

Jesus eats and drinks with his friends

Mark 14:12-16, 22-23

Faith formation for twos

The story of the Last Supper is often somber for adults who know the events that follow. The disciples had a few clues that life was changing, but they had just arrived in Jerusalem for a time of celebration—the Feast of Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Celebrated each year by observant Jews, these festivals were appointed by God as “holy convocations” (Leviticus 23:4). Communion is still a special time for us today. Create a special atmosphere during snack by using special dishes and table coverings. Enjoy eating with the children.

Preparation

- Place a bookmark in your Bible at Mark 14.
- For the “Preparing for a feast” Gather activity and snacktime, prepare a centerpiece of “ribbon wavers”:
 1. For each child, tape 4 to 6 lengths of ribbon (4 to 8 in. / 10 to 20 cm) to end of craft stick.
 2. Arrange completed ribbon wavers in container.
- Prepare bread and juice for snack.
- Practice telling the Bible story.
- Prepare the activity cards.
- Gather materials for Responsive play.

Environment for twos

- The snack for this session gives twos a concrete experience with the food of the Last Supper—bread and juice. It is not important that the juice be grape juice; any juice will do. You may want to choose a light-colored juice to avoid staining. Be sure to sit down with the children during the snack. Talk with them and respond to them. Many relationships are strengthened by eating together.
- Although this session does not refer to “communion,” you could make a wordless connection during the Bible story by using the type of bread or cup your congregation uses for communion.

FAITH FOCUS

Jesus shows God’s love.

AT A GLANCE

Gather

- Welcome
- “Preparing for a feast” activity and snack
- Song (“Awake, arise, O sing a new song”)

Share the Bible story

- “Celebrate!” chant
- Song with the Bible (“Jesus loves me”)
- Story (Mark 14:12-16, 22-23)
- Prayer song (“Hands, hands, hands”)
- Action chant
- Activity card: “Jesus eats and drinks with his friends”

Responsive play

Sending

SUPPLIES

- *Wee Wonder* CD
- CD player
- Bible
- For “Preparing for a feast” and snack: centerpiece of “ribbon wavers,” tablecloth, plates, napkins, cups, bread/rolls, juice
- To make “ribbon wavers”: ribbon in different colors, craft sticks, tape
- Story figures: Jesus, Peter, Andrew, James, John
- For telling story: white fabric from session 1, plate/basket, bread/roll, empty cup
- For activity card: brown paint or washable ink, paper towels, foam tray or plate
- Responsive play materials (see p. 166)

MODULE 8 THEME SONG

Awake, arise, O sing a new song

Awake, arise,

O sing a new song of joy
and celebration.

A new day has come,
bring praise to the son of
God, of God.



track 8



track 1



Figures 12,
13, 14, 18,
and 28
(Jesus)



track 3

Gather

1. Welcome children by name. Invite them to join your gathering activity.
2. "Preparing for a feast" activity. As children arrive, invite them to help you prepare for a very special snack. Lay out a tablecloth and set the table together. (*You might want to use special dishes.*) Set the container of "ribbon wavers" in the middle of the table as a centerpiece. If you usually begin your session with snack, serve bread and juice right away. If you serve snack later, move into the rest of the session.
3. When you are ready to tell the story, offer each child a ribbon waver from the centerpiece. Sing "Awake, arise, O sing a new song" along with the *Wee Wonder* CD. Wave the ribbon wavers in celebration as you sing and move to the worship area.

Share the Bible story

1. Say the "Celebrate!" chant together with excited voices, as you wave the ribbon wavers. Repeat as many times as children have interest. Then collect the wavers and place them beside the storytelling area.
Cel-e-brate! (*make ASL sign, holding ribbon waver in one hand*)
Isn't it great?
Jesus is here! Jesus is here! (*say "Jesus" quickly in one beat*)
2. Sing "Jesus loves me" along with the *Wee Wonder* CD. (*See words on p. 271.*) As you sing, make the ASL sign for "love" and the ASL sign for "Jesus."

**Jesus loves me, this I know
for the Bible tells me so . . .**

Hold up the Bible, with today's story marked. Say,

"This is the Bible."

Open the Bible to the story and point to the words.

"Here is the story."

Carefully set the open Bible to the side.

3. Share the Bible story.

Story figures: Jesus, Peter, Andrew, James, John

Other props: length of white fabric from session 1, plate/basket with piece of real bread or roll, empty cup

Tell the story.

