

A Special Passover Meal with Jesus

For this activity, the children will reenact the Last Supper using a script (see the handout “Script for a Special Passover Meal with Jesus” [Document #: TX005775]). Adjust the number of roles according to the number of children in the group. The ideal group is thirteen children (Jesus and the Twelve Apostles) around the table and two narrators who stand. If you don't have enough children for the Twelve Apostles, ask the children to recall how many Apostles were at the Last Supper. Tell them that you will just pretend the others are there. If you have a large enough group, you may wish to set up multiple tables and have adult leaders direct the children at each table.

Materials and Preparation

Materials

- table space for approximately thirteen children
- a tablecloth
- whole wheat pita bread
- serving plate
- grape juice
- a plastic wine glass and small cups
- paper towels or moist washcloths for clean up
- copies of the handout “Script for a Special Passover Meal with Jesus” (Document #: TX005775), one for each child
- different color highlighters

Preparation Tasks

- Break the pita bread into twelve pieces and put them on a serving plate.
- Place the tablecloth over the table, and put a cup at each place at the table. Pour the grape juice into one plastic wine glass for Jesus and small clear plastic cups, one for each child.
- Highlight each narrator's part, and choose two children to read these lines.
- Choose three children to read each Apostle's part. Highlight each part on a script.
- On the script handout, use a different color to highlight directions to pick up the plate of bread, pass the bread, and to take up the cup of wine.
- Be sure to highlight the “All” parts on each script.
- Place a script handout face down at each place at the table.



Directions for the Meal

1. **Have** the children take a place at the table. Tell them that they are going to reenact the Last Supper. They will each read the part or parts highlighted on their script. Ask them to turn over their scripts and find their part or parts.
2. **Set** the plate of pita bread in front of “Jesus.” Indicate the directions in the script to hold up the plate of bread and to pass the bread.
3. **Place** the wine glass with grape juice in front of “Jesus.” Indicate the directions in the script to hold up the cup.
4. **Invite** the first narrator to begin, once everyone is set and has reviewed their parts.
5. **Remind** the children that they will have a snack later. They should understand that the act of eating this “meal” together is symbolic.
6. **Lead** a short discussion, after the reenactment, about the connection between Passover, the Last Supper, and the Eucharist. Make sure to highlight the following points:
 - The Passover is a feast that celebrates that God saved his people from slavery in Egypt.
 - Jesus celebrated the Passover meal with the Apostles, but at this meal, Jesus offered himself as the one who would save all people.
 - The Eucharist or Mass is our celebration of the Last Supper. We remember what Jesus did, just as he asked us to. Jesus gives us himself as the one who saves us all. In the Eucharist, we eat and drink the bread and wine that has become the Body and Blood of Jesus.

