



# Faith Adventures for Children Together



*Committed to URC Children Together:  
enabling everyone to grow more like Jesus  
together in the home, church and beyond.*

For guidance on the purpose of the resource and how to use it as a launch pad for your engagement with children and families, please use this link:

<https://urc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/FACT-how-to-sheet.pdf>

## Mark 14: 12-16, 22-24 The last supper

Theme: A meal to remember

### Contents:

<a href="#">Introduction</a> .....	1
<a href="#">Together</a> .....	2
<a href="#">Experience</a> .....	3
<a href="#">Explore</a> .....	3
<a href="#">Express</a> .....	6
<a href="#">Handouts</a> .....	10

### Introduction: What would be helpful to know in my planning?

The Passover meal is a very important meal for Jews today, as well as in the time of Jesus. It commemorates the night Moses led the Jewish people to freedom from slavery in Egypt as told in the Book of Exodus.

This final Passover meal which Jesus shared with his close friends has become known as the Last Supper – it was the last meal he shared with them before he was executed.

There are strict rules about what happens at a Passover meal and the preparation is very important. As faithful Jews, Jesus and his followers would want to make sure that they got the preparation right.

At the Last Supper Jesus changed the meaning of the meal. Instead of a lamb being sacrificed, Jesus told his followers that he would be sacrificed and told them that the bread and wine, important ingredients of the Passover meal, were like his body and blood and his friends should remember him when they eat bread and wine as part of the Passover meal.

This is why churches share bread and wine (or something similar) as part of communion services – to remember that Jesus sacrificed himself for us, just as Jews in Moses' time sacrificed a lamb so that they could be saved.



# Together

How do I help my group to come together and get started with the theme?

## Gathering prayer

### Jesus, our friend

(use alternate index fingers to point and tap the middle of opposite palms)

### Be with us today

(two hands, palms up in front of you, move up and down twice)

### As we share together,

(two hands, palms up in front of you, move one forward and one back and alternate twice)

### Pray together,

(hands together, palm against palm, as though praying)

### Play together,

(hands to each side, palms up, make two small circles outwards)

### And get to know you better,

(point up with one hand)

### As children together in your family

(one hand out, palm down in front of you, move it sideways and up in three 'steps' as though to indicate children of three different heights)

## AMEN

(Two thumbs up, and bring fists slowly together to meet in front of you)

OR

**Thank you, God, for bringing us together today.**

**Help us to grow closer to you in all we do.**

**Help us to speak and to listen, to learn and to grow together,**

**Adventuring together with you wherever we may go.**

**Amen**

---

## In-person game – Set The Table Relay

The disciples prepared the room for the Passover – this game reminds us of preparing for a meal

*You will need:*

- Plates
- Cups
- Cutlery
- Napkins
- Pretend (or real) food

*What you do:*

Divide the children into teams. Set up a table at one end of the room and a pile of items at the other (e.g. plates, cups, napkins, pretend food). Each child runs to collect an item and sets it on the table in the correct place. The first team to set their table wins!

Be careful to ensure that the game is played safely – use plastic cutlery and crockery.



### Online game – I Went To The Shops And...

This is a memory game (and can be played with all generations participating).

Gather the group into a circle and decide who will go first.

One child starts by saying, 'I went to the shops today and bought...' and then names something that they bought.

The next person continues by saying the previous item and then something that they bought, too.

Continue around the group as the list gets longer and longer, adding one more item to the end of the list each time. The game starts over when someone goes wrong/ can't remember all the items.

Variations: You could have each item starting with a sequential letter of the alphabet (e.g. apple, beret, car, doll, etc.)

If your group has researched the ingredients for a Passover meal, you could use this game to reinforce the learning.

