



The Collaborative for Special Needs and Disabilities Ministry

The Last Supper

Introduction:

Shortly before or at the beginning of Holy Week, talk with your child about Lent, for example, that Lent is a season of preparation, a season of getting ready.

Ask your child: What are some things we prepare for?

Allow your child to respond and/or provide examples:

We prepare to pray by making the Sign of Cross.

We prepare for meals by cooking, setting the table, etc.

During Holy Week, just before Easter, we remember a special meal that Jesus shared with his disciples. Some people call this the Passover meal, and some call it the Lord's Supper or the Last Supper. When it is time, we can do some of the things Jesus and his disciples did when they shared this special meal. First, we must prepare.

* Choose any or all of the following activities, according to your child's ability and interest.

Preparation:

I. Jesus shared a cup with wine and a plate with bread. We can make a cup and a plate to use at our Last Supper.

Make a chalice and a paten to use as models at your Last Supper. You can use homemade dough that will harden after a couple days, or you can use store-bought modeling clay that can be baked in the oven. Depending on your child's interest, you can use colored clay, or use white clay and then paint your items when dry.

II. Jesus shared a special kind of bread called unleavened bread.

Purchase or make some crackers. If your child enjoys cooking, several simple recipes can be found online. You can also use saltines or matzo. If you want to avoid gluten, you can use rice crackers.



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Holy Thursday - The Last Supper:

- I. Choose a place in your home to have your Last Supper.
- II. Gather your materials on a table:
 - Model chalice
 - Model paten
 - Crackers
 - Bible
 - Candles (if desired)
 - Small pitcher with warm water
 - Small bowl
 - Towel
 - Plate or napkin for each person
 - Cup for each person
 - Wine substitute (grape juice or something suitable for your family)

III. Read from the Bible: Mk. 14: 12-16 (Preparation for Passover)

After reading, ask your child to prepare your table. (Your child can put a plate/napkin and cup by each person's place or direct another person to do so, put the crackers on a plate, ask that the candles be lit, and so on. Use the model chalice and paten to represent where Jesus should sit.)

IV. Explain that in Jesus's time, people wore only sandals, so their feet would get dirty. They would wash their feet with water before coming into a home. Jesus washed his disciples' feet. We can wash each other's feet (or hands).

Place the bowl under your child's foot (or hands). Using the pitcher with warm water, pour a tiny amount of water over the foot/hand. Use the towel to dry. One at a time, each person "washes" someone else's foot or hand.

Explain that when we go to Mass on Holy Thursday, the priest washes the feet of some people in our community; those people represent all of us.

V. Read from the Bible: Mk. 14: 22-26 (The Lord's Supper)

Pause after each verse to act out and reflect on, according to your child's ability, Jesus's words and actions. For example: Saying a blessing

Breaking bread/eating

"This is my body"

Sharing the cup/drinking (each drinks from their own cup)

"This is my blood of the covenant"

Singing hymns