



3rd – 5th

April 12-13, 2014

DATE

The Last Supper

LESSON TITLE

John 13-16

WHERE TO FIND IT

Jesus wants us to stay connected to him.

MAIN POINT

schedule

Connect Time (15 minutes): Five minutes after the service begins, split kids into groups and begin their activity.

Large Group (30 minutes): Begin 20 minutes after the service starts. Model what it looks like to be engaged in large group.

Small Group (15 minutes): Keep kids in small groups until parents arrive. If you *all* have extra time at the end, you can review the video and songs together.

tips

Kids just got finished with rice and beans week (if their families participated). Ask kids if they ate rice and beans or did something else to save money this week. Ask them how it felt and if it was difficult for them. Share what you did too!

check-in/out

As kids leave, remind them to show their journals (notepads) to their parents. Encourage them to share the way they plan to stay connected to Jesus this week.

large group heads up

Jesus knew his disciples needed some teaching and encouragement before he left. So he spent his last meal with them, modeling servant-love and preparing them to stay connected with him even if he wouldn't be physically present with them much longer.



connect time

GOAL: *Connect Time is all about engaging kids in an activity that allows them to connect with each other right away while simultaneously piquing their curiosity for Large Group and preparing their minds for what they're going to hear.*

CONNECTION GAME

- Split kids into groups of 10-15
- Give one kid a ball of **yarn**
- He/she holds the end of it and tosses it to someone else across the circle
- This continues, creating a web, until the yarn runs out
- Have kids look at their shape and how they're all connected by the yarn
- While standing, connected, **discuss**:
 - How are you guys connected? Are there other ways to be connected to people? Describe them.
 - Have you ever had a friend or family member live far away? How do you stay connected?
 - Then ask kids to share the best or worst parts of their week.

Please have kids roll up the balls of yarn for the next service.

Before you head into Large Group, remind them about your expectations for their behavior: (1) be kind, (2) listen when somebody speaks, and (3) follow the leader's instructions.



instructions

Goal: Kids will understand that spending time with Jesus is practical.

Why? Kids are literal, and it can be hard for them to understand how to spend time with Jesus when he's not physically here with them. We want to give them really concrete ways for them to talk to him.

Tips: *If kids ask questions about the Holy Spirit, some good verses to refer to are John 14:26, John 15:26, or John 16:13-15 (all things Jesus said during the Last Supper).

small group

REVIEW AND DIG DEEPER

*Try this for a more engaged discussion: tell kids you're going to ask a question. Then give a **beanbag** to somebody and it's their job to answer. Then, everybody has to listen carefully to the next question. The kid with the "beanbag" must toss it to someone else.

1. Did anybody do something to save money during Beans and Rice week?
2. Why was Jesus having supper with his disciples? What did he talk to them about?
3. How can we stay connected to Jesus? (serving, obeying, getting help from the Holy Spirit, talking to and listening to Jesus, and remembering him through communion)
4. Why does Jesus want us to stay connected to him?
5. Name some ways to serve Jesus. Why do you think that keeps us close to him?
6. Why did Jesus send the Holy Spirit? How does the Holy Spirit help us? (see tip)
7. Why do you think communion is a special way to stay close to Jesus?
8. Any questions about today's story?

CONNECTION JOURNAL (APPLICATION)

Staying connected to Jesus might seem hard, but there are things we do every single day. What are some of those things? (eat, brush our teeth, go to the restroom, etc.)

- Give each kid a **journal (notepad)**. On the first page, encourage them to **write or draw one thing they do every day**. Share with one friend.
- Tell them: this is a special journal for them to keep to remember to stay connected to Jesus. Every time they do the thing on the first page—or whenever they want!—they should talk or listen to Jesus. Let's practice:
 - On page 2, **write/draw a picture for Jesus**. After a minute or two, continue:
 - On page 3, **take a moment and listen for Jesus**. Write or draw anything you think he might be saying to you. (Give kids some silence. If they don't hear anything, tell them it's OK!) Ask kids to share.

***Pray together, asking God to help us remember to connect with him this week.**

Extra time? Draw pictures of each of his reminders:

- 1. Jesus started dinner by doing a dirty job that no one else wanted. What was that job? (He washed his friend's feet.) Why did Jesus wash their feet? What did he want them to remember? (To serve others.) Draw some feet, a towel, or water. This is to remind us all to serve others, even if it's a dirty job.*
- 2. Jesus told His friends to expect a helper. Who was that helper? (The Holy Spirit) Everyone draw something that helps you remember the Holy Spirit. It could be a heart, a picture of you, or a picture of a smiling face.*
- 3. Jesus told his friends to stay connected to him like what? (Vines to a branch) Can everyone draw some vines or branches to help remind us to stay connected?*
- 4. Finally, Jesus and his friends shared some bread and wine together. What is that called? (Communion) Can you draw bread and wine to help us remember to stop and take time to remember Jesus this way?*

LARGE group



special notes

*We're mentioning the Holy Spirit today, but not going into a lot of depth. Encourage kids to ask questions during small groups. And feel free to announce that in two weeks, we'll be learning a story ALL about the Holy Spirit!

presenter tips

There are a lot of things Jesus taught during his last supper. Really focus how the serving, obeying, praying, etc. all keep us *connected* to Jesus.

script

Hi everybody, welcome to Kids' Club! It's great to see you here today. Last week was Beans and Rice Week. Did anybody do something special to try to save some money so that you could give it away? (Let 3-4 kids share.) Wow, that's awesome. Last week, I did _____ so that I could save money and give it away! (*Share a personal example.*)

You know what's really cool? When we give money to people who need it to help out other people or our city, we're serving Jesus! And that helps us stay close to Jesus. Today, we're going to hear a few things Jesus taught his friends about how to stay close to him. But first, let's talk about the game you just played....

