

**Lesson #1-L2*****The Last Supper***

Matthew 26:17-30

**Key Verse:**

[Jesus said] “Drink from this all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.”

Matthew 26:27-28

**The Point:**

God gives us the gift of communion.

**Unit Theme (April 14—April 28)**

God's Greatest Promise

***What Is Passover?***

*Examining the Jewish Passover celebration as the context for Jesus' Last Supper.*

*You will need:*

- † Optional: video clips or images depicting the Exodus and projection device

*Preparation:*

1. If desired, do an Internet search for video clips or works of art depicting the Exodus or the angel of death “passing over” the Israelites. Many congregations also have children’s illustrated storybook Bibles that could be used for pictures.

*Instructions:*

1. **Many Jewish people traveled to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover in the first century CE. Families brought a lamb for the priests to sacrifice and then they ate the lamb with a special meal where the story of the Exodus from Egypt was remembered.**

Review the story of how the angel of death “passed over” the Israelites and they then fled from slavery in Egypt through the parted Red Sea, perhaps showing video clips or images to illustrate the scene.

2. **The Last Supper occurred during a celebration of the Passover meal. What similarities can you think of between the Passover story and the story of Jesus’ death and resurrection?** *[Answers may include: both are stories of God’s saving actions.]*
3. **As Jesus and his friends remembered this story, Jesus took the familiar symbols and gave them an additional meaning. How could the context of Passover give special meaning to Jesus’ death on the cross?** *[Answers may include: Jesus might be understood as the lamb who is sacrificed; Jesus’ blood also defeats death; Jesus’ death and resurrection provide us with freedom from bondage and new life.]*