

Explore It FOR LEADERS



GOD'S GIFT

Luke 22:14-20 The Lord's supper

Each child will need:

- Three small, soft balls to juggle with
- Bread and a cup of juice or water
- Paper and pens

Ask the children to come ready to share a gift they received at Christmas which brought them joy and excitement.

You will need:

- Three small, soft balls to juggle with
- Bread and a cup of juice or water
- A map of your local community

Start It

Play a juggling game. Is there someone in your team or group who knows how to juggle? Ask them if they could try and teach your group.

If not, here are some instructions: <http://juggling-for-beginners.com/how-to-juggle/juggling-instructions> or use a 'How to' video from YouTube.

Ask the children to get one of the balls they brought. Practise first with one ball, throwing and catching. Add in the second ball and practise throwing and catching with both. If there are some who grasp this quickly you could have a go with three balls.

Ask the children to share their Christmas gift and explain why it brought them joy and excitement when they opened it. Be mindful of the range of gifts children receive.

Ask: Does it still bring happiness now? Why did you choose this gift instead of another?

Explain that today we are going to be thinking about the greatest gift which God gives and is given for everyone to receive.

Sing It

Can you keep up with this fast-paced song!

'God can do anything' by Doug Horley

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7nuzbWEiaeY>

Tell It

- **Say:** After the birth of Jesus, lots of things happened in his life which we explore and learn from. Our story today happens towards the end of Jesus' life on Earth, after he had spent time teaching his disciples and followers, performing miracles and challenging those who

did not understand. One evening Jesus invited his disciples to meet with him to share in the Passover meal – a time when God’s followers thanked and celebrated God.

At this point, invite the children to sit with their drink and bread.

Read The Last Supper Luke 22:14-20 (ICB)

‘When the time came, Jesus and the apostles were sitting at the table. He said to them, “I wanted very much to eat this Passover meal with you before I die. I will never eat another Passover meal until it is given its true meaning in the kingdom of God.”

Then Jesus took a cup. He gave thanks to God for it and said, “Take this cup and give it to everyone here. I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until God’s kingdom comes.”

Then Jesus took some bread. He thanked God for it, broke it, and gave it to the apostles.

Then Jesus said, “This bread is my body that I am giving for you. Do this to remember me.” In the same way, after supper, Jesus took the cup and said, “This cup shows the new agreement that God makes with his people. This new agreement begins with my blood which is poured out for you.”

Ask the children to consider:

- ➔ Do you have any questions about this Bible story, The Last Supper?
 - ➔ I wonder how the disciples felt?
 - ➔ I wonder how Jesus felt?
 - ➔ I wonder what Jesus meant by the words, ‘This bread is my body that I am giving for you.’
 - ➔ I wonder what Jesus meant by the words, ‘This cup shows the new agreement that God makes with his people. This new agreement begins with my blood which is poured out for you.’
 - ➔ I wonder what this Bible story means for you?
- 🗨 **Say:** During this time Jesus showed how much he loved his friends by washing their feet and sharing a special meal with them. As he talked with them, he explained that in sending Jesus, God was making a new promise with all people, no matter how old or young, rich or poor, where you are from... that God’s love is for everyone.

Action It

🗨 **Say:** As disciples of Jesus, we all have a call on our lives to share God’s gift of Jesus. Throughout last year there were lots of examples of people supporting others in their church, school, family and community.

Ask: Can you remember any examples?

🗨 **Say:** We live in so many circles of life: family, work, school, friends and community. Within these circles of relationships there will be those who know Jesus and follow him, but there will also be those who need to know of the love and friendship that God offers.

Ask the children to draw four large circles on a piece of paper. Around each circle write a heading: family, friends, school, community. Ask the children to think about how they can share God’s love with each of these groups. Encourage them to write or draw their ideas in the circles.

Pray It

Share on screen a map of your local community. Talk about the places where children like to go – perhaps parks, shops, restaurants, their friends’ homes... Encourage the children to touch these places with their finger on their screen.

Perhaps there is a hospital nearby, or a nursing home – what might people there need praying for? Are there schools or a university – what prayers might be needed there?

Ask the children if they have any prayer requests they want to share for their family, friends or community.

Do a virtual prayer walk using the map on the screen. Ask the children to trace a route with their finger and to pray for different parts of their community as they pass by.

Finish with a group prayer for family, friends and community.

Explore It

Remember to send home the Explore It (For Me) and Explore It (Together) ideas for children and families.