

# PRE-K 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 who are tired. I will give you rest. —from Matthew 11:28

# **CURIOSITY**

# **BELIEF**

# **FAITH**

- Play Stations:
  - Eating Time
  - Colorful Cloths
  - The Last Supper Coloring Sheet
- Curiosity Activity: A Meal to Remember
- God's Big Story / Snack
- Word of Wonder: From Matthew 11:28
- Circle Time: Musical Spots
- LARGE GROUP
- Responding in Worship: Contemplating Communion
- Closing Game: Musical Spots Remix





Walking With Jesus Preschool 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: From Matthew 11:28

Sharing meals together is a natural part of life. While walking with Jesus from town to town, the disciples and Jesus 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.





Belief

Faith

Identity

## LESSON 4 EARLY CHILDHOOD

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: From Matthew 11:28

# **Play Stations**

**SUPPLIES:** disposable plates (several); disposable silverware; toy food; assorted items for setting a table, such as napkins, flowers, place mats, etc.; butcher paper; scissors (prep only); coloring utensils **RESOURCES:** The Last Supper Coloring Sheet (1 per kid)

Greet kids warmly as they arrive and briefly explain the play stations. Invite them to play at any of the play stations.

"Welcome to church! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas of what we'll be learning about today?"

### **Play Station: Eating Time**

**Set-up:** Place the plates, disposable silverware, toy food, and other assorted items for setting a table, such as napkins, flowers, place mats etc., next to a table.

**Play:** Invite the kids to use the supplies to set the table for a pretend meal. Once the table is set, encourage them to serve the food and enjoy their pretend meal together. As other children arrive you can encourage the kids who are playing to invite everyone to be a part of their special meal.

#### **Play Station: Colorful Cloths**

**Set-up:** Cut a piece of butcher paper to use as a pretend tablecloth. The paper should be long enough for everyone in your group to sit around it. Scatter coloring utensils across the paper.

**Play:** Invite the kids to spend some time decorating the paper with their names, doodles, patterns, and other drawings. Explain that this is like a tablecloth and the kids will use it in part of the lesson later on. Encourage them to make the paper as full of color and drawings as possible.

**Leader Tip:** Opening Play Stations are a great time to naturally communicate your children's ministry's values, like inviting new friends to play, sharing supplies and toys, and putting things back where you found them. Small encouragements during this time will help set the tone for the rest of the lesson.

### **Play Station: The Last Supper Coloring Sheet**

**Set-up:** Print one copy per kid of The Last Supper Coloring Sheet. Set out the Coloring Sheets and coloring utensils.

Play: Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw their favorite food.

**Make It Inclusive!** Some kids find coloring with traditional wax crayons to be frustrating. The feel of the paper wrapper or the crayons breaking are just a couple of reasons kids might shy away from a coloring activity. Consider providing adaptive crayons (crayons made in alternative shapes or fashioned with easy-grip handles) to help those kids engage.

## **Word of Wonder**

SUPPLIES: Bible, paper cups (1 per kid), drinking water

## **WORD OF WONDER**

Come to me, all who are tired. I will give you rest.

—from Matthew 11:28

Ahead of time, set out a cup for each child and fill it with cool drinking water.

"Our Word of Wonder comes from a book of the Bible called Matthew, which is the first book in the New Testament. Matthew 11:28 says, "Come to me, all you who are tired ... I will give you rest." When we walk with Jesus, Jesus cares for us and our needs. When we are tired or weary, God will give us rest and peace. Let's play a game together to help us remember this verse.

Jesus was going to beat sin and death! Jesus told His disciples to remember His death. Let's tap our heads like we are remembering something very important, because we are! Demonstrate tapping your forehead with your index finger. We can remember His death!

Now, let's see if we can remember all the ways we walked with Jesus and the disciples in this story today. First, we walked to Jerusalem for Passover. Then, we got the meal ready with Peter and John. Then, there was the bread, like Jesus' body, and the wine, like Jesus' blood. Everything we did helps us remember—because Jesus wants us to remember His death!

Note: Leave your tablecloth taped to the ground because you will use it again during the game time.

Invite the children to stand. Explain that you all are going to do some exercises together so you can all feel a little tired. Start by leading the kids in a few jumping jacks. How is everyone feeling? Is anyone tired yet? Then lead the kids in a few toe touches. How is everyone feeling? Anyone tired yet? Then lead the kids as you run in place. How is everyone feeling? Anyone tired yet? I sure am! Let's all enjoy a cool glass of water as we rest. Distribute the cups of water. This cool, refreshing water helps remind me of how God cares for me when I'm tired.

**Leader Tip:** Keep this time fun and silly with your role as the exercise leader. You can exaggerate your motions and play up how tired you are feeling.

- COME TO ME,—Fan one arm toward your body, as if inviting someone to come with you.
- ALL—Spread your arms out in a circle.
- WHO ARE TIRED.—Pretend to sleep.
- I WILL GIVE YOU REST.—Cross arms over your chest.
- FROM MATTHEW 11:28—Hold your hands together in front, palms together, as if opening a book.

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- God invites us to come to Him when we need rest, but how do we do that? (The kids may surprise you with their insightful answers, but you can be ready to prompt them with ideas about talking to God in prayer, reading/listening to/remembering encouraging stories from the Bible, singing worship songs, enjoying nature, talking to godly grown-ups, etc.)
- Do you think Jesus' disciples ever felt tired or even scared? What did Jesus give them to help them remember Him and His love for them when they felt tired?"

