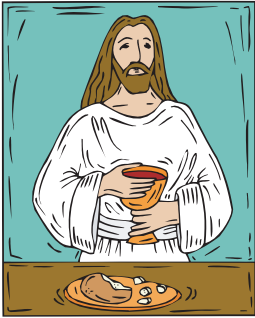




The Last Supper; Judas' Betrayal

FAMILIES IN TRUTH

Matthew 26:14-30; Mark 14:12-25; Luke 22:1-23



Jesus shared one last meal with His disciples before He willingly went to the cross. Jesus used symbols of bread and juice to explain to His friends what was about to happen. Jesus wants all believers to share this special meal as a way to remember Him.

Day #1: The Betrayal

Imagine that someone at school said something unkind about you. Would it hurt your feelings more if it was someone you didn't know, or if it was a really close friend? Of course, it would hurt more if a friend were unkind. You would feel betrayed. One of Jesus' twelve disciples betrayed Him, but it was no surprise to Jesus (John 6:70-71).

Many people had put their trust in Jesus and the Pharisees did not like it. They had no room for Jesus in their lives, so they wanted to get rid of Him (John 8:37). The Pharisees and chief priests were waiting for the right time to arrest Jesus.

Judas was one of Jesus' disciples, but he was not a true believer (John 13:10). Satan loves to deceive people by lying about God, just as he did to Eve in the Garden of Eden. Satan is the father of lies (John 8:44), and he knew he could tempt Judas. Led by Satan, Judas went to talk to the chief priests (Luke 22:3).

† *(Judas) asked, "What will you give me if I hand Jesus over to you?" So they counted out 30 silver coins for him. From then on, Judas watched for the right time to hand Jesus over to them. - Matthew 26:15-16*

Judas made a deal with the men who wanted to get rid of Jesus. The men paid Judas 30 silver coins, and Judas promised to lead them to where Jesus was. Judas betrayed Jesus. He pretended to be Jesus' friend and follower, but he was a deceiver (John 12:6). He was going to lead Jesus' enemies right to Him. Judas had walked with Jesus for three years. He had heard Him teach with God's authority. He had seen Him heal the sick and offer new life to the broken-hearted. Judas had seen Jesus' perfect love lived out right in front of him, yet Judas still chose to reject Him. And so sadly, Judas will spend eternity apart from God (Matthew 27:51, John 17:12, Acts 1:25).

* Judas knew all *about* Jesus. He was often **present** with Jesus, but he did not put his trust in Jesus. Just the same, it is possible for us to know facts *about* Jesus, and not put our trust in Him. Our **presence** at church or with Christian friends is not what makes us right with God! **ONLY** having faith in Jesus - depending completely upon what Jesus did for us when He died on the cross to pay for our sin - will make us right with God (Romans 3:22).

Day #2: The Bread

Take out some photos of a special time you shared with your family, such as a family vacation. Looking at those photos helps you to **remember** what you did and how you felt when you did those things. Take a few minutes to look at the photos and discuss the events in them.

When Jesus knew His time on earth was about to end, He wanted to give His disciples a way to remember Him. He did not give them a photograph. He gave them the memory of eating the Passover meal with Him. This special meal has come to be known as, "The Last Supper," because it was the last meal Jesus ate before He went to the cross. He told the disciples to repeat this dinner in order to remember Him (Luke 22:19).

Peter and John had followed Jesus' instructions and prepared the meal in the upstairs room of a house in Jerusalem (Luke 22:10-13). Jesus told the disciples that He wanted to eat with them before He suffered (Luke 22:14-16). By saying this, He foretold His death on the cross.

† *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 it in memory of Me." - Luke 22:19*

The bread that was used at the Passover meal was flat bread that did not have any yeast in it (Exodus 12:15). Yeast was a symbol for sin (1 Corinthians 5:8). It symbolizes the sin of pride, because just like yeast makes bread puff up, our pride makes us puff up. And just as a tiny bit of yeast makes a whole loaf of bread puff up, just one sin makes a person a sinner (1 Corinthians 5:6). The bread Jesus gave to the disciples was made **without** yeast. Jesus said it was a **symbol** of His body because **He was without sin**. He said His body would soon be given up for His followers.

* Compare a cracker to a loaf of bread. Which is puffed up? The bread is, because it has yeast in it. Remember that Jesus was like bread with **NO** yeast, because He had **NO** sin. Only Jesus could offer Himself as a sacrifice because only He was sinless (1 Peter 3:18).

Day #3: The Juice

At the very special supper, Jesus held up a cup of grape juice. He told His disciples that the juice in the cup was a **symbol** of His blood.

† *Then He took the cup. He gave thanks and handed it to them. He said, "All of you drink from it. This is my blood of the new covenant. It is poured out to forgive the sins of many." - Matthew 26:27-28*

Jesus foretold that soon His blood would be poured out. This would happen when He was beaten and nailed to the cross (Mark 15:19, John 19:34). Jesus said this would happen so that the sins of many people would be forgiven.

