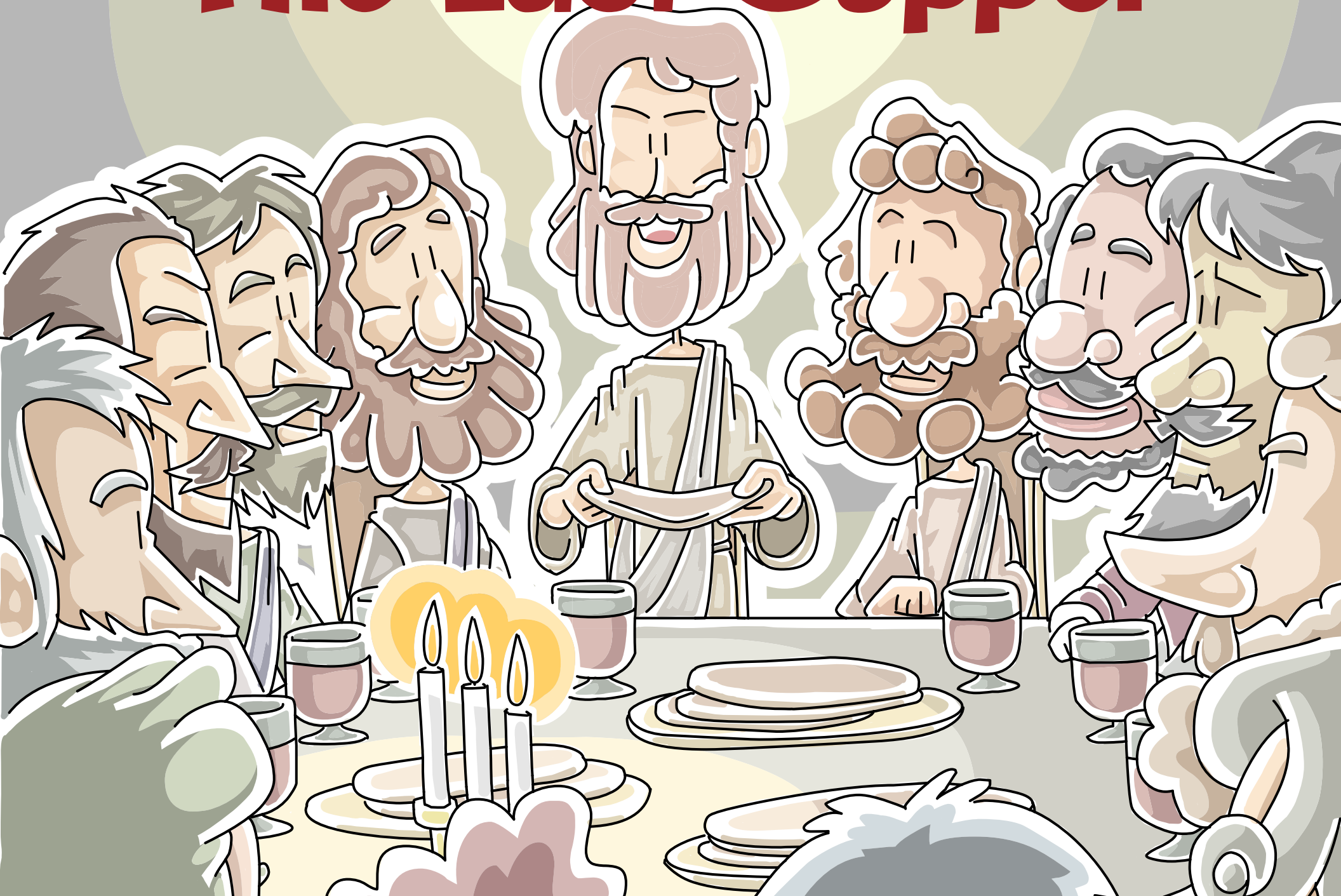
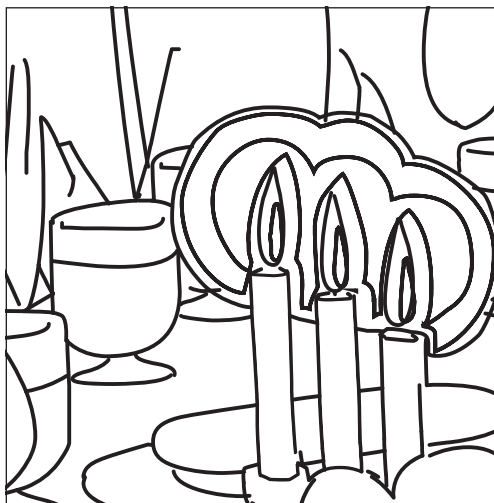


