

The Eucharist in Scripture Answer Key

Scripture Passage	What is the need or challenge being answered?	Describe all symbolic objects and actions and their meaning.	Describe God's actions.	Describe all humans' responses (or expected responses) to God.	Explain how this passage relates to the Eucharist.	Write one question or comment you have about this Scripture passage.
Genesis 14:17–24	The need to present offerings to God in thanks-giving for what God has done for us	Melchizedek's offering of bread and wine symbolizes our offering of the Eucharist; the goods symbolize worldly goods; Abram's offering symbolizes charity.	God made Abram victorious and required him to take nothing from other people so that everyone would know that only God made Abram successful.	Melchizedek blesses Abram and praises God for making Abram victorious. Abram offers Melchizedek a tenth of everything as a sacrifice to God. Abram refuses the offer of the King of Sodom in order to keep his promise to God.	This passage relates to the Eucharist as an offering to God. Just as Melchizedek offered the gifts of God's creation in praise, we offer gifts of bread and wine in thanksgiving, that they may be made a perfect offering to God.	<i>Answers will vary.</i>
Exodus 12:1–20	The need for the Israelites to be delivered from slavery in Egypt	The unleavened bread symbolizes that the Israelites must eat the meal in a hurry. The blood on the lintel and doorposts symbolizes that the people in the house are protected by God.	God speaks to Moses and Aaron and gives them instructions to pass on to the Israelites to save them from his destruction.	The expected response from Moses and Aaron is to share God's message with the Israelites. The expected response from the Israelites is to obey the Word of God and to follow his instructions.	This passage relates to the Eucharist because the Last Supper occurred during a celebration of Passover. At the Last Supper, Jesus made himself a sacrifice for us, just as the lambs were sacrificed for the Israelites.	<i>Answers will vary.</i>
Exodus 16:1–15	The Israelites' need for food in the desert after fleeing Egypt, "the grumbling of the Israelites"	The barren land symbolizes isolation. The complaints of the Israelites symbolize doubt or loss of faith. The sending of bread and quail symbolizes God's loving care for his people.	God answers their complaint and sends down food from Heaven; he sends meat in the evening and bread in the morning for the people to eat.	Moses and Aaron listen to God and follow his instructions; the Israelites do not know what the flakes on the ground are, so Moses explains that the flakes are the bread that God has given them to eat.	This passage relates to the Eucharist because just as God gave the Israelites bread to eat in the desert, through Jesus' sacrifice, God gives us spiritual nourishment in the Eucharist. The passage shows the presence of God's love in the Eucharist.	<i>Answers will vary.</i>



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Matthew 14:13–21	The challenge of feeding the hungry with few resources	The crowd symbolizes all of humanity. Loaves and fish symbolize the bread and wine. Jesus giving the food to the disciples to pass to the crowd symbolizes the priest blessing the bread and wine to be distributed during the Mass.	Jesus cures the sick in the crowd, then blesses the food and performs the miracle of feeding thousands from only five loaves of bread and two fish.	The people are satisfied by the food Jesus gave them. The expected response of the people is that they will be thankful to God for feeding them.	Just as Jesus blessed the loaves and fish and gave them to the people to eat, and there was more than enough to satisfy them, the priest (in the person of Jesus) blesses the bread and wine and they become the Body and Blood of Christ, abundant spiritual food for all people.	<i>Answers will vary.</i>
John 6:1–15	The challenge of feeding thousands of people with few resources	The disciples' questioning of Jesus symbolizes doubt or questioning of faith. The crowd symbolizes human beings. The loaves symbolize the Eucharist. The fullness of the people symbolizes the spiritual fullness we experience when we receive the Eucharist.	Jesus tests his disciples and allows them to doubt, knowing he will then perform a miracle. He asks that the people in the crowd recline; then he blesses the loaves, and distributes the loaves and fish to the people.	The response of the people is to declare Jesus as the prophet, and to try to make him king.	This passage relates to the Eucharist because the Eucharist strengthens our faith in Jesus, as the disciples' faith in Jesus was strengthened in the passage. The passage shows that faith can produce miracles.	<i>Answers will vary.</i>
Luke 22:14–20	The need for a way to experience Christ's presence after his physical body has been sacrificed	The Passover meal symbolizes communion, unity with Jesus. The wine becomes Jesus' Blood, and the bread becomes Jesus' Body. The cup symbolizes the New Covenant between Jesus and humanity.	Jesus addresses the Apostles, giving them a ritual to perform in his absence that will remind them of his teachings and make him present among them.	The expected response from the human Apostles is to remember Jesus' words and actions and repeat them as he commanded.	This passage relates to the Eucharist because it is Jesus' demonstration of the ritual as he wishes it to be performed following his death. These actions are still repeated each week at Mass in the Liturgy of the Eucharist, and the bread and wine still become Jesus' Body and Blood, as they did at the Last Supper.	<i>Answers will vary.</i>



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1 Corinthians 11:23–26	The need for a way to celebrate the Eucharist that corresponds to Jesus' original intention at the Last Supper	The bread and wine become Jesus' Body and Blood. The cup symbolizes the New Covenant between Jesus and humanity. Eating the bread and drinking the cup symbolize the entrance of Jesus into our lives as well as a remembrance of his sacrificial death.	God gave the Eucharist to the Apostles so that they and all believers in Jesus would be able to celebrate Jesus' sacrifice until he comes again.	The expected response to God is for believers to celebrate the Eucharist as Jesus instituted it, and to believe that it is truly his Body and Blood.	This passage relates to the Eucharist because it presents an account of the events of the Last Supper and instructs believers to celebrate the Eucharist with the words and actions of Jesus.	<i>Answers will vary.</i>