# God's Big Story / Snack

### **SUPPLIES: Bible**

Hold up a Bible and show the kids. Tell them today's story comes from the book of Luke in the Bible. Open a Bible and show them where the story is found. Tell them that Luke is one of the first four books of the New Testament, the Gospels.

## **Bible Time Rhyme**

Say the Bible time rhyme (with motions) each week before the Bible story to remind kids that what they're about to hear is part of God's big story.

I open my Bible and what do I see? (Hold your hands together, then open your palms, as if opening a book.)

God's big story, waiting for me! (Point to yourself.)

"Let's hear part of God's big story, which comes from the book of Luke in the Bible."

Read Luke 22:7–20 from the Bible.

# **Circle Time: Musical Spots**

**SUPPLIES:** construction paper (1 per kid), marker (prep only), painter's tape (prep only), scrap paper (1 per kid), cup or jar

**RESOURCES:** songs from the Walking with Jesus Early Childhood Spotify playlist

Ahead of time, use the construction paper and marker to create a numbered spot for every kid. Then, tape the numbered papers on the floor in a circle. Write corresponding numbers on small pieces of paper, and place those numbers in a cup or jar. Prepare the music from the Walking with Jesus Early Childhood Spotify playlist.

"Today's story is a big story with lots to think about. Let's play a game that will give us a chance to talk about some questions we might have after hearing this part of God's big story.

Invite the kids to stand on one of the numbered papers. Explain that you are going to turn on some music. Tell them that while the music is playing, they should move around the circle of numbers by hopping from spot to spot. When the music stops, they should stop and take a seat on the number they ended on. Then draw a number from your cup. Whoever is sitting on that number gets a chance to answer a question. Once a child or multiple children have had a chance to answer the question, have the kids stand and play again. Play until you have talked through all the discussion questions. If you have more kids than questions, ask the same question to multiple children before moving on.

#### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- What is Passover? (a feast that was celebrated to remember when God saved the Israelites from Egypt)
- What did Jesus say the broken bread should remind us of? (Jesus' broken body)
- What did Jesus say the cup of wine should remind us of? (the blood of Jesus when He died on the cross)
- Have you ever seen people eat the bread and drink the juice or wine during a time in the church service called Communion? What did you notice about it?
- How do you think the disciples felt when Jesus told them He was going to die?
- How does it make you feel to talk about Jesus' death?
- I wonder why Jesus wants us to remember His death. What do you think?

I love hearing all the things you are thinking and feeling. Jesus gave us a very special way to remember His death, with the bread and the cup of wine. These two things remind us of His death and also of His great love for us! Let's talk to God now in prayer!

**Leader Tip:** If your church teaches about or takes Communion in a specific way (such as once a month, every service, at holidays, with families all together, etc.), teach the kids how your church observes Communion during this time.

Invite kids to share prayer requests and praises and to pray for each other. Some kids may not be comfortable praying out loud. That's OK! Encourage them to pray silently and to thank God for His great love.

Note: Leave all the numbered spots taped to the floor at the end of this activity, because you will play a remixed version of this as your closing game.

# **Head to Large Group!**

Return and finish the rest of this guide before parents arrive.

# **Responding in Worship: Contemplating Communion**

**SUPPLIES:** coloring utensils, watercolor paints, cups of water (optional), paintbrushes,

Communion table and elements (optional)

**RESOURCES:** Remembering Sheet (1 per kid), Walking with Jesus Early

Childhood Spotify playlist

Ahead of time, print a Remembering Sheet for each kid. "Jesus died on the cross for us and asked us to remember it through Communion. Communion is a time when followers of Jesus eat the bread and drink the juice or wine, just like Jesus and His disciples did. Let's take some time to remember what Jesus did for us.

Give each kid a Remembering Sheet and set out coloring utensils. Or if you have watercolor supplies, set them out. Invite kids to ind a quiet spot where they can color or paint. Let them know that you're going to read Jesus' words about the bread and His body, and invite them to color the bread on their sheets while you do. Quietly play music from the Walking with Jesus Early Childhood Spotify playlist while the kids color.

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.

After a few moments, 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. Encourage the kids to color the cup on their papers.

After the kids have had some time to think about Jesus' death, invite anyone who would like to, 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. Jesus is alive! We have a living God who loves us so much that He died for us. We can be forgiven for our sins by asking Jesus to forgive us. He loves us so much!"

Every time you do this, do it in

memory of me.

-Lake 223(9b

# **Closing Activity: Musical Spots Remix**

**SUPPLIES:** reuse all the supplies from the Musical Spots Circle Time Activity (the numbered spots taped to the foor, numbered scrap paper, cup)

**RESOURCES:** songs from the Walking with Jesus Early Childhood Spotify playlist

"Do you remember when we played Musical Spots? Let's play that again, but this time I have some new questions for you." Repeat the same sequence of play as earlier: start the music, have the kids hop from spot to spot, stop the music, have the kids sit on the spot they ended on, draw a number, and ask that kid a question from the list below.

- What's your favorite drink?
- What's your favorite special place to have dinner?
- What's your favorite red-colored food?
- What's your favorite green-colored food?
- What's one thing you remember from the story today?
- Who would you most like to eat dinner with?
- What's your favorite dessert?
- What food makes you think of Christmas?
- What food makes you think of summertime?
- What food makes you think of a memory with your family?