

# ELEMENTARY SMALL GROUP

## LESSON 4

# THE LAST SUPPER

#### LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Wants Us to Remember His Death

**SCRIPTURE:** Luke 22

**GOD'S BIG STORY:** At His last supper with His disciples, Jesus introduces Communion and asks His disciples to use the bread and the cup to remember His death.

WORD OF WONDER: Come to me, all you who are tired and are carrying heavy loads. I will give you rest.

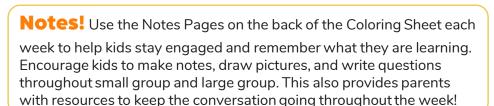
-Matthew 11:28

## **CURIOSITY**

## **BELIEF**

## FAITH

- Welcome Question: What is one of your favorite memories?
- Curiosity Questions
- Word of Wonder: Matthew 11:28
- Word of Wonder Activity
- Discussion Questions for Younger and Older Kids
- Small Group Prayer Time
- LARGE GROUP
- Responding in Worship: Contemplating Communion
- Blessing Your Kids





Walking With Jesus Elementary Spotify playlist





## LESSON 4 FOR LEADERS

# INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

#### **LESSON AT A GLANCE**

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Wants Us to Remember His Death

**SCRIPTURE:** Luke 22

WORD OF WONDER: Matthew 11:28

Sharing meals together is a natural part of life. While walking together from town to town, Jesus and the disciples ate together as good friends do. In Luke 22, we see what Christians traditionally refer to as the Last Supper. Take time now to read Luke 22:7–20.

It was time to observe Passover, and Jesus gathered His disciples together to partake of this sacred feast. I wonder if the disciples thought this was just another meal they were eating together. Yes, it had the significance of being Passover, but do you think they realized this was the last supper they would eat with Jesus before He died?

Jesus spoke some powerful words to prepare the disciples for what was just mere hours away. This special supper has become the foundation of an important ritual. Churches all over the world remember Jesus' death by observing the Lord's Supper or Communion.

Whether we physically partake of a drink and food to remember Jesus' death or simply set time aside to sit in Jesus' presence, it is so important that we remember what He did for us. His sacrificial death removed the eternal consequence for sin and provided the way for us to walk daily with Jesus. As we remember His death, may we never forget how our Savior showed His ultimate love to us.

### —Ana Dutton

Children's Ministry Volunteer Contributor to Wonder Ink

# DID YOU KNOW?

## FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

#### WHO?

Jesus shared the Passover Feast with His 12 disciples. He gave Peter (also called Simon) and John (self-described "the disciple Jesus loved") the task of preparing for the meal according to His instructions. Judas Iscariot served as the group's treasurer and betrayed Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane.

#### WHAT?

Judas agreed to betray Jesus to the chief priests. Then Jesus shared the Passover meal with His disciples, knowing that His suffering was near. Jesus told the disciples to remember His death as His body would be given for them and His blood poured out.

#### WHERE?

Jesus and His disciples shared the Last Supper in the upstairs guest room of a house within the city walls of Jerusalem. Because it was a two-story house, it was likely owned by a somewhat wealthy person and located in the Upper City near the temple.

#### WHEN?

This story happens during the Passover Feast, when Jewish people remembered how God delivered His people from slavery in Egypt. It comes just before Jesus was betrayed in the garden of Gethsemane, which led to His suffering and death on the cross.

## **CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY**

During the Last Supper, Jesus referred to the cup as "the new covenant in my blood" (Luke 22:20). Jesus was about to give His life and pour out His blood to achieve a new and greater deliverance than the exodus—deliverance from sin and death.



Curiosity

Belief

Faith

Identity

## LESSON 4 ELEMENTARY

**Small Group** 

Spark curiosity, encourage exploration, and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

## **LESSON AT A GLANCE**

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Wants Us to Remember His Death

**SCRIPTURE:** Luke 22

WORD OF WONDER: Matthew 11:28

# Pre-Service Connection (15-20 min)

**RESOURCES:** Coloring Page, whiteboard, poster paper, or butcher paper, writing utensils Small group leaders should be seated in place in their small groups 20 minutes prior to service time. Have play stations with various board games, activities, or use games from the extra Games & Activities Guide to keep children occupied and engaged WITH you. This time is important to build relationships, welcome new kids, and keep structure in the room - you should be an active participant with them! Learn the kids names, and make sure they all know yours too!