So it looked like you guys were completely connected by a web of yarn. That's *pretty* connected. But I also heard you talking about some other ways we can stay connected to people, even if they live far away. What are some of the ways we can be close to people, even if we aren't holding the exact same piece of yarn? (Let kids respond.)

JESUS WANTS US TO BE CONNECTED TO HIM

Those are great ways to stay connected to people that we care about. And remember, *Jesus* wants us to be connected to *him*. In fact, right before Jesus rescued us, he had one last dinner with his disciples. We call it the Last Supper. It was a chance for Jesus to remind his friends of some ways to be close him, even though he would be going to Heaven.

(Show picture of a vine and branches.) Jesus told his disciples he wanted them to be connected to him like a vine is connected to branches, or a leaf is connected to a tree. I mean, if we rip the grapevine off that branch, what will happen? (Let kids respond.) Yeah, it'll die. And we won't be able to act like Jesus if we aren't connected to him.

So let's watch a video about the ways Jesus taught his disciples to stay connected to him. As you watch, see if you can find at least three ways we can stay close to Jesus.



script continued

Video: God's Story / The Last Supper

Wow, it's pretty cool that Jesus had that special dinner to tell his disciples important information, isn't it!? What are some of the ways we can stay connected to Jesus? (Take unique responses. Kids may say: serve others like Jesus, talk to Jesus, listen to Jesus, obey Jesus, get help from the Holy Spirit, etc.)

(Summarize, something like this:) That's right! We can be connected to Jesus by acting like him and serving other people, obeying him, and asking the Holy Spirit to help us act like him. We can talk and listen to Jesus by spending time praying. Let's talk about this for a minute.

CONNECTION THROUGH SERVICE AND OBEDIENCE

Before dinner started with his friends, Jesus came up with this very unique way to serve them. What was it? (Let kids say: washing people's feet. **Then pull out the fake foot.**) Yeah, and do you remember what the video said about people's feet back then? (Let kids respond.) Yes, they were very smelly and could have even been covered in camel poop. Gross. But when Jesus was washing the feet of his friends, what did he want them to remember? (to serve others)

That's right! Now, last week, a lot of you served others by giving away some money. But we can serve Jesus by sharing our time and helping our brother or sister clean their room... or praying for someone... or by giving a friend a hug when they need one! There are lots of ways to help others.

Turn and tell a friend one way you can serve or help others this week. (Let kids turn and tell a friend.) What are some good ways to serve others? (Let 3-5 kids share.)

*And who can we ask to *help* us act like Jesus? (Let kids say: the Holy Spirit.) Yes! The Holy Spirit! Jesus knows it can be hard to act like him and obey him. So he sent us a helper to guide us, teach us, support us—even stand up for us when we mess up!

CONNECTION THROUGH PRAYER

Jesus also gave his disciples the examples of how to stay connected to him like a vine to a branch. Remember, a vine that isn't connected just dies. Without Jesus, there's no way we can follow him! We must stay connected. We can do that by talking and listening to Jesus. Even though he's not physically in front of us, he can always hear us, and he can always speak.

Remember how much he loves us from our verse in Zephaniah 3:17:

SLIDE: Zephaniah 3:17 The LORD your God is with you.

He is mighty enough to save you.

He will take great delight in you.

The quietness of his love will calm you down.

He will sing with joy because of you."

That's amazing, isn't it? Jesus *delights* in us. He wants to be connected to us, like our closest



script continued

friend. He wants to BE our closet friend.

CONNECTION THROUGH COMMUNION

Jesus even gave his friends one other very special way to remember him and how much he loves us. It wasn't in the video, but it's in the Bible, during the story of the Last Supper. See, he showed his love to all of us by dying on the cross to take the punishment for all our wrong choices. But then, he showed he's stronger than death by coming BACK to life three days later! Because of what Jesus was willing to do for us, we can be a part of God's family and one day live with God and Jesus forever.

Jesus wants us to ALWAYS remember what he did for us. **(Pull out the bread and juice box.)** So at the Last Supper, he pulled out some bread. (Break off a piece of bread.) He said they should remember that his body was broken for them. Then he poured a glass of wine. We have grape juice, since we're in Kids' Club. (Hold up the juice box.) He said to remember that his blood was shed for us.

Does anybody know what it's called to break off bread and drink wine? (Let kids say: communion.) Yes, communion! And when we believe that Jesus died to rescue us, we can take communion. It's another way to connect with him! But Mae wrote a song to tell us about it. Let's take a look:

Music Video: Communion

WORSHIP

Now let's praise Jesus! Let's sing a song that reminds us that he wants us to be near him always.

Song: Come With Me

PRAY

Ask somebody to come and pray, thanking Jesus that he wants us to be close to him!

Make sure to discard the broken off piece of bread/cracker and close the Ziploc package tightly.



script continued

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PREP needs



connect time supplies

1 ball of yarn per 10-15 kids

small group supplies

1 beanbag per small group
markers
Bible
1 notepad per kid: (OT: IN-9/668)

large group supplies

Fake foot (could use www.fakecrap.com; item 1077
or other similar item)
Loaf of bread

1 juicebox/container of juice (grape)

a/v needs

1. Image: vine and branches
2. Video: God's Story / Last Supper
3. SLIDE: Zephaniah 3:17 The LORD your God is with you.
He is mighty enough to save you.
He will take great delight in you.
The quietness of his love will calm you down.
He will sing with joy because of you."
4. Music Video: Communion (downloadable on our Vimeo channel)
5. Song: Come With Me (with hand motions)

connect questions

Tell me about the Last Supper.
How can we stay close to Jesus?

parent page

SEPARATE PARENT PAGES FOR APRIL