

THE LAST SUPPER

Jesus and His disciples walked to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover.

What was Passover?

*Remember when God rescued the Israelites from Egypt by sending plagues of frogs and flies and darkness? Remember the angel God sent to kill the firstborn sons of the Egyptians, when Pharaoh refused to let the Israelites go free? That angel “passed over” the homes of the Israelites if they had the blood of a **LAMB** over their doors. The sons of Israel were saved by the blood of that lamb.*

Ever since that day, Israelites have celebrated Passover with a **SPECIAL** meal, just like the one they had that night in Egypt many years earlier. So Jesus and His disciples traveled to Jerusalem for Passover. Lots of other people came, too, and many of them had heard stories about Jesus.

As Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, a big crowd of people came out to meet Him. They laid down palm branches in front of Him, which was a sign of royalty. They shouted, “Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!” and “Blessed is the coming kingdom of David!” It was like a parade for a **KING**.



This made the Pharisees and Sadducees **VERY** nervous. Since Israel was a part of the Roman Empire, the Israelites weren't allowed to have their own king. The king of the Romans was Israel's king. Any time someone in Israel said, "Let's have a new king," the Romans would send in soldiers and throw a bunch of people in **PRISON**—or worse!

The Pharisees and Sadducees had to do something to stop all the commotion about Jesus and this talk of a "new king." And they had to do it fast! *But what could they do?*

Jesus and His disciples got together to eat the Passover meal, just like they did every year. But this year, Jesus did something **DIFFERENT**.

First, Jesus told His disciples that **ONE** of them was going to turn against Him by helping the Pharisees and Sadducees arrest Him and take Him away!

All the disciples looked at each other. "Who could it be?" they wondered.

Then Jesus picked up a piece of **BREAD** and said, "This is My body, which is given for you."

After that, He picked up His **CUP**, and said, "This cup is the new covenant of My blood, poured out for you."

A **COVENANT** is a "promise," like the promises that God had made to Abraham long, long before.

The disciples were confused. It sounded like Jesus was saying God was making a new promise—a new way to bless them and save them—and it had something to do with Jesus' blood and body. It had something to do with Jesus . . . dying?



THE LAST SUPPER FAMILY CONNECTION

**MATTHEW 21:1-11;
MATTHEW 26:17-50**

The disciples couldn't believe their ears. *Was Jesus saying that He was the new Passover lamb? That He was going to die to save them? But **HOW** could Jesus be king if He wasn't even alive?*

Everyone was confused.



After dinner, Jesus went out to a garden to **PRAY**. He knew what He had to do next, and He knew it wasn't going to be easy.

When He finished praying, Jesus turned to His friends and said, "The hour has come."

And just at that moment, His disciple Judas walked into the garden, leading a group of soldiers sent by the Sadducees to arrest Jesus.

TRICKY BITS

WHAT is Communion? Communion is a practice of the Last Supper message of Jesus.

WHO can take Communion? Followers of Jesus.

WHAT do we take? A piece of bread, to represent Jesus' body, broken for us. A cup of wine, to represent His blood, shed for us.

WHY do we take it? To remember Jesus' sacrifice.

TALK

What *covenant* or "promise" did Jesus make to His disciples during their Passover meal?

What do you think it means that Jesus was the new Passover lamb?

Dear
God ...

PRAY

Dear God, thank You for the hope we have because Jesus was willing to be our Passover lamb. Amen.