## Experience

For this story we recommend using the Children's International Bible

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark%2014%3A%2012-16%2C22-26&version=CEV>

### Where can I find the story online?

**Under fives:** Animation by Saddleback kids

[https://youtu.be/SigoALSS1R8?si=52KXBIfAQL\\_\\_4CWn](https://youtu.be/SigoALSS1R8?si=52KXBIfAQL__4CWn)

**Five to elevens:** Animation by Minno bible Stories for Kids (from 3.39 mins)

[https://youtu.be/1jqVePv9loM?si=Cbn84gtt\\_xoMG99y](https://youtu.be/1jqVePv9loM?si=Cbn84gtt_xoMG99y)

### Songs to support the story

**Under fives:** Come into my heart by CedarMont Kids Church (for toddlers)

[https://youtu.be/ExVNv8w7tM?si=Npw9vmLU1lwY\\_WiE](https://youtu.be/ExVNv8w7tM?si=Npw9vmLU1lwY_WiE)

**Five to elevens:** Come to the table by Barbie Dumlao

<https://youtu.be/zb1RLLIdWE4?si=kPAmqiu1nH8mMBUM>

## Explore

Ideas and activities to explore this week's Bible passage together

A meal to celebrate and remember – this explore is about using imagination and trying to set the scene for the children, keep this in mind when unpacking the basket and give them time to visualize, add more detail if you think it will help your group.

*Place a picnic basket in the centre of the room containing a brightly coloured tablecloth, cup (pottery chalice), plate, beakers, individually wrapped sweets (at least one for everyone) and the bible passage. Place a jug of wine (grape juice) and a bread roll somewhere at the back of the space you are using.*

Let's begin!

(Indicating to the basket) I wonder what this might be? It seems to be a gift for you and for me.

I wonder if we get excited when we receive presents?



Well, it is obviously a hamper. Perhaps it is a hamper with a picnic inside. Picnics are a wonderful opportunity to eat and celebrate with others. I wonder what special things we would want to discover in our hamper, perhaps some sandwiches and cake?

Let's take a look.

Ah...a piece of cloth. What bright vibrant colours. It may have come from another country it looks so colourful. I know, this could be a tablecloth. And around this table people from north and south, east and west could be invited to sit at this table.

What else do we have – a plate, ready to receive some lovely food.

I wonder as we sit down to eat who is with us? And I wonder who is going to be our host?

And look here is a cup, although only one cup. It looks as though we are to share something together. Something that will bring us together as one.

But the plate and the cup are empty.

Wait, there is more in the hamper. Ah, here are some instructions:

*Read the bible passage*

Jesus is the host of this meal, Jesus invites us to share with him. He gave thanks. I wonder what we would give thanks for? Perhaps you might like to think of one thing to give thanks for today – does anyone want to briefly share what they want to give thanks for?

Thank you, God, for what we have voiced and those things we have treasured in our hearts. Thank you especially for the gift of Jesus.

Well, the table is ready but there's not a lot here for us to share.

We need food to eat and wine to drink. Would you go out into the harvest field and would you go out into the vineyard and bring in food and wine (grape juice or squash) to share at the table?

*Ask children to go and find the jug of wine and bread roll.*

Place the bread roll on the plate and fill the cup with wine.

So, this bread and this wine reminds us of Jesus giving his very self for us and the world. These gifts are to help us remember.

These are ordinary things which God wants to make special, so we should pray again: 'Lord send down your Holy Spirit on these gifts. Let this be a meal of remembering what Jesus did for us. Amen'

And now we should share these special gifts. Jesus took bread and broke it and told us to eat it. As we take a piece each, let's keep it and eat together to show we are all part of God's family. Jesus took the wine goblet and told us to drink. Let's share a drink together to show we are all part of God's family.

As we share this special meal together,  
let's remember Jesus died  
and rose again for us and that Jesus is with us now.  
Let's draw close to God and to each other around God's table.

These are the gifts of God for us all to share.



I wonder how we feel after receiving these gifts? Perhaps we have a sense of peace – perhaps we feel at peace with ourselves, with each other and with God. Let's say thank you...

Let us pray

For the bread and the wine  
Thank you, Jesus.  
For the love around this table  
Thank you, Jesus.  
For sending us out into the world  
filled with your Spirit  
Thank you, Jesus.

At the end

Have we been blessed? I wonder if we are being called now to pass on the story and that blessing to others, a bit like passing on a baton in a relay race.

