Preschool–Grade 6

The Last Supper

Sunday School Lesson for 3rd to 5th Grade, 45–60 minutes

Main point: Jesus, our Lord and Master, served His disciples and gave His life for us. We follow His example and remember Him.
Bible passage: Luke 22:7–20 and John 13:1–17. Read them before class.
Memory verse: "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another." *John 13:34 (KJV)*
You need: a Bible for each child (or one for every two children), a whiteboard or large paper, a marker, paper and pencils, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: write the memory verse on the board, then write each of its five parts on a separate strip of paper (see part 4).

1. Opening game: The Greatest Job (5–10 minutes)

Say: "A big family dinner is coming. What jobs need doing?" Kids call out jobs and you write them on the board: cook, set the table, carry water, sit at the head of the table, wash dishes, take out the trash, welcome the guests. Then let the class vote: *Which job is the greatest? Which job is the least?* Circle the winners. Say: "At the Last Supper, Jesus' disciples argued about which of them was the greatest. Let's see what Jesus did and said."

2. Bible story: The Last Supper (15 minutes)

Kids open their Bibles to Luke 22. When you reach a **Look up** line, a child finds the verse and reads it out loud. Tell the rest in your own words.

Getting the passover ready. It was the day of **unleavened bread**, bread made without yeast, when the passover lamb was killed (Luke 22:7). God had told His people to keep the passover every year to remember how He brought them out of Egypt (Exodus 12:14, 12:26–27). **Look up Luke 22:10.** Jesus told Peter and John to follow a man bearing a pitcher of water. The **goodman of the house**, the owner, showed them "a large upper room furnished," and they made ready the passover (22:11–13).

Before I suffer. When the hour came, Jesus sat down with the twelve apostles. He said, "With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer" (22:14–15). That means He had wanted it very much. Jesus knew His **hour** had come, and having loved His own, "he loved them unto the end" (John 13:1).

The towel and the basin. Jesus rose from supper, laid aside His garments and **girded** Himself with a towel, which means He tied it around His waist. He poured water into a **bason** (basin) and began to wash the disciples' feet (John 13:4–5). **Look up John 13:8.** Peter said, "Thou shalt never wash my feet," but Jesus answered, "If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me." Then Peter asked Him to wash his hands and his head too (13:9).

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An example. Look up John 13:14–15. "If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you." Jesus said a **servant** is not greater than his lord (13:16), and "If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them" (13:17). Luke tells us the disciples had argued about who was the greatest. Jesus said, "I am among you as he that serveth" (Luke 22:24–27).

The bread and the cup. Look up Luke 22:19. Jesus took bread, gave thanks, **brake** (broke) it, and said, "This is my body which is given for you: this do in **remembrance** of me." **Look up Luke 22:20.** He took the cup after supper and said, "This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you." A **testament** here is a covenant, a solemn promise God makes with His people. The next day Jesus gave His body and His blood when He died on the cross (Luke 23).

One of the twelve. Before the supper, Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, had gone to the chief priests about how to **betray** Jesus, to hand Him over to them, and they promised him money (Luke 22:3–6). At the table Jesus said, "One of you shall betray me" (John 13:21). The disciples looked at each other, wondering who it was (13:22). Jesus gave a **sop**, a piece of bread dipped in the dish, to Judas, and Judas went out at once: "and it was night" (13:26, 13:30). Jesus knew who would betray Him (13:11), and He washed their feet all the same (13:12).

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3. Questions to ask (10 minutes)

Thinking questions (no single right answer; let kids talk)

1. Look back at the board. Which job did Jesus pick at the supper (John 13:4–5)? What does that tell you about the "greatest" job?
2. Why do you think Peter said, "Thou shalt never wash my feet" (13:8)?
3. Jesus knew Judas would betray Him (13:11) and still served at that table. What does that teach us about Jesus' love?
4. Jesus said, "This do in remembrance of me" (Luke 22:19). What are some ways we can remember Jesus every day?
5. What is one "foot-washing" job, a humble way to serve, that you could do this week?

Recall questions

1. Who did Peter and John follow to the upper room? *(A man bearing a pitcher of water, Luke 22:10)*
2. What did Jesus tie around His waist? *(A towel, John 13:4)*
3. What did Jesus say the cup was? *("The new testament in my blood, which is shed for you," Luke 22:20)*

4. Memory verse: Verse Strips (5 minutes)

Explain the old words: a **commandment** is something God tells us to do, and **ye** means you. Read the verse on the board together, then erase it. Mix up the five strips (*A new commandment / I give unto you, / That ye love one another; / as I have loved you, / that ye also love one another.*) and hand them to five kids. They line up in the right order and read it. Mix them up again for five more kids. Finish by saying it together with "John 13:34."

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5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "Jesus said His body was given for us and His blood was shed for us. God loves you. The Bible says: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means all of us have done wrong, and none of us is as good as God. Jesus is God manifest in the flesh, which means God came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again the third day (1 Corinthians 15:3–4). How do we obey the gospel? 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.' (Acts 2:38, KJV) To **repent** means to turn away from sin; our old self dies (Romans 6:6). We are **buried with Jesus in baptism**, all the way under the water, in Jesus' name. **Remission** means our sins are washed away, and we come up to live a new life (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, and we speak with other tongues as the Spirit gives the words (Acts 2:4). The Bible calls this being born again (John 3:5)."
Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.
This week: do one humble job for someone without being asked, and each night thank Jesus for giving His life for you.

6. Activity: Bible Look-Up Race (10–15 minutes)

Kids work in pairs with one Bible. Read a reference and a question. The first pair to find the verse and read the answer out loud wins the point.

1. Luke 22:8: Which two disciples did Jesus send to prepare the passover? *(Peter and John)*
2. Luke 22:12: What kind of room did the man show them? *(A large upper room furnished)*
3. Luke 22:15: What had Jesus desired? *(To eat this passover with them before He suffered)*
4. John 13:5: What did Jesus pour water into? *(A bason, a basin)*
5. John 13:9: What did Peter ask Jesus to wash besides his feet? *(His hands and his head)*
6. John 13:15: What did Jesus say He had given them? *(An example)*
7. Luke 22:27: Jesus said He was among them as one that does what? *(Serveth, serves)*
8. John 13:30: What time was it when Judas went out? *(It was night)*

Or choose the **Last Supper word search** (vbshq.com/puzzles/last-supper-word-search), crossword (vbshq.com/puzzles/last-supper-crossword), maze (vbshq.com/puzzles/last-supper-maze) or worksheet (vbshq.com/worksheets/last-supper-worksheet).

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7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You for Jesus, our Lord and Master, who served His disciples and gave His life for us. Help us remember Him every day, and help us follow His example and love one another. In Jesus' name, amen."

If a child asks why Judas betrayed Jesus: stay with the text. The chief priests promised him money, and the Bible says Satan entered into Judas (Luke 22:3–5; John 13:2, 13:27). Jesus knew, and He still loved His disciples to the end (John 13:1). We can ask God to help us stay true to Jesus.
If a child asks about the Lord's supper or foot washing at church: read Luke 22:19 and John 13:14–15 together, and tell them their pastor can explain how your church remembers Jesus and follows His example.
About the order of events: Luke and John each tell part of this night. This lesson tells both parts with their references and does not try to settle the exact order.

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