

The Last Supper: Jesus Gave Thanks

Kids Ministry Parent Resource- April 5th

Scripture: Matthew 26:17-30

The Last Supper

¹⁷ On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Where do you want us to make preparations for you to eat the Passover?”

¹⁸ He replied, “Go into the city to a certain man and tell him, ‘The Teacher says: My appointed time is near. I am going to celebrate the Passover with my disciples at your house.’” ¹⁹ So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them and prepared the Passover.

²⁰ When evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the Twelve. ²¹ And while they were eating, he said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.”

²² They were very sad and began to say to him one after the other, “Surely you don’t mean me, Lord?”

²³ Jesus replied, “The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me.

²⁴ The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born.”

²⁵ Then Judas, the one who would betray him, said, “Surely you don’t mean me, Rabbi?”

Jesus answered, “You have said so.”

²⁶ While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body.”

²⁷ Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. ²⁸ This is my blood of the ^[a] covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹ I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”

³⁰ When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Family Home Lesson:

Something important to note is that despite circumstances, knowing full and well what was coming, Jesus stopped to give thanks in the middle of it all. We find out that Jesus's friend Judas was revealed as a traitor and the Passover dinner is awkwardly changed by Jesus declaring once again that he was about to suffer. Another gospel also recounts how Jesus got down and washed His disciple's feet (John 13:1-17). It was a strange evening. You can imagine the tension not only in the room around Jesus, but also internally felt by Jesus. He was fully man and fully God, so dying on a cross and being beaten and spat upon would be horrendous to experience if you didn't know what was coming, but we learn that He is fully aware of what's about to happen. And yet He stops to give thanks. He considered what was before Him pure joy because he knew what was on the other side. I think we have something important to learn from this.

The world is turned upside down right now. School together with our friends is no more, except on a screen at home. Gathering with our friends and loved ones, even our church family on Sunday is unsafe due to this crazy virus. So many things we were excited about aren't happening, and if we're honest with ourselves there doesn't seem to be much to be happy about. But, just like Jesus did, we can give thanks to God despite our circumstances because God is still good and doing amazing things. We just need to look for and remind ourselves of them.

We still have food, even if it might be some strange combinations. We have a family who loves us, a home that is safe and warm, and toys to play with. If that weren't enough, we have technology to connect us with others. When we stop and recognize how blessed we are it may not change our circumstances, but it does change our perspective on those circumstances. Just like Jesus knew what was coming on Sunday, namely His resurrection and defeat of sin and death, we know that there is something even greater on the other side of what we are currently struggling with. We just need to take time to remind ourselves to fix our eyes on Jesus. And time is something we have.

Song Suggestions for the week: Fix My Eyes by For King and Country

Raise a Hallelujah by Bethel

Craft attachment on Sunday Streaming Service Tab at rockpilechurch.com

Discussion Questions for this week:

What do I have to be thankful for today? How does focusing on God and what He's done change my perspective on what I'm struggling with?

Family Activity Suggestion: Highs and Lows

This week as you're sitting around the dinner table at the end of the day, ask your kids what was the low (worst) part of their day, and what was the high (best) part of their day. Get them to open up and share what's on their heart. Sympathize with them and if the Holy Spirit leads you, remind them that we can always find something to be thankful for even when things are hard because God is in control.

Make Passover Bread Together!

Unleavened Bread (Matzah)

Servings: 7 flatbreads

Author: Alyona's Cooking

Unleavened bread is a flatbread that consists of no rising agents. Known as Matzah within the Jewish community--it represents a symbolic element with great importance. This 3 ingredient recipe is a great way to incorporate a Biblical approach to the Passover holiday.

Ingredients

2 cups + 2 TBSP flour

1 cup cold water

1/2 tsp salt

Instructions

1. Combine the salt and flour together in a large bowl. Stir in the water until the dough comes together. Knead for 5 minutes.
2. Pre-heat skillet over medium-low heat.
3. Pinch off 7 pieces of dough and form into balls. Roll out each piece on a lightly floured surface (approx 6-7-inch ovals).
4. Cook on a hot skillet for 2 minutes on each side. Serve or store covered.