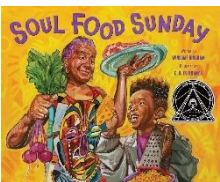
Here are some sweets – not for you to eat but to go away and share with others. And as we offer them as a gift, accompany it with some words of thanks or encouragement. For we have been blessed and encouraged and we don't want to keep it to ourselves.

*The sweets are shared.*

---

## Modern parables

Jesus used stories to help people understand the things of God, even though they weren't necessarily overtly Christian stories. Lots of children's books can be used in a similar way as a conversation starter on the week's theme. Examples are shared here but you may think of others too.



### Soul Food Sunday by Winsome Bingham

<https://youtu.be/45qZynpjRUI?si=Q7iTsdknl8qmn9Bj>

This tells the story of a family who love to get together every Sunday and enjoy their favourite soul foods. The granny teaches the recipes to the family so that the tradition can continue. What needs to be on the table for it to be soul food Sunday? A lovely story to get you thinking about special meals that we might have with certain people including the meals Jesus had with his friends and how the tradition has been passed down to us.

### Talking together: How might we talk about the story together?

- How do you get ready for a special meal?
- Why did Jesus change the reason for having the Passover meal?
- How might the disciples be feeling when Jesus said this is a way to remember him?

### Wondering together: suggested questions to use during activities

- I wonder why Jesus chose bread and wine and not something else as the special meal?
- I wonder why they didn't meet in a home rather than a borrowed room?
- I wonder what would be your special meal? And who would you invite?
- I wonder what they would have had for pudding?



## What's in the box (for under fives)

Use the special box or bag and sing "what's in the box/bag? What's in the box/bag? Let's see, let's see, what's in the box/bag" (to the tune of The Farmer's in the Dell). You could tap the top of the box twice after the word 'box'. Pull out the things one by one and then let the children play with them, talking about the theme or the story in simple terms.

This week's box could include:

- A special meal plate – I wonder what your special meal would be? This is Jesus special meal.
- Heart – Jesus shared it to help us remember how much we are loved. How do we share our love to each other?
- A cup with some grape juice – Jesus shared wine. It was a bit like this let's share it together – Jesus passed the cup around to remember that Jesus shared the wine with everyone.
- A plate with some bread or wooden play bread – pass the plate around to remember that Jesus shared the bread with everyone.
- A tactile cross of wood or fabric (A cross shape reminds us of Jesus. Jesus/God loves us and it's always in the box because Jesus/God always loves us!)
- A set of play people to act out the story or random shapes/bits you can move around to make pictures from the story as you tell it (eg stones, felt, twigs etc)

## Express

Praying together: how can you involve the children actively in prayer?

### Tearing and sharing Prayer

You will need a slice of bread for each person or as an alternative you can have a picture of a slice of bread avoiding any allergies.

Give each person a slice of bread. As you say the prayer, when you get to the tear up line, each person tears off a piece of the bread and then, when you get to the share line, they pass the pieces of bread to another person repeating the line. Say the prayer slowly giving time for some quiet between each section.

Generous and loving God,  
we tear up violence  
and share out peace.  
We tear up fear  
and share out joy.  
We tear up poverty  
and share our food.  
We tear up cruelty  
and share out kindness.  
We tear up all that divides  
and share our love for Jesus.  
Amen.

### Spoken prayer

Dear Jesus

We remember you are with us whenever we eat together (*mime eating*)

We remember you are with us whenever we drink together (*mime drinking*)

We remember all you have done for us. (*stretch out arms*)

Thank you for your love. (*bring arms in to cross them across your chest*) Amen



## Responding together

Here are some suggested crafts and activities, and there is a colouring sheet at the end of this resource. You could also use small play toys and/or have a basket of resources available so children can choose their own way to respond.

With an online group, plan whether to deliver any resources in advance or how you will encourage them to use what they've got to hand in their response.

However you do it, it is good for the adults to engage in the response too, and all chat together.

