

Discovering God on Route 66 LESSON #50

THE LORD'S SUPPER

PREP: Make copies of the invitations for parents to join their children in observance of The Lord's Supper. **Do this part 2 weeks ahead of time!**

Read the verses **I Corinthians 11:23 - 34** to become familiar with the lesson. Review the suggested questions and add more as you feel led.

Make copies of the page entitled "Remembrance". You will need a copy for each child and pencils. *(Use this sheet for working with mostly older children.)*

Find the 12 objects listed in the opening activity. Place them onto a table and then under a blanket to hide them from the children.

Print the chart with the list of verses on cardstock. Cut out the verses so that they can be folded and made to stand upright.

Print or **Enlarge** the three questions so that all the children will be able to see them.

Gather the elements for partaking in The Lord's Supper. *Decide when you will present this part of the lesson.*

Plan songs to sing and music to play in the background. *Suggestions are made in the lesson.*

Copy the FUNSHEET to pass out to the children.

TESTIMONY: The children in my class were very responsive and took this entire lesson to heart. They were extremely eager to learn and it was a joy to teach them about such an important part of honoring Christ and His sacrifice for us on the cross.

One girl was very excited. At the end of class she told me how happy she was about the lesson. Each morning, she was at a babysitter's house prior to catching the school bus. While there, she would see her friend, who is Catholic, observing Communion. She said, "My friend tried to explain to me what she was doing, but I didn't understand. Now I do."

PRAY: Ask the children if they have any prayer requests. Then, lead the children in prayer. Pray that the children will understand the importance of taking time to remember what Jesus has done for us.

OPEN: Have the items from the following list hidden under a blanket *(but not in this order)*:

Rope (Vs. 23)	Cup (Vs. 25)	Stethoscope (Vs. 28)
Bread (Vs. 23)	Grape juice (Vs. 25)	Gavel (Vs. 29)
Praying Hands (Vs. 24)	Cross (Vs. 26)	Invitation (Vs. 33)
Picture of Jesus (Vs. 24)	The word SIN (Vs. 27)	Clock (Vs. 33)

Older Children Option: Pass out the “Remembrance” papers and pencils to all the children. Tell them that there are 12 items hidden under the blanket. When you remove the blanket, they will have 1 minute to memorize all 12 items. Then, you will return the blanket to once again hide all the items. On “Go”, the children may pick up their pencils and write down as many items as they can remember. *(Let the children know that spelling does not matter in this game. Also, helpers may need to assist younger children in writing what they remember.)* They should write the items beside the 12 numbers at the top of the page.

After one minute, call time and have the children put their pencils down. See which child remembered the most items correctly. Allow the children to trade papers. Remove the blanket and call out the items. Children can place a check by each item that is correctly listed. Give a high five to the one with the most correct!

Younger or Mixed Group Option: Allow the children to work together as a group to name the items rather than writing them down on paper. Select one child at a time to name one item as you write it on the board. Start with younger children and move along to the older children. Congratulate them at how many they were able to remember as a team.

BIBLE: Reveal to the children that each of these items is an important part of today’s lesson and the children must help decide which verse each of the items “match”. As each verse is read, the children will select which items remind them of what the Bible verse is teaching. Note that some verses will have two objects while other verses only have one. Also, some verses may mention the same objects, but objects will be placed with the verse that first mentions them. Show the children how they will write the names of the objects down at the bottom of the “Remembrance” handout.

Have the children turn to **I Corinthians 11:23-29, 33**. Have 8 volunteers read each of these verses aloud as the other children follow along. *(I happened to have exactly 8 children and had great success in encouraging new readers by passing out the cards to individual children. They then felt “ownership” of their card.)*

After each verse, allow the children to tell which item(s) they believe reminds them of what the verse is teaching. Once the correct item(s) has been chosen, allow one volunteer to come to the front and place the corresponding verse place card in front of the correct item(s). Discuss the verse by asking questions such as the following. Ask:

Verse 23:

"Who is writing this information?" *(Paul, as guided by God, is writing to the people in Corinth.)*

"What major event is happening to Jesus on this night?" *(This was the night that Jesus was going to be betrayed by Judas. Judas was going to lead guards to Jesus who was in the Garden of Gethsemane. Judas would reveal who Jesus was by kissing Him on the cheek. Then, the guards would bind Jesus and take Him away to be tried and then crucified.)*

"What does this verse say that Jesus 'took' or held up on that night before He was betrayed?" (*Bread.*)

Verse 24:

"What did Jesus do before breaking the bread?" (*He prayed to God in thankfulness.*)

"What did Jesus say that the bread was?" (*The bread was His body.*)

"Was the bread *really* part of Jesus' body?" (*No, the bread was to symbolize Jesus' body. The bread was to remind the disciples and others of Jesus' body and how He died for our sins. Like we are using these objects to symbolize what the verses are teaching us!*)

"Why do you think Jesus broke the bread?" (*Just as Jesus' body would soon be broken on the cross, Jesus broke the bread that symbolized His body. After breaking the bread, He was going to pass it around to all the disciples to eat.*)

"What does remembrance mean?" (*To remember. Just like we tried to remember what was under the box.*)

Verse 25:

"After Jesus had held up the bread, what did He hold up?" (*A cup containing wine.*)

"What did Jesus say the cup represented or symbolized?" (*The blood of Jesus! The new covenant which is the blood of Jesus.*)

"If the blood of Jesus is the 'new covenant', what is the old covenant?" (*The Old Testament means Old Covenant. In the Old Covenant or the Old Promise from God, people had to sacrifice animals to have their sins forgiven. Also, they went to priests who made the sacrifices and prayed for them.*)

