

SCRIPTURE

'The Last Supper'

Remind the children of the context of the Last Supper: the night before Jesus died, he gathered his friends together and they met to have a meal with one another. This meal was a very special meal. It wasn't just a time for them to eat because they were hungry. It was a meal where they shared stories about themselves and their families who lived long, long ago. This is called the Passover meal. During this meal Jesus would bless bread and wine and give them to his friends to eat. This was his way of explaining to them that soon he

would always be with them. Then gather the children into a circle in the same way they gathered for the shared lunch during the *Let's Look* part of the lesson. When they are seated, remind the children of this meal when they shared food and stories with one another.

Then ask the children to look and listen to what happened at the Last Supper. This is something that never happened before. Explain that the story comes from the Gospel according to Matthew.

'The Last Supper'

(Adapted from Mt 26:26-28)

Pretend to hold bread in your hands. Show it to the children in silence. Hold it out as if to offer it to them and say the following words slowly while miming the actions of Jesus:

While they were eating, Jesus took a piece of bread, gave a prayer of thanks, broke it, and gave it to his friends. 'Take this and eat it,' he said, 'this is my body'.

Put the 'bread' down and take up the 'cup'.

Then he took a cup, gave thanks to God, and gave it to them. 'Drink it, all of you,' he said, 'this is my blood poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.' And then he said: 'Do this in memory of me.' (Pause)

Having read the story, invite the children to do the actions of Jesus while you narrate the text above.

VIDEO

'The Institution Narrative'

Begin by recalling the words and actions of Jesus at the Last Supper. Then show the children this video, during which they will see the priest praying over the bread and wine, and recalling the words of Jesus at the Last Supper. Afterwards, chat with the children about what Jesus said: 'This is my body. This is my blood'. Explain that Jesus knew that very soon he would be die. He would give up his body and his blood for us.

Explain how, when the priest says the words that Jesus said at the Last Supper, the bread and wine are changed into his body and blood. So, after this part of the Mass, Jesus is with us in a new and different way. Jesus gives himself to us in Holy

Communion. His Body and Blood make present Jesus' gift of himself on the cross.

Show the children Poster 7. Then chat with them using these or similar questions:

- After the priest has said the words of Jesus, do the bread and wine still look the same as they did before? Do you think they still taste the same? What has changed?
- I wonder ... why do you think Jesus wants to give himself to us in Holy Communion?
- After you receive Holy Communion, Jesus will be with you in a new and special way. Jesus will help you to love others as he asked his friends to do. How does that make you feel?

<https://vimeo.com/178441065>