



# Faith Adventures Youth Resource

*Embedded in Faith Adventures: Children Together, this youth resource is intergenerational in nature and designed to foster God-connection in church, home 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>

## Matthew 26: 17-30 – The Last Supper

**Theme:** Sharing and remembering together as God's people

### Contents:

<a href="#">Introduction</a> .....	1
<a href="#">Together</a> .....	2
<a href="#">Experience</a> .....	2
<a href="#">Explore</a> .....	3
<a href="#">Express</a> .....	5
<a href="#">Handouts</a> .....	8

### Introduction: What would be helpful to know before we begin?

The Last Supper is the final meal that, in the Gospel accounts, Jesus shared with his disciples before his crucifixion. It is described in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke and is also referenced in the first letter to the Corinthians. It takes place at the time of the Jewish Passover or Pesach (Hebrew) which commemorates the story of Exodus when Moses led the Hebrew people out of slavery in Egypt.

There is a parallel between Passover, the Last Supper and Holy Communion which are all about remembering and being drawn together in community through that shared remembering. Through the symbolic meals, those sharing in them look back at the history which has had an impact on their lives, look to the present of being gathered together, and look to the future that is to come in God's kingdom.

In Holy Communion or the Eucharist, we remember the Last Supper and Jesus' life, death and resurrection, not only as something in the past but also as something that affects us here and now and assures us for the future.

It may be useful to read about what the URC believes about communion on this page: <https://urc.org.uk/who-we-are/what-we-believe/> before this session. Remember that different churches commemorate this in different ways and may hold differing beliefs about communion. It is important to respect these and not to insist on only one interpretation. Some churches set conditions on who may take communion – e.g. age, baptized, confirmed etc. The United



Reformed Church generally operates an open table, meaning that anyone can take communion who wishes to. We are sharing a meal as children of God.

Be aware of people who may have unpleasant or sad memories who might find a session on remembering difficult. It is important to acknowledge that we can have good memories and bad memories and hold on to the fact that we have both – it is OK to have sad memories too. This story is about remembering sad/bad and good memories from Passover and from the Easter story, which are far from simply happy events. Note how part of the Passover meal includes salt water and bitter herbs for the tears of slavery.

In the allocated passage this week, the section about Judas has been omitted. This was a deliberate decision, not because it is a difficult part of the story, but because it distracts from the aspects of the story that this session centres upon. You can find materials on Judas in our Easter Encounters special and in the Families on Faith Adventures @ Home Easter special too.

## Together

Let's start our time with God and each other well

If used in a mixed-age group, then young people can support younger ones in using the gathering prayer in Faith Adventures: Children Together. If used in a youth group, you could use this opening prayer or encourage young people to open the session with a prayer of their own.

*All mighty God,*

*Be with us as we learn more about you through stories and people in the Bible.*

*Help us to walk in your way and follow your path.*

*Be with us as we make decisions that affect our lives, and the lives of those around us.*

*Amen*

### In-person and online game

See this week's Faith Adventures : Children Together for suitable games for this theme.

## Experience

Research different versions of this reading on <https://www.biblegateway.com/> Recommended versions to try are NRSV, Easy-to-read, The Message, NIRV

**Watch:** Watch these two different retellings of the Last Supper. What are your thoughts?

[https://youtu.be/\\_XzwmktzYDE?si=VOM\\_isikXNzrRA4M](https://youtu.be/_XzwmktzYDE?si=VOM_isikXNzrRA4M) The Bible Nola version

<https://youtu.be/s2ZXfxH86Ms?si=pxWVOUwJokf4PUct> Jesus Christ superstar – The Last Supper



# Explore

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

## A new way to explore the theme

You may wish to use the explore section from this week's Faith Adventures: Children Together to guide your exploration of the theme this week.

Alternatively:

The Last Supper was held at the time of the Jewish Passover which is a time when the Jewish people remember the events of Exodus.

God's people, the Hebrews, were slaves in Egypt until God sent Moses to plead with Pharaoh for their release. When Pharaoh refused, God sent ten plagues, one after another, and each time Pharaoh remained defiant. The tenth plague saw God sending the angel of death over the land and the first born of every family in Egypt dying, but the Hebrew people had been warned to mark their doorways with the blood of a lamb and the angel, seeing this sign, passed over their homes and left them unharmed. At the death of his son, Pharaoh finally released the Hebrews from slavery and they followed Moses out into the desert.

TO remember this time, Jewish people even to this day celebrate the Passover, or Pesach, and mark it with a special meal where they retell the story and use different food and drink on the table to symbolize aspects of the story. Perhaps you can do some research and find out what they eat – search for Seder or Passover meal.

Similarly, communion or the Eucharist is a symbolic meal eaten as part of a church service to commemorate the Last Supper. Bread and wine is blessed and shared. Different churches might do this in different ways. Have you ever experienced a communion service? If so, perhaps you could describe what happens in the church where you were.

