

Luke's Ancient Biography of Jesus 2
Notes on Lesson Six: The Last Supper

Lesson Six: The Last Supper

Luke 22: 1-30

Central Message

Jesus chose to die. That's why he could say, "This is my body which is given for you," and, "This is my blood which is poured out for you." He does not mention the lamb, for he is the Passover lamb.

Life Application

Christians remember this meal and Jesus' death with communion. They share a small amount of bread and wine or grape juice as they pray and worship together. It is both a private meal with Jesus and a family celebration as a church.

Community-Building Activity and Introduction¹

Passover

Preparation: Write the instructions on a board, or print the worksheet or cover page from the supplementary materials. If you use the instruction strips, copy and cut enough strips for each person.

Instructions: The city of Jerusalem was full of people who had come to celebrate the Passover. It is a holiday to remember how God rescued the Hebrew people when they were slaves in Egypt. What important events from the past do you remember every year?

Teaching Notes: If you use this activity, you can skip the introduction in the workbook. Note that there is an alternate activity if the students have read the Passover background paper from the previous lesson. If they have not read it, you can read it together in class or give a quick oral version of the story.

Alternate Activity

Passover

Instructions: The city of Jerusalem was full of people who had come to celebrate the Passover. It is a holiday to remember how God rescued them in the past. The

¹ The community-building activities and the introductions are often combined in the lesson notes because sometimes the introduction is first, and sometimes the activity is first.

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background paper, "Understanding the Passover," on page 47, tells about this rescue. What are some things you remember about the first Passover? Work with a friend to make a list.

Teaching Notes: Use this alternate version if the students have read the background paper. If some of them have read it and not others, you could assign different activities to different small groups.

Lesson Notes

Luke 22: 1-30

Preparation:

Note that the numbers below refer to the numbers in the workbook.

1. Note that the word search is only for section B. The repetition tells us that the connection is important, for this is not only Jesus' last supper, it is the Passover meal.
2. The instructions are for them to read all the sections with a partner, but you could read the entire text together and then assign pairs for the next task. Another option is to read the first section together and answer questions that apply to that section before proceeding to the other sections.
3. See the note for #2.

Section A: Note that the first question requires an observation, but the second question asks for an opinion. Satan entered Judas, but Judas had to be open to the idea. (James 4:7 "Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.") Judas might have wanted the money, but it's hard to imagine he would betray Jesus just to get money. Perhaps Judas was disappointed with Jesus. The students may come up with other ideas.

Section B: You could ask, "*Do you think* Jesus made the arrangements for the upper room in advance, or did he just know the future? (Wait on giving your answer to this. The situation is discussed again in question 7.)

Section C: Listing the food used in this meal will prepare the students for the LINK section. The two verses that tell about when Jesus will eat the Passover meal again are Luke 22:16 and 18. Each sentence has the word, "until" as a clue.

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Section D: A question in the LEARN section will ask why they are arguing. Here we are only observing what the two arguments are about: who is going to betray Jesus, and who is the greatest disciple. Jesus addresses this with a comparison and gives the example of his own life. (There were no specific questions asked about sitting on thrones and ruling over the twelve tribes of Israel. If they ask: We know that Jesus has talked about the future in verses 16 and 18. Is he talking about the future here? Probably, since he has already referred to the future. You can point out, though, that the Kingdom of God is wherever God rules. In one sense, it is here right now. The message Jesus is giving is that he has a place for them, a role for them to play in His Kingdom. This is true for the eleven disciples who remain, even though they will soon deny and desert him. What hope!)

4/5 They can work on observation questions while they work on their section.
Question 5 gives directions for sharing.

LINK This is an important part of the lesson. It is helpful if they can look at this page and, at the same time, pages 54 and 55 so they can compare the text with the tradition of the Passover. This section will still be meaningful if the passage is not studied again because at least some of them know what foods are mentioned in the text. However, one question should be asked if the students do not bring it up; "Does the passage mention a lamb or goat?"

Note that Jesus' teaching after the meal fits in with the Jewish father's role of explaining the meaning of the Passover. The final question in this section is one of the most important of the lesson. Jesus wants his disciples to understand why he has to die. Our students, like the disciples, will not understand this overnight. We can give them a little help with this each week.

6. This is basically an observation question, but one for everyone to consider.
7. It is my opinion that Jesus did set up the secret sign (water jar) and the secret room. (See the note in 3B.) He wanted to have time alone with his disciples before he dies. He did not want other disciples to know beyond the twelve; he would not have had the close, private time. He did not want Judas to know; Judas could have brought the leaders to the house to arrest Jesus.
8. Jesus said that he is giving his body for them (for us). His death is a new covenant between God and humans. Again, it is poured out for them (us). This will be discussed again in the next lesson.
(2 Corinthians 5:21 "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in

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him we might become the righteousness of God”)

9. This question takes some thinking. What is the connection between the two arguments (see 3 D), who is going to betray Jesus, and who is the greatest disciple. To understand, ask them to imagine how the disciples felt when Jesus said that one of them was going to betray him. What did each disciple want to declare? “Not I!” How could this lead to an argument about who is the greatest? Can you see it? “I would never betray Jesus!” “I have always been close to Jesus, in fact, I am closer than any of the rest of you!” “Jesus can always count on me!” “I am willing to die with him!” “I am his right-hand man!” Emotions were probably very high in the Upper Room.
10. This is a broad question that can take a few broad answers, such as healing people. The second question is an opinion question. They will probably mention that Jesus wanted to be an example. Do we also learn something about the character of God from Jesus?

LIVE Discuss one of these questions.

1. This is a good discussion question for small groups. They probably all have an opinion, but they may be reluctant to share it.
2. This is an easy question to discuss.

Be sure to read the “Consider This” section. As mentioned, if you have communion cups or examples of communion bread, it would be good to put them out on the table during the discussion. Show them how the bread and wine are distributed in your church, and who can take communion. This explanation is very simple, but it is “just enough” for now.

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End with The Final Word.

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The Last Supper

In the last lesson, Jesus did not run away from opposition. He faced his enemies openly, and he had wise words for them.

In this lesson, Jesus will meet in secret with his twelve disciples to celebrate an important Jewish festival. He knows this is the last meal he will share with his disciples and closest friends. What will he say to them?

Community Time



Passover

The city of Jerusalem was full of people who had come to celebrate the Passover. It is a holiday to remember how God rescued the Hebrew people when they were slaves in Egypt. What important events from the past do you remember every year?

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