

**08.1.10/ Mark 14:12-25****Materials Needed**

bread and juice for communion, photo album/yearbook or something similar, backpack

**Opening Activity**

Put the backpack in the middle of the group. Ask children what they think the pack is used for (camping, hiking, etc.). Make a list of what would need to go into the pack if you were going on a long hike, and why those items would be important. (water, food, rain gear, etc.) Emphasize that food and drink is important because it gives our bodies the energy we need to function well – without it we would be very weak and wouldn't survive very long!

**Discussion**

Tell children that we are going to learn about the importance of an activity that we do at church every week – communion. It is a special meal that we participate in with the rest of the body of Christ to remind us of what Christ has done for us. The bread and juice remind us of the body and blood of Christ. Jesus said that he was “the bread of life” and that we need to feed on him (depend on him) in order to have the abundant life that God has in store for us. When we participate in communion it reminds us that we want Jesus to live inside of us so that he can give us spiritual nourishment. Just like we wouldn't survive physically if we never ate our lunch, the communion meal can remind us that we will be spiritually starving if we don't depend on Christ.

**Read Mark 14:12-25**

“And on the first day of Unleavened Bread, when they sacrificed the Passover lamb, his disciples said to him, “Where will you have us go and prepare for you to eat the Passover?” And he sent two of his disciples and said to them, “Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him, and wherever he enters, say to the master of the house, ‘The Teacher says, Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’ And he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready; there prepare for us. And the disciples set out and went to the city and found it just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover. And when it was evening, he came with the twelve. And as they were reclining at table and eating, Jesus said, ‘Truly I say to you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me.’ They began to be sorrowful and to say to him one after another, ‘Is it I?’ He said to them, “It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the dish with me. For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born.” And as they were eating, he took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to them, and said, “Take; this is my body.” And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, and they all drank of it. And he said to them, “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly I say to you, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.”

**Question 1**

Jesus knew that Judas was going to betray him, and He loved him anyway. Think back to a time during the week where you betrayed Jesus – obviously not in the same way that Judas did, but perhaps a time where you disobeyed the Bible, or did your own way instead. (*You don't have to share out loud*). Jesus shed his blood and broke his body because of those betrayals, as well as all the other times that we disown Jesus. It is because of us that Jesus died on the cross – and yet Jesus does not resent us, he LOVES us! How does remembering that make an impact on your thoughts and actions? (*Reflect as a group*).

**Discussion**

Show the photo album/yearbook or something similar. Ask children to share a favorite picture from a family vacation or activity. Why do certain pictures make us feel good when we look at them? (they represent good memories and remind us of something pleasant or funny that happened) When Jesus left earth to be with his Father in heaven, he left us with a picture to remember Him with. It is not a picture in a photo album like the ones here, but it's a picture that can help us remember what



Jesus did for us on the cross. The communion meal of bread and juice is a picture of Jesus' blood shed for us, and his body, broken for us. Can you think of any other "pictures" God has given us to remind us of Him and how much He loves us? *Share within the group, possible answers include – rainbows remind us of God's promise to Noah, thunderstorms can remind us of God's power, flowers can remind us of God's beauty, etc.*

**Activity**

If you feel it would be appropriate given the makeup of your group, share a communion meal as a Community Group, remembering that communion is meant to be done by those who follow Christ as a way to remember what He has done for them. Again, if appropriate, involve the children in passing out the bread and the juice, and take time to reflect and remember what Christ accomplished for us on the cross, thanking Him as you pray together.

**Wrap Up**

As you close in prayer, thank God for giving us a picture reminder of what Jesus did for us on the cross. Pray that we would constantly be aware of other ways that God reveals Himself to us so that we can stay focused on Him and on doing His will.