It would be good to invite a minister or someone who is authorized to serve communion in your church (in the URC there are guidelines as to who can administer the sacrament of communion) to visit the group and talk to you about what communion is and why Christians choose to take communion. They might also be able to give communion to your group if you want to share in it together. If you can't find anyone to come and talk about communion, you could read about it here:

<https://urc.org.uk/who-we-are/what-we-believe/> where it is explained very clearly.

Alternatively, why not plan a remembering meal that links to events in the Easter story or to your own faith? What foods and drinks might you choose and what would they represent?

## Modern parables

This section includes references to TV programmes, films, books, TED talks, TikTok etc aimed at this age group that will have been widely seen, or where a clip is available to use as a stimulus for discussion. You may also enjoy the picture book recommended for Faith Adventures: Children Together and explore the relevance of the story to the theme of the session in more depth – young people and adults are often well tuned in to the deeper meanings in materials aimed at younger people and the authors are often very aware of the adults reading the books to or with younger ones.

This clip from the film UP shows how Ellie had photographed important events in her life and put them in a photo album. We then see Carl's reaction to remembering Ellie as he looks through the album.

[https://youtu.be/PvgVsVmusPg?si=fJqo\\_hx4A2URJU8o](https://youtu.be/PvgVsVmusPg?si=fJqo_hx4A2URJU8o) – Remembering Ellie from Up

• How do you remember others?



## Conversation starters

- What things in our daily life help us to remember to think about God or Jesus?
- What question would you have asked Jesus if you had been there at the Last Supper?
- Some churches use wine for communion, some use grape juice or squash, some use small glasses, some use a goblet or chalice, some use wafers, some use bread – why do you think different people do it differently? How does your church do communion? Does it matter?

## Express

How do we respond to what we've discussed and express our faith personally?

### Praying together

**Prayer** Respond to the theme by writing or saying a short prayer. Alternatively use the creative prayer from Faith Adventures: Children Together for this session, or use the prayer activity below. Alternatively light a candle and play some music while you listen and talk to God together.

Whilst listening to the song below, spend some time with God. Everyone responds to God and prayer in different ways, some creative, some reflective. Provide some pens and paper to help with a creative response and have some cushions if possible for people to get comfortable for a time of reflection.

At the Table (Jess Hall & Simeon Smith) <https://youtu.be/QCuc4GbLqp4?si=rjdV0cg9z6kgw1eK>

### Spoken Prayer

Dear God,

In the quiet, help us to remember  
People we love;  
Those we care for and those who care for us.

In the quiet, help us to remember  
Times of celebration;  
In large, loud groups or in small, special gatherings.

In the quiet, help us to remember  
People who are ill;  
For those who are close to us and those we know less well.

In the quiet, help us to remember  
Places in the world that need your help;  
For those places that are at war and those recovering from natural disasters.

In the quiet, help us to remember  
Your fragile creation;  
That we may find ways to nurture and restore your beautiful Earth.  
Amen

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### Responding together

This is an opportunity for a social justice challenge, some research, craftivism, or a craft or STEM activity. You may have a specific activity chosen but free choice is also an option. Here are some suggestions for this week's theme. See Faith Adventures: Children Together for a craft and a STEM activity which may also be appropriate. Choose whatever will work best for your group.

## Recreate the Last Supper

Print out, or project, an image of Da Vinci's Last Supper.

Can the group recreate the picture, using themselves in the tableau? Maybe take a photo!

Jews celebrate the Passover meal every year – it's a tradition.

Lots of churches and groups and even families have traditions -sometimes we forget why we do something, we just do it because we've always done it!

There is a story that, in India, there was a cat that lived in the temple. One day, a priest came to visit but was scared that the cat would interrupt worship or distract people from what he was saying, so he ordered the cat to be tied to a pillar. Every time after that, during worship, the people at the temple would tie the cat to the pillar – even when it wasn't the same priest. This went on for many years. Eventually the cat died – so the worshippers at the temple bought another cat, just so that they could tie it to the pillar during worship. It had become a tradition, but nobody could remember why it had started.

What are some of the traditions that your church or group has? See if you can find out why they are still done. What about family traditions? Can you share some of these together?

## Challenge

Discipleship doesn't stop when you walk out of the church door – it is a part of everyday life. Take a challenge with you and try to make it part of your week.

You may think of your own suggestion of what you as an individual or a group might do in the coming week in response to what you have explored today? If not here are some suggestions:

- Use one of the "conversation starter" questions or the question below to talk with someone of a different generation or from a different setting and share your questions, thoughts, insights together. **What is the most special meal you have shared in?**
- Perhaps there is a special meal you could share with others, your family or friends perhaps. What foods could you offer and why? Perhaps everyone could bring something to read like a favourite poem, short story or lyrics of a song.
- Research something suggested by JPIT, [Resources \(jpit.uk\)](https://www.jpit.org.uk) Commitment For Life [cforl.co.uk](https://www.cforl.co.uk)

Thank you for exploring the Psalm and Luke passage with us.

Please let us know what you liked or what you would find useful by emailing [children.youth@urc.org.uk](mailto:children.youth@urc.org.uk) or by sharing it on [https://bit.ly/FACT\\_FB](https://bit.ly/FACT_FB)