

LESSON PLAN

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Luke 22:7-23; 1 Corinthians 11:23-32

Lesson Memory Verse: 1 Corinthians 11:26 - "For as often as you eat this bread, and drink this cup, you do show the Lord's death until He comes."

Lesson Aim: Teach the children to eat the Lord's Supper in remembrance of Jesus' sacrifice for us.

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

KEY (for Attention): How many of you like to go to someone's house to eat? It is fun, isn't it? There is all that good food to eat and then there is the fun of doing special things with those friends after you have eaten the food. Tell me, whose house do you really like to go to for supper? (Let them tell you.)

Today we are going to talk about a very special Supper that is mentioned in the Bible. Only Christians are invited to this Supper. It is a Supper that is observed in churches at various times. It is a very small Supper, but a very important Supper. Does anyone know whose Supper this is? Yes, this is the Lord's Supper. We prepare this Supper because He tells us to do it to remember what He did for us.

Jesus wants you to know about His Supper. It is a special privilege to come to His Supper, but even Christians must be very careful when they come to the Lord's Supper because it has a special meaning that other suppers do not have. If Christians sin and do not confess their sins to God and want to turn away from their sins, they should not eat this Supper. If they do, God has warned them that they will have serious problems in their lives. They could become weak or sick or even die. But if they eat this Supper with a cleansed life and a thankful heart for what Jesus did on the cross for them, they will be blessed and filled with joy. The Lord wants to bless you and give you joy, so listen carefully as I tell you about the Lord's Supper so He can bless you.

HE (for Authority): The Lord's Supper is a very small meal. All we eat is a small piece of broken bread (or a little cracker) and drink one swallow of grape juice. That is all we eat! But we have a very special reason for eating this little Supper. We are remembering what Jesus did for us on the cross. The Lord's Supper does not save us or even help to save us, but it does help us to remember what Jesus did for us.

SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scripture for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word. In our lesson today we will learn some important things about the Lord's Supper and try to find out exactly what it means.

I. Be Prepared - Luke 22:7-13

The Lord sent Peter and John, two of His best disciples, to get everything ready for the Passover Supper. They did not know anything about the Lord's Supper yet. They would learn about the Lord's Supper after they had eaten the Passover Supper. Both Suppers teach believers about Jesus' death on the cross, but the Lord's Supper makes it clearer. The Passover Supper was for Old Testament believers, but the Lord's Supper is for New Testament believers. But both Suppers need someone to prepare the place and get the food ready. That was the job of Peter and John.

WE: First, we must get everything prepared for the Lord's Supper. It is usually the responsibility of the deacons to prepare the food for the Lord's Supper so believers that are gathered in the church can eat it together at one of its services.

II. Be Saved - Luke 22:14-23; cf. John 13:21-30

It was the disciples who ate that first Supper when the Lord served it to them after the Passover Supper. Since the Lord's Supper is only for believers, did Jesus serve the Supper to the disciples after Judas left the group to betray Jesus? That is possible (Jn 13:21-30), but Luke's account indicates Judas was still with the group when Jesus served the Supper (Lk 22:19-23). Judas pretended he was saved and had fooled everyone into thinking that he was a true believer; that is, he fooled everyone but the Lord. No one can fool the Lord. Why is an unsaved person not supposed to eat of the Lord's Supper? It is supposed to remind believers how Jesus saved them from their sins by His death on the cross. When a person is not saved, Jesus' death has no real meaning to him. He has no salvation experience to remember. If a saved person is living with known sin in his life and does not want to stop it, he is showing disrespect for Jesus

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who paid the penalty for his sin. He, too, must not eat of that Supper. He is eating the Supper in an unworthy manner and God will punish him for doing it (1 Cor 11:27-30).

WE: We should make sure we are saved and living a godly life when we eat the Lord's Supper, because it is in honor of Jesus who died for our sins. If we eat the Lord's Supper; we must hate our sins and love Jesus for dying in our place to remove sins from our lives. If we are not saved or are living with known sins in our lives, but unwilling to give them up, we must not eat the Lord's Supper.

III. Be Informed - Luke 22:19-20

Jesus gave His disciples the meaning of the Lord's Supper. The broken **bread** was to remind them of His body that was soon going to be broken for sinners by cruel whippings on His back, by a crown of thorns on his head, by nails through his wrists and feet and by a spear in His side. He did nothing wrong to have His body battered and beaten. Sinners deserved that kind of death, but He took their place on the cross. Only true believers that have asked Jesus to be their Savior can appreciate what He has done for them. That is why only believers are allowed to eat this broken bread without a penalty. They are to remember how Jesus suffered in His body and died for them on the cross so that they would not be sent to the Lake of Fire.

The **cup** filled with grape juice was to remind them of Jesus' blood that came out of all His wounds. He shed His blood to wash away their sins. Water washes the dirt from our hands, but it takes the blood of Jesus to wash away our sins. Only true believers have asked Jesus to wash away their sins by His blood, so only they know what this part of the Lord's Supper really means. That is why they are the only ones that the Lord will allow to drink this grape juice. It reminds them of His blood. They are to remember that Jesus washed away their sins by His blood when they believed and called on Him to save them.

WE: We should know what we are doing when we eat the Lord's Supper. We can know because Jesus told us. When He took the bread, He said, "This is my body, which is given for you; this do in remembrance of me." It was a symbol of His broken body, which was going to be broken a few hours later. It could not be His actual body, because He was still in His unbroken body. Then He took the cup and said, "This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you." The new testament is a new covenant that God offered to sinners. The old covenant (the Law) was given to Moses to show us our sins. The new covenant is offered to all people to save them from their sins by Jesus' blood. If we have been saved, we should remember what Jesus did for us as we eat the Lord's Supper.

NOTES TO TEACHERS:

1. Problem concerning figures of speech. Some children in the lower grades (1-4) have difficulty understanding figures of speech. They understand bread and they understand body, but it is hard for them to see how Jesus' body can be pictured by bread. Make it as simple as you can. Understand their limitations and trust the Holy Spirit to make it clear to them.

2. Problem concerning the Lord's Supper and John 6:22-71. Some people have applied John 6 to Jesus' teaching on the Lord's Supper and have taught that we must eat Jesus' physical body and drink His physical blood in order to have everlasting life. They read John 6:54-57 with Mark 14:22-24 to arrive at this teaching. But this is not what Jesus meant. He was using a figure of speech. He makes this clear in John 6:63. He tells them that His words are "spirit," that is, they are a figure of speech. He also makes it clear that He was not telling people to eat His literal flesh when He said, "The flesh profits nothing." The Lord's Supper is not an event where the bread and juice are changed into the body and blood of Jesus and then eaten by His followers for eternal life. Rather, it is served in the church so that Jesus' followers will remember His suffering and death for them.

IV. Be Cleansed (1 Corinthians 11:27-32)

Christians must confess all known sins to the Lord and ask for His cleansing before they eat this Supper or else they will eat the Supper "unworthily" (1 Cor 11:27). If they refuse to turn from their sins and eat this Supper, they are mocking God. They are saying that they love the sins that put Jesus on the cross.

WE: We must confess our sins and hate our sins with a holy hatred before we eat the Lord's Supper.

BE (for Action): Review the symbols of the Lord's Supper and ask the children to tell what they mean. Have a saved child thank the Lord for His death on the cross to pay for their sins. Have another child ask the Lord to help them hate their sins and obey His commands.