Warmly welcome new friends, and introduce them to your group. Allow quieter kids who don't engage with the board games to color. Involve them in the curiosity questions.

### As kids arrive..

Invite them to write/draw the answer to the Welcome Question: on the designated board:

"What is one of your favorite memories?" Set out sheets of paper and colored pencils.

## While kids are playing in their opening activity groups..

Pose the following "I'm curious" questions. Say "I'm curious..." before each question and give kids a chance to think about and answer each one. After each question, consider having kids share their ideas with a neighbor before you call on one or two of them to share with the group.

- What are some things you have to remember to do each day?
- When was a time you had a very special meal? Were you remembering something special like someone's birthday?

# **Small Group Begins**

After the Opening Activity, Large Group Leader will begin small group time by reading the Welcome Question aloud and inviting everyone to open their Bibles and begin.

# Small Group Discussion: Younger Kids 5-8 min

**SUPPLIES**: Bibles (1 perkid); Bible Story Picture (1/SG)

Help kids use the table of contents in their Bibles to find Luke chapter 7. As kids find the passage, explain to kids that they are going to hear a true story about someone who showed her love for Jesus by anointing Him with perfume. Explain that anointing means pouring oil on someone to show they are loved or are called by God to do a special job.

## Read Luke 22:7-20 aloud. Then discuss the following:

**Notes!** Have kids turn to the Notes Pages on the back of the Coloring Sheet and draw a picture of the story as you read.

- Jesus asked two of His disciples to prepare for the meal. Who did He ask? (Peter and John)
- Who was at the Last Supper with Jesus? (Jesus' 12 disciples)
- What food items did Jesus give new meaning to at the Last Supper? (bread and wine)
- What does Communion mean to you?
- How is Jesus' death good news for us?
- Why do you think Jesus wants us to remember His death?

"Jesus used bread and wine to represent His broken body and the blood that He was going to shed on the cross for you and me. He showed us great love when He died for us on the cross. Let's take some time to thank Jesus and pray together."

# **Prayer Time: Younger Kids**

Invite the kids to share some of the things that Jesus has done that they are thankful for. Then encourage kids to pray aloud, giving their thanks and praise to Jesus. End by thanking Jesus for giving His body and blood for us and for inviting us to remember His death on the cross for our sake.

# Small Group Discussion: Older Kids 8-10 min

**SUPPLIES:** Bibles (1 per kid), Bible Story Picture (1/SG)

Help kids use the table of contents in their Bibles to find Luke chapter 7. As kids find the passage, explain to kids that they are going to hear a true story about someone who showed her love for Jesus by anointing Him with perfume. Explain that anointing means pouring oil on someone to show they are loved or are called by God to do a special job.

Turn to Page 3 of this guide and help kids understand the context of this passage. Invite 3-4 volunteers to stand up and take turns reading aloud Luke 22:7-20.

**Notes!** Have kidsturn to the Notes Pages on the back of the Coloring Sheet and write the Scripture and any words that stand out to them.

- What holiday were Jesus and His disciples celebrating at the Last Supper? What do God's people spend time remembering at this holiday? (Passover is a holiday when God's people remember how He delivered the Israelites from slavery in Egypt.)
- In what city did Jesus and His disciples have the Last Supper? (Jerusalem)
- What did Jesus say the bread and the wine represent? (See Luke 22:19-20.)
- How does Communion help us think about what Jesus did for us?
- Why do you think Jesus wants us to remember His death?
- What does Communion mean to you?

"Jesus used bread and wine to represent His broken body and the blood that He was going to shed on the cross for you and me. Jesus died on the cross for us because He loves us and cares about us. Because of His death, our sins can be forgiven and we can live forever with God. Let's take some time to thank Jesus for His sacrifice."

# **Prayer Time: Older Kids**

Invite the kids to find a friend and sha e a prayer request. Encourage them to pray for one another, thanking Jesus for hearing them and for loving them enough to die for them. Close the prayer time by praying aloud, thanking Jesus for His broken body and shed blood.

## **WORD OF WONDER**

Come to me, all you who are tired and are carrying heavy loads. I will give you rest.