# The Last Supper



## Colour me!



### Luke 22:14-23

**All Jewish people used to get together with their families for the Festival of Passover. Jesus knew that he would soon be arrested and condemned to death, so he wanted to spend one last evening with his friends for this special supper.**

When the time came for Jesus and the apostles to eat, he said to them, "I have very much wanted to eat this Passover meal with you before I suffer. I tell you that I will not eat another Passover meal until it is finally eaten in God's kingdom."

Jesus took a cup of wine in his hands and gave thanks to God. Then he told the apostles, "Take this wine and share it with each other. I tell you that I will not drink any more wine until God's kingdom comes."

Jesus took some bread in his hands and gave thanks for it. He broke the bread and handed it to his apostles. Then he said, "This is my body, which is given for you. Eat this as a way of remembering me!"

After the meal he took another cup of wine in his hands. Then he said, "This is my blood. It is poured out for you, and with it God makes his new agreement. The one who will betray me is here at the table with me! The Son of Man will die in the way that has been decided for him, but it will be terrible for the one who betrays him!"

Then the apostles started arguing about who would ever do such a thing.

## Commentary

The Passover meal is still celebrated every year in Jewish homes. There are particular words that are said and certain foods eaten, which help tell the story of how God sent Moses to lead the Hebrews out of slavery under the Egyptians to freedom across the Red Sea.

Each cup of wine that is drunk has special prayers linked to it, and the bread that is eaten is flat because it is made without yeast. The first Passover meal was eaten in such a rush, as they waited for the signal from Moses to leave Egypt, that there was no time to wait for the dough to rise. It was also during this meal that they remembered how the angel of death had passed over the Israelites' homes, which had been marked with lamb's blood on the doorposts. It was therefore not just an escape from slavery but from death itself.

Jesus was the host for this particular Passover meal with his friends, but, to their surprise, he took some of the traditional parts of the ceremony and gave them new meanings. He described the bread as his body and the wine as his blood. He wanted his disciples to have a way of remembering his death, now only hours away, which would rescue them just as the blood on the doorposts had saved the Israelites long ago. It was the only way Jesus could rescue the world and already, because of Judas, plans for his capture, trial and crucifixion were well under way.

## Questions

- ▶ Can you imagine what the atmosphere was like at the meal table during this Passover?
- ▶ Why do Christians today call this "the Last Supper"?
- ▶ What good news does Jesus share at this meal before he begins talking about his blood and body?
- ▶ Have you ever been to a church service where this meal has been re-enacted? What happened?



## Visual aid

You will need a piece of bread that has been made without yeast (for example, Matzo) and a cup of non-alcoholic wine. Jesus gave these ordinary items of food and drink special meanings at the Last Supper.



## Activity idea

Find out online what is eaten at a typical Jewish Passover meal. How is each item of food at the meal linked to the story of the escape from Egypt?



## Prayer idea

Eating the bread and drinking the wine are ways of remembering Jesus and what happened on Good Friday. Talk about the special reminders you could carry with you to help you remember to pray for your family, your friends, people in need and people far away. For example, you could choose ribbons of different colours, or beads that are differently shaped. Decide what you as a family will use as reminders while you are away from each other and from home.

## Key verse

Jesus... broke the bread and handed it to his apostles. Then he said, "This is my body". (Luke 22:19).

## New Testament story link

Exodus 13:3-10: Moses gives instructions about the bread to be used at the Passover meal.



Colour me!