4. Set aside the real bread and carefully place the story figures, plate/basket, cup, and cloth in the Tell-It-Again box, along with play or paper bread. Then stand, raise your arms, and sing, "Hands, hands, hands," along with the *Wee Wonder* CD. Sing the verses for "food" and "friends."

**Hands, hands, hands
Thank you, God, for hands.
Food, food, food
Thank you, God, for food.
Friends, friends, friends
Thank you, God, for friends.**

BIBLE STORY: Mark 14:12-16, 22-23

(Place Jesus and friends in storytelling area.)

Jesus was going to be with his friends one last time.

Jesus' friends got everything ready for a special supper.

(Lay white cloth in front of figures. Set plate/basket of bread and cup on cloth.)

Jesus thanked God for the bread and shared it with his friends.

(Touch bread with both hands, then break in half, hold for a few seconds, and place back in container.)

Jesus thanked God for the juice and shared it with his friends.

(Touch cup with both hands, then lift and hold for a few seconds; place back on cloth.)

Jesus and his friends ate together.

5. Do the following action chant:

Jesus ate with his friends *(pretend to eat)*

and we do too! *(point to self)*

Jesus drank with his friends *(pretend to drink)*

and we do too! *(point to self)*

Jesus prayed with his friends *(fold hands and bow head)*

and we do too! *(point to self)*

6. Activity card: "Jesus eats and drinks with his friends." Give each child a card and invite children to put "bread" on the plates of Jesus and his friends. Saturate an absorbent paper towel *(on foam tray or plate)* with brown paint or washable brown ink. Help children to place their thumbs in the paint and make a thumbprint on each plate. Say, "Jesus thanked God for the bread and shared it with his friends."



Eat your special snack now, if you did not at the beginning of the session.

Responsive play *(See p. 166.)*

Using the suggestions, set up areas for "free play" around the room. After Share the Bible story provide ample time for children to play alone or with others in the areas they choose.

Sending

As each child leaves, kneel down and look him/her in the eye. Hand the child a ribbon waver to take home. Say:

"Celebrate! Jesus is here!" *(make ASL sign for "celebrate")*

Option: Sing "Holding hands together" from the *Wee Wonder* CD, while holding hands.



track 13

Responsive play

CONNECT

Set out items related to the story.

Faith Link: "Jesus ate and drank with his friends. We do too."

Supplies: blanket or tablecloth, dishes, cups, play food (especially bread)

Tip: Children can eat "picnic style" if a small table is not available. You may also want to leave the colts and props from session 1 for children to enjoy.

BUILD

Provide boxes and/or containers with lids, along with play food.

Faith Link: "Jesus had supper with his friends."

Supplies: boxes/containers with lids (shoeboxes, shirt boxes, empty margarine/cottage cheese containers, freezer containers, etc.), play food

Tip: Place some of the play food inside the containers. Children can shake the containers to see if something is inside. Talk about the containers being "empty" or "full." Invite children to fill and empty the containers themselves.

TELL-IT-AGAIN

Set out the day's story items for children to retell the story in their own way.

Story figures needed: Jesus, Peter, Andrew, James, John

Additional props: length of white fabric, plate or basket, cup

EXPLORE

Set out a tub containing various rocks, just covered with water, along with plastic cups.

Faith Link: "Jesus shared a drink with his friends."

Supplies: tub of rocks (large enough to not be a choking hazard), water to cover, vinyl tablecloth under tub, smocks, plastic cups

Tip: Children enjoy filling and pouring, and rocks and water together add a new dimension. Invite children to fill the cup with only water or only rocks. Do the rocks fit in the cup? Watch to make sure children don't drink the water.

CREATE

Make "bread dough" with children, using the recipe for Oatmeal Play Dough on page 256.

Faith Link: "Jesus shared bread with his friends."

Supplies: flour, oatmeal, water, bowl and spoon for each child, small scoop ($\frac{1}{8}$ c / 30 ml measuring cup works well)

Tip: Help children to mix their own dough thoroughly in a small bowl. Talk about how the ingredients look, feel, and smell. Notice how they change into dough. Invite each child to make a dough shape to air dry. Save dried dough shape for session 4.

READ

Read about Easter and Holy Week.

J Is for Jesus by Debbie Trafton O'Neal

The Story of Easter by Patricia Pingry

Touch-and-See Bible illustrated by Eileen Hine