared with the disciples a special way to remember him.
- We can receive forgiveness through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. The once for all sacrifice that the OT animal sacrifices pointed forward to.
- In the Eucharist we remember Jesus, meet with him and receive his life into us. We celebrate the Eucharist together. It reminds us that we are part of God's family.

"I Wonder" Questions:

(During the poster discussion, explain any difficult words in the story.)

What do you see in this poster? (Jesus, disciples, bread, cup)

Is there anything you wonder about?

I wonder why Jesus and the disciples are gathered around a table.

I wonder why Jesus is holding the bread. I wonder what is in the cup.

Let's find out more in our story.

Lesson Summary: Today we are going to learn about a very special way that we “remember” Jesus so that we can grow to be like him, filled with his love and kindness. We will hear how Jesus and the disciples celebrated the Passover meal, the last meal before Jesus died. But first I want you to think back to the Old Testament and two important events. The first event was the Passover before the Israelites left Egypt, when the Israelites had to put the blood of a lamb on their doorposts so the oldest son would not die. The second event was when people sinned, and they had to sacrifice an animal and pray for the forgiveness of their sins. These events pointed forward in time to how Jesus came from God to be the Passover Lamb, to die for all people's sins once and for all. We no longer need an animal blood sacrifice for the forgiveness of our sins. Jesus became that perfect sacrifice. At a special Passover dinner Jesus blessed the bread and the wine. He told his disciples that the bread would be his body and the wine would be his blood, given for the forgiveness of sins. Then each disciple had a piece of bread and a sip of wine. Jesus told the disciples that this physical action was a very special way to remember him always.

Now, when we eat the bread and wine in the Eucharist (also called Holy Communion or the Lord's Supper), Jesus is with us in a special way. In the Eucharist, we REMEMBER JESUS, we MEET WITH HIM, and we RECEIVE HIS LIFE into us. We celebrate the Eucharist TOGETHER. It reminds us that we are part of God's family.

Suggested Questions: What does this story tell us about Jesus? (He was the perfect sacrifice, he forgives our sins, he wants to make sure that we will always remember his forgiveness, he wants us to be part of him, he wants us to have a family, at home *and* in the Church, which is God's family.)

- What is the connection between the lamb's blood on the doorposts and Jesus' blood when he died for us? (Jesus was the perfect Passover Lamb who died to save all people. The lamb's blood (Old Testament) pointed to Jesus' blood that would be shed and his great sacrifice.)
- Why does Jesus want us to take the special bread and wine, the Eucharist? (to remember his sacrifice, to be strengthened by receiving his life into us, to share in the unity of believers)

Bible Memory Verse:

This is my body...This is my blood....Do this in remembrance of me. (Luke 22:19-22 paraphrased)