— Matthew 11:28 (NIrV)

## **Word of Wonder**

**SUPPLIES:** Bibles (1 per kid), Word of Wonder Poster (1/SG)

"The Word of Wonder in the Walking with Jesus series is Matthew 11:28. Jesus gave His own body and blood so that we don't have to carry the heavy burden of sin anymore. Let's read the Word of Wonder together!"

Invite kids to open their Bibles to Matthew 11:28. Read the verse aloud to the group. Then invite everyone to read it aloud together. Next go around the room, giving kids who would like to read aloud the chance to read the next one or two words of the verse. Those who don't want to read aloud can simply say, "Pass."

Talk about these questions:

- Jesus is talking in this verse—what does this verse show us about Him?
- How can this verse help you when you feel worried or sad?

# **Word of Wonder Activity**

**SUPPLIES:** heavy, hardcover books (2–3 per small group); pillowcases (1 per small group)

"Our Word of Wonder today talks about how Jesus gives us rest when we are tired and burdened. What is a burden? Invite the kids to answer.

A burden can be something heavy we are carrying. Sometimes we carry heavy things like sadness or worry in our hearts. Jesus says He can take that from us and give us rest. Show everyone the pillowcase and then put the books inside. This just became a burden to carry! Let's play a game with this burden while we learn our verse!"

Choose one kid to stand up and begin carrying the heavy pillowcase around the outside of the circle of kids. The kids who are sitting should all say the verse aloud together. When he's tired, the kid holding the pillowcase can gently tap the head of one of the kids in the circle. She'll then get up and take the burden from him and continue to walk around the circle while the kids say the verse. Continue until everyone has had a chance to carry the pillowcase.

**Leader Tip:** For Older Kids. To make this a bit more challenging for older kids, have the person carrying the pillowcase be the one to recite the verse. Once she's said it, she can tap someone on the head who will then get up, take the pillowcase, and recite the verse.

# PAUSE for Large Group time, then continue...

# **Responding in Worship: Contemplating Communion**

**SUPPLIES:** coloring utensils, watercolor paints (optional), cups of water (optional), paintbrushes (optional), Communion table and elements (optional)

RESOURCES: Remembering Sheet (1 per kid), Walking with Jesus Elementary Spotify playlist

(optional)

**Allergy Caution:** This activity may include possible food allergens!

**Leader Tip:** If your church practices Communion together, you can provide the elements and partake of Communion with the kids during this worship response time.

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Wonder ink

Ahead of time, print one copy of the Remembering Sheet for each kid. Consider setting up a Communion table with the elements on it to use as a visual during the activity.

"At the Passover meal, when all of God's people were remembering how God saved His people from slavery in Egypt, Jesus introduced Communion. He took the bread and compared it to His body that was going to be broken on the cross for us. Then He took the wine and compared it to His blood that was going to be shed for the forgiveness of our sins. Jesus died on the cross for us and asked us to remember His sacrifice through Communion. Let's take some time to remember what Jesus did for us.

Hand a Remembering Sheet to each kid. Set out coloring utensils, or if you have watercolor supplies, set them out on tables. Invite kids to find a quiet spot if using coloring utensils, or have them gather quietly around a table if using paints. Let them know that you are going to read Jesus' words about the bread and His body, and invite them to color the bread on their sheets while you do. They might even want to write some words that describe their thankfulness to Jesus.

Read Luke 22:19 aloud: "Then Jesus took bread. He gave thanks and broke it. He handed it to them and said, 'This is my body. It is given for you. Every time you eat it, do this in memory of me.' " If you have Communion elements laid out hold up the bread as you read.

Then play music from the Walking with Jesus Elementary Spotify playlistwhile the kids color and write. After about a minute, read Luke 22:20 aloud: In the same way, after the supper he took the cup. He said, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. It is poured out for you.' " If you have Communion elements laid out, hold up the cup as you read.

Then play music again while kids color the cup and write their thoughts.

After the kids have had some time to contemplate Jesus' death for them, invite anyone who would like to share their thoughts.

Jesus wants us to remember His death because it is what saves us from our sin. But Jesus didn't stay dead—God raised Him from the dead, proving that He won the victory over sin and death! We have a living God who loves us so much that He died for us!"