Day #3 continued:

Ever since the first people chose to disobey Him, God has required an animal to be killed on the altar to pay for the sins of His people. This seems so strange and harsh to us. But God is very serious about sin. Sin leads to death - separation from God (Romans 6:23). But the Bible tells us that the **lifeblood** of a perfect animal covers the **death** that sin brings.

The life of each creature is in its blood. So I have given you the blood of animals to pay for your sin on the altar. Blood is life. That is why blood pays for your sin. - Leviticus 17:11

The Bible tells us that Jesus, who was perfect without any sin, died on the cross to save all who would believe in Him (Romans 1:16). Jesus was the final, perfect sacrifice (Hebrews 10:12).

1 Peter 3:18 says, "Christ died for sins once and for all time. The One who did what is right died for those who don't do right. He died to bring you to God. His body was put to death. But the Holy Spirit brought Him back to life."



Read the verses below. Insert your own name!

Here is how God has shown his love for _____. While I was still a sinner, Christ died for me. The blood of Christ has made me right with God. - Romans 5:8-9a (modified)

Day #4: The New Promise

Jesus said His blood was the blood of the **new covenant**. A covenant is a promise. When God makes a covenant, or promise, it can never be broken (Deuteronomy 7:9). If Jesus' blood was the blood of the **new** promise, what was the **old** promise?

The previous promise was made between God and the Israelites when He gave Moses the Ten Commandments and other rules (together, called "the Law"). The Israelites heard God's Law and promised to obey it. Moses made an animal sacrifice, and the promise was sealed (Exodus 24:4-8).

Even before God gave this covenant, He knew that His people would not be able to keep their part. No one could keep all of the Law, perfectly, all of the time (James 2:10). But, God knew that His people needed to have the Law so they could see what His standard of perfection was (Romans 3:20). When the people broke God's rules, God told the people to make animal sacrifices. The blood of the animals would cover their sin, but only for a while. They had to make these sacrifices over and over and over again (Hebrews 10:11). When the time was perfect, God revealed the new promise.

The old promise: If you obey the Law perfectly, then God will bless you, make you holy, and remain with you.

The new promise: Christ will die to take away your sin. If you believe in Him, God will make you righteous, holy, and perfect. You will have abundant life now, and live with God in heaven forever!

The old promise was good. The new promise is much BETTER! The new promise did not take away the old promise; it fulfilled it. The old promise said the people had to be without sin. The new promise took away their sin!

Day #4 continued:



Christ has died to save them. He died to set them free from the sins they committed under the first covenant. - Hebrews 9:15b



Discuss what it is like to live under the old promise of the Law. (Impossible to be perfect, discouraging, exhausting) Then discuss what it is like to live under the new promise of God's grace. (Freeing, joyful, like a heavy weight is lifted)

[Note to parents: the Mosaic covenant is often called the "old covenant." However it should be noted, that the Abrahamic covenant was in place 430 years before the Law was given (Galatians 3:16-18). It was the covenant of grace, in which God promised to bless all the people of the earth through Abraham's seed (Acts 3:25-26).]

Day #5: Remember Me

Nearly two thousand years after the Last Supper, we continue to obey the command Jesus gave to His disciples. When Jesus broke the bread and passed the cup, He said to, "Do this in remembrance of Me." (Luke 22:19) When we take the bread and juice, we call it **Communion**.

There were several times when God told His people to **re-member** something about Him. He wanted them to remember that He provided food for them in the desert (Exodus 16:32), and that He provided protection for them from the plague of death in Egypt (Exodus 12:24-27). God knows that we are very prone to forgetting what is important. When we forget about Him, we will not live our lives to glorify Him.

In the same way, we take Communion so that we will remember the greatest provision of all. We **remember that God provided forgiveness for our sins!** God provided the only way for us to be made right with Him. God provided the WAY for us to have eternal life.



For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. - John 3:16

Only those who have put their trust in Jesus should ever take Communion. The Bible tells us that taking communion is very special. It helps us remember the very serious sacrifice that Jesus made. It is a sin to take communion while joking around or being silly (1 Corinthians 11:27). Each person should examine his heart and have a clear conscience with God before taking communion (1 Corinthians 11:28). That means think about your thoughts and actions. Is there a sin that you know you keep doing? Before you take communion, confess your sins (1 John 1:9). Agree with God that the sin is wrong, and ask God to change your mind and actions. No one should ever take communion without thinking of Jesus (1 Corinthians 11:29). You should discuss with your parents when the right time is for you to begin taking communion.



Even if you are too young to take communion, God wants you to remember what Jesus did for you. Make a special card and put it in your Bible. In that card, write a note to Jesus. You might draw a picture, or write words like, "I remember that You love me. I remember that You left heaven to be with people. I remember that You went to the cross to take away my sin. I remember that You rose on the third day to give me new life!" Pull out that card and read it while your parents are taking communion.