"So what is the 'New Covenant'?" (*The New Covenant is God's new promise to all of us that is taught in the New Testament. Because Jesus shed His perfect, innocent blood on the cross, we can have our sins forgiven by believing in Him. Now in the New Covenant, we can pray directly to Jesus.*)

Verse 26:

"What do we proclaim every time we eat the bread and drink the cup that both symbolize Jesus?" (*The death of our Lord Jesus Christ*)

"Why is it so important to remember the death of Jesus on the cross?" (*His death on the cross allows us to have forgiveness of our sins and to become Christians and be in relationship with God.*)

"So, if you eat the bread and drink the juice in the cup, what are you really saying or promising to God?" (*We are promising that we believe in what Jesus did for us on the cross. We are recommitting our lives to live the way God wants us to live.*)

"Do you think that God takes our promises to Him very seriously?" (*Yes! God always keeps His promises to us and we should keep our promises to Him.*) "Let's see what the Bible says in the next verse about people who are just playing around when they eat the bread and drink the cup."

Note: *The goal of this next verse is not to scare children, but to help them to understand that partaking in The Lord's Supper is a serious and meaningful time of remembrance. It's not a time to just get something to eat and/or drink or to cut up!*

Verse 27:

"What do you think the Bible means by eating the bread or drinking the juice from the cup in an 'unworthy manner'?" *(A person who is not a Christian or who does not really believe in Jesus --OR-- A person who is just cutting up or doing it because friends are doing it -- A person thinking of themselves and not using the time to remember what Jesus did on the cross to show His love for us.)*

"If a person takes the bread and the cup in an unworthy manner, what is he really doing?" *(Sinning against God!)*

"Do any of you want to sin against God?" *(No!)* "Let's read the next verse so that we can find out how to not sin against God when we eat the bread and drink the juice."

Verse 28:

"What does verse 28 say we must do before partaking of the Lord's Supper?" *(Examine ourselves.)*

"What does it mean to examine ourselves?" *(The word examine is like the word exam or test like at school or when we go to the doctor. So, we need to give ourselves a test. Ask yourself 3 questions:*

1. *Do I have sins in my life that I need to confess to God?*
2. *Am I fighting or mad at another person and need to ask for forgiveness?*
3. *Is my mind thinking about God/Jesus and His will for my life?*

Verse 29:

"I know none of us wants judgment from God. So what should we do if we are not a Christian or we do not have our minds on Jesus when it's time for the Lord's Supper?" *(We should not take the bread or the juice.)*

Skip verses 30-32.**Verse 33:**

"What was Paul encouraging the people to do when they gathered together for The Lord's Supper?" *(To wait for one another.)*

SING: Slower song suggestions for singing prior to observing The Lord's Supper and/or to play quietly in the background during the observance: *Communion* sung by *Third Day* OR *Above All* by Lenny LeBlanc & Paul Baloche OR *At the Cross* by Randy & Terry Builder OR *The Cross* by Charlie Hall OR *Amazing Love (You Are My King)* by Billy James Foote.

THE LORD'S SUPPER: *Consider inviting parents to come and participate in The Lord's Supper with their children. You will need to decide if you want them to 1) Come and hear the entire lesson, 2) Come at about 15 minutes prior to class ending, OR 3) Stay after class with those children who would like to participate.*

Serve The Lord's Supper using the following schedule:

~ TIME	ACTIVITY
1 minute	Reveal the juice and the bread that has been previously prepared but hidden under a blanket.
3 minutes	Pass out the bread to each child. Let the children know in advance that you will be praying <u>before</u> everyone eats the bread. So, they should wait patiently and use this time to ask themselves the 3 questions that were discussed in the lesson. (<i>Quietly play music in the background.</i>)
1 minute	Let a volunteer read Matthew 26:26 from a print out or from their Bible which has been previously marked.
1 minute	Lead the children in a brief prayer of thanks to Jesus. Allow 2 or 3 children to pray if they are willing.
1 minute	Lead everyone in eating the bread.
3 minutes	Pass out the juice to each child. Again, let the children know in advance that they should wait for everyone. (<i>Quietly play music in the background.</i>)
1 minute	Let a volunteer read Matthew 26:27, 28 from a print out or from their Bible which has been previously marked.
1 minute	Lead the children in a brief prayer of thanks to Jesus. Allow 2 or 3 children to pray if they are willing.
1 minute	Lead everyone in drinking the juice.

SING: In Matthew 26:30 and Mark 14:26, we read that Jesus and His disciples sang a hymn together after partaking in The Lord’s Supper.

Sing an upbeat song such as *Lord, Reign in Me* by Brandon Brown.

REVIEW: If you have time remaining, see if the children can remember and summarize what the Bible verses say by looking at the 12 objects.

Then cover the items with the blanket and see if they can name all 12 items as a group. Write each item on the board as it is named.

CLOSE: Dismiss with prayer. Do not forget to pass out the FUNSHEETS to those who want them.

REMEMBRANCE

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.

I Corinthians 11:23 – 1: 2:

I Corinthians 11:24 – 1: 2:

I Corinthians 11:25 – 1: 2:

I Corinthians 11:26 – 1:

I Corinthians 11:27 – 1:

I Corinthians 11:28 – 1:

I Corinthians 11:29 – 1:

I Corinthians 11:33 – 1: 2:

**I Cor.
11:23**

**I Cor.
11:24**

**I Cor.
11:25**

**I Cor.
11:26**

**I Cor.
11:27**

**I Cor.
11:28**

**I Cor.
11:29**

**I Cor.
11:33**



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