

Bible Stories for Adults

The Lord's Supper

Luke 22:7-20

Opening

- Gathering: Why is it important for Christians to share the Lord's Supper regularly?
- Today's Focus: Jesus revealed Himself as the atoning Passover lamb and instituted the Lord's Supper for us to remember and participate in His suffering and death for our sakes.
- Key Verses: *This is My body given for you; do this in remembrance of Me. ... This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is poured out for you.* Luke 22:19-20
- For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.* 1 Corinthians 11:26

Opening Prayer

Lesson

Jesus' Last Week

- Why did Jesus wait until the last minute before going to Jerusalem for His last Passover?
John 11:53-57
- When did He finally show up in the Jerusalem metropolitan area?
John 12:1-2
Note: Jews had to stay within Jerusalem during the festival, suburb villages counted
- What did Jesus do the next day?
Leviticus 23:3
- What happened Sunday?
Mark 11:7-10
- Did He clear the temple when He arrived in Jerusalem that afternoon?
Mark 11:11-12, 15, 17
- What did He do the rest of the days before Passover (Thursday evening)?
Luke 21:37-38
- What happened to Jesus between late Thursday night and by mid-afternoon on Friday?
Mark 14:46; 15:1, 25, 33-34, 37
- How do we know this all happened on Friday (Jewish days began at 6:00 pm)?
Mark 15:42-43
- What did Jesus do on Saturday while His body laid dead in the tomb?
1 Peter 3:18-19
- What happened on Sunday?
Mark 16:1, 6

Paschal Preparations (*Mark 14:12*)

- What Jewish festival had Jesus come to celebrate His last time in Jerusalem?
Leviticus 23:5-6
- What had to be done on Thursday before the Passover began at 6:00 pm?
Mark 14:12
- Who did Jesus send to make the important preparations?
Luke 22:8
- Paschal* means *Of the Passover* - *Pasch* comes from Hebrew *pesach* which means Passover

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The Place (Mark 14:13-16)

The Passover meal could only be eaten inside Jerusalem or not at all

With so many pilgrims, anyone who had an extra room had to provide it free

Had Jesus made any arrangements to make sure they had a place?

Matthew 26:17-18

How would Peter and John know where to find this man?

Mark 14:13-15

Two-story houses were only found in the affluent Upper City (upwind of city sewage)

Second floors were large open rooms, smaller than first floor; Used for storage and guests

Upper rooms were accessed only by outside stairs, kept main floor private

Did Peter and John find the man and the fully furnished room just as Jesus said?

Mark 14:16

Preparing for the Passover Seder (Exodus 12)

What was the first task in preparing for a Passover seder?

Exodus 12:15

After gathering items for the feast, what important task was done that afternoon?

Exodus 12:3-7

Why was it important that at least ten people be present and that the lamb was properly sized?

Exodus 12:8-10

Around 250,000 lambs were slaughtered in temple forecourts between 3:00 and 6:00

Horn blast announced the start - Jesus died at 3:00 as first Pascal lamb sacrificed

Priests chanted *Hallel* (Psalms 113-118)

Priests caught blood from slit necks and poured at the foot of the altar

Lambs were skinned and gutted by priests, fat and inners were burned on altar

Rest carried home in skin and roasted over fire on pomegranate spit - head, legs, tail, ...

The Passover Seder - Before the Meal

1. *Cup of the Kiddush (separation)*

Head of family prayed over the cup, then all drank

What was the significance of the four cups of wine scattered throughout the Passover feast?

Exodus 6:6-7

Sanctification

Thanksgiving

Redemption

Completion

Fifth cup sometimes poured for Elijah (Malachi 4:5-6) - Never drank

2. *First hand washing*

3. *Parsley*

dipped into salt water and eaten

4. *Breaking of bread*

Middle circle of bread was broken and a little eaten

5. *Story related*

Exodus 12:26-27

6. *Hallel Part 1*

Leader chanted a verse and the rest replied with *Hallelujah (Praise the Lord God)*

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The Passover Seder - The Meal

7. *Cup of Haggadah (explaining, proclaiming)*
8. *Second Hand Washing*
9. *Grace*
10. *Sop*
 - Bitter herbs (horse radish, chicory, endive, lettuce, horehound)
 - Charosheth (apples, dates, pomegranates, nuts, cinnamon sticks)
11. *Meal*
12. *Third Hand Washing*
13. *Bread*
14. *Cup of Redemption*
 - Fifth cup poured (but not drunk) and door opened for return of Elijah
15. *Hallel Part 2*
16. *Final Cup*
17. *The Great Hallel*

Jesus' Last Supper (*Mark 14:17-21*)

When did Jesus and His disciples show up at the Upper Room?

Mark 14:17

Was Jesus trying to put off what He knew would be His last meal?

Luke 22:14-16

Early Passovers were eaten standing as escaping slaves, Changed to reclining on couches as free men

Exodus 12:11

What inconceivable news did Jesus have during the meal?

Mark 14:18

Did the disciples suspect He was talking about Judas?

Mark 14:19

How did Jesus indicate who this betrayer was and at what point of the Paschal Seder?

Mark 14:20-21

What Old Testament prophecy did this fulfill?

Psalms 41:9

How did the disciples find out who Jesus was talking about?

John 13:22-30

The Eucharist (*Mark 14:22-26*)

What did Jesus do at Point 13 of the Seder and why is it sometimes called the Eucharist?

Mark 14:22

What else did Jesus include in this Sacrament He was instituting?

Mark 14:23-25

What final part of the Seder do we see?

Mark 14:26

What is a sacrament? (From Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation)

A sacred act

Instituted by God Himself

In which there are certain visible means connected with His Word

By which God offers, gives and seals unto us the forgiveness of sins which Christ has earned for us.

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The Sacrament of the Altar (*Mark 14:25*)

What are some other names we have for this sacrament?

- 1 Corinthians 11:20-22
- 1 Corinthians 10:21
- 1 Corinthians 10:16-17 (KJV)
- Acts 2:42
- 1 Corinthians 11:24

Where do we get the Words of Institution that Pastor says before we share Holy Communion?

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Are the bread and wine changed into the body and blood of Christ?

1 Corinthians 11:28

So why do we say the Christ's body and blood are *in, with and under* the bread and wine?

Matthew 26:26-28

How does Paul describe this mystery?

1 Corinthians 10:16

Does it matter whether we recognize the real presence of Christ or if we feel it is just symbolic?

1 Corinthians 11:27-29

Besides protecting others from judgment, why do some Lutherans practice closed communion?

Romans 16:17

Besides remembering what Jesus did, what do we look forward to when we share His Meal?

Matthew 26:29

Closing Prayer

Response - Consider and meditate on one each day this week

1. How often do I participate with other Christians in celebrating the Lord's Supper?
(*Acts 2:42, 46; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25; Hebrews 10:25*)
2. When I share the Lord's Supper with other Christians, do I recognize the unity of the fellowship?
(*Matthew 5:23-24; John 13:18-30; 1 Corinthians 10:16-17; 11:17-22; Romans 16:17*)
3. Do I recall Jesus' sacrifice for me when I partake of the Lord's Supper?
(*1 Corinthians 10:21; 11:23-26; Hebrews 10:1-24*)
4. Do I recognize the true presence of Jesus' body and blood in, with and through the bread and wine?
(*Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:27-29; Hebrews 9:20-22*)
5. What does the Lord's Supper really mean to me?
(*Mark 14:22-25; 1 Corinthians 11:28; 2 Corinthians 13:5*)