



Jesus Feeds the Disciples

(based on Mark 14:12-25)

Passover was a special time in Jerusalem. Thousands of people came from all over the land to celebrate. Every spare room in the city was filled with people preparing for the Passover meal.

Jesus wanted to celebrate Passover with his friends. He sent Peter and John to Jerusalem to get everything ready.

“Go into the city and you will meet a man carrying a jar of water,” Jesus instructed. “Follow him and he will lead you to a house with a large room for us to use. Go and get everything ready for our Passover meal.”

Peter and John followed Jesus’ directions and found the room that Jesus had reserved. They began to prepare the Passover meal.

Soon everything was ready. Jesus and the other disciples arrived and everyone sat down on the cushions around the tables.

During the Passover meal, Jewish people gathered to remember how Moses led their people out of Egypt to a new home. But on this night Jesus did something different. He took bread and held it up to give thanks to God. Then he broke it apart and gave it to his friends.

“Eat this bread and remember that I am always with you,” he said.

At the end of the meal, Jesus took the cup of wine and held it up to give thanks to God. He passed the cup around the table for everyone to drink.

“Drink this wine,” Jesus told them. “Remember me and all I have taught you.”

Jesus seemed sad as they ate together. He knew that trouble was coming. His friends didn’t know it yet, but it was the last supper they would eat together.



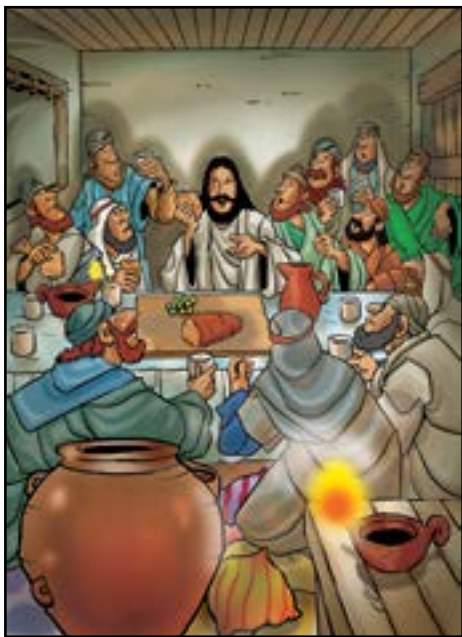
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Use one or more activities from each section to explore grace and gratitude with your children this week.

Recognizing God's Grace

- Read and enjoy the story with your children—imagine and wonder.
- What food items do you eat every day? What foods are you particularly glad God blesses you to enjoy?
- Talk with your children about traditions your family holds for holiday meals and birthday celebrations. Do you prepare special foods or other practices?



Responding to God's Grace

- Learn about Passover. Check out this website with lots of information for children: bit.ly/PassoverGuideForKids.
- Provide play dough and make a chalice (cup) and plate together. Put it in the center of your dining table. Alternative: Use air-dry clay, following the instructions. Paint it when it has hardened.
- Watch together the YouTube video “Gifts of God: The Sacraments—Communion: A Feast of Grace” (bit.ly/GiftsOfGodCommunion, 5:32). Talk about how your church practices communion. Wonder together what is similar to and different from what you saw in the video.

Celebrating in Gratitude

- Bake bread together. As everyone is able, take turns reading the recipe, measuring the ingredients, adding them to the mixture, and kneading the dough. Bake and enjoy.
- Eat a family meal together at the table.
- Pray this prayer:
God is great, God is good. Let us thank God for our food. Amen.

Note: bit.ly web addresses are case sensitive.