## Responding together – Clay Food

*You will need:*

- Air drying clay
- Art mats or baking paper to work on
- Modelling tools, dough cutters or rounded knives (for older groups)
- Water – to help keep the clay damp whilst shaping



Ask the group to split their clay in half and make two separate sections of an item of food, such as: slices of bread for a sandwich; halves of a cake or sections of fruit. Leave the pieces to dry until next week, when they can be decorated. Once they are dry, Velcro will be added so that they can be 'broken' and shared.

*You could use salt dough to make food halves but the dough would need to be dried out slowly in a low temperature oven, rather than being left to air dry.*

## Alternative Craft Activity

### Playdough foods

You may prefer to offer a simple activity, which is contained within the time of your session. You could use pre-prepared playdough or use the recipe below to make your own. Offer a choice of colours and encourage your group to use the dough to make their favourite foods or a playdough feast!



### Playdough Recipe

*What you need:*

- 1 cup flour
- ¼ cup salt
- 2 teaspoons Cream of Tartar
- 1 cup water
- 2 Tablespoons oil
- Colour/flavour/glitter

*What you do:*

Mix the dry ingredients in a small saucepan. Add the liquids and stir over a low heat. Keep mixing until the dough comes away from the sides of the pan and continue stirring as it forms a ball. Knead with more flour when cool.



## Transforming Bread

*You will need:* plain white bread.

Cut the bread into small pieces and invite each participant to take a piece. Instruct participants to chew slowly and pay attention to the taste of the bread. Ask them to record notes of the initial taste. Continue chewing the bread and make notes of the taste as they chew. Record any changes that they notice as they continue to chew the bread.

Explain that after chewing for some time the bread will begin to taste sweet. This is because the enzymes inside saliva begin to break down the carbohydrates in the bread into sugars resulting in a sweet taste.

Discussion:

- What did you notice about the taste of the bread before and after chewing?
- Did the bread taste sweeter after chewing for some time?
- Can you think of examples in life where things are transformed or made “sweeter”?
- What “sweet things” would you like to thank God for?

---

## Everyday with Jesus – Walking the Way

What could we do this week to carry on what we've learned? Maybe members of the group could come up with a suggestion. If not, get them to choose from these two challenges:

- Aswell as answering this yourself you could ask someone older or younger than you this question: **What do you do to remember Jesus?**
  - Perhaps you could have/ plan a special meal with/ for friends or family and invite a guest? What would you need to do in preparation, what food would you have? Would there be a little speech about why the meal is taking place?
- 

We hope you enjoyed exploring the story of **The Last Supper** with us.

Please let us know what you liked or what you would find useful by emailing [lorraine webb@urc.org.uk](mailto:lorraine webb@urc.org.uk)

Why not have a look at next week's resource on **Preparing for Easter**



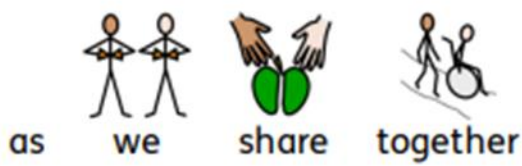




Jesus our friend,



be with us today



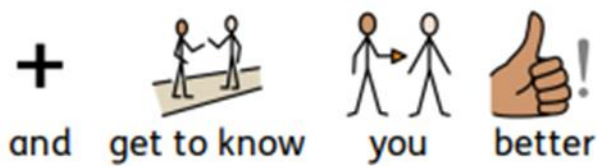
as we share together



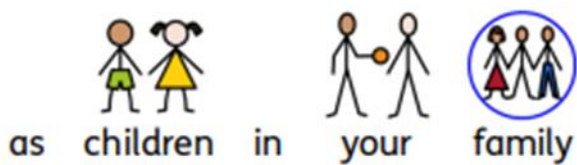
pray together



play together



and get to know you better



as children in your family



Amen



Right middle finger touches centre of other palm, repeat with left hand



Alternate hands back and forth





Illustration by [lambsongs.co.nz](http://lambsongs.co.nz) via [freebibleimages.com](http://freebibleimages.com)



