



Discipleship at Easter

Lesson Overview

1. Watch a Video

Watch *The Last Supper* at bitly.com/GCEDLastSupper (3min 36sec).

2. Read

Read what happened immediately after the Last Supper. pp. 1-2

3. Discuss

Discuss spiritual offspring. p.2

4. Optional Activity

Work together to create something as a group. p. 3

From the Word Discipleship

And He said to them,
“Follow Me...” Matt. 4:19

You have not chosen Me,
but I have chosen you and
appointed you that you
should bear fruit. John
15:16

If you abide in My word,
you are My disciples in-
deed. And you shall know
the truth, and the truth
shall make you free.” John
8:31

Go therefore, and make
disciples of all nations....”
Matt. 28:19

FaithBuilder 2 | Lesson 25 | Word

Watch a Video

Watch *The Last Supper* (3min 36sec) at bitly.com/GCEDLastSupper. (Enter the bitly link in the web browser bar at the top of your screen.)

1. Who is “the disciple who Jesus loved?” (John)
2. What is a “Judas kiss?” Why is it called the “kiss of death?” (See Luke 22)

Read

The final events in the Lord’s life unfolded quickly. We are going to read highlights of what happened immediately after the Last Supper. Pay attention to what the disciples say and do.

Then Jesus said to them, “All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night.... Peter said to Him, “Even if all are made to stumble, yet I will not be.” Jesus said to him, “Assuredly, I say to you...even this night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times.” But he spoke more vehemently, “If I have to die with You, I will not deny You!” And they all said likewise.

Then they came to...Gethsemane; and He said...“Sit here while I pray.” And He took Peter, James, and John with Him.... Then He said to them, “My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch.” He went a little farther, and fell on the ground, and prayed.... And He said, “Father, all things are possible for You. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will.” Then He came and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, “Simon, are you sleeping? Could you not watch one hour? Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

Again He went away and prayed.... And when He returned, He found them asleep again, for their eyes were heavy; and they did not know what to answer Him. Then He came the third time and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and resting? The hour has come; behold, the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us be going. See, My betrayer is at hand.”

And while He was still speaking, Judas...came from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders. [He] had given them a signal, saying, “Whomever I kiss, He is the One; seize Him and lead Him away safely.”

As soon as he had come, immediately he went up to Him and...kissed Him. Then they laid their hands on Him and took Him. And one of those who stood by drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest, and cut off his ear. Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Have you come out... with swords and clubs to take Me?... Then they all forsook Him and fled....

And they led Jesus away to the high priest.... But Peter followed Him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. And he sat with the servants and warmed himself at the fire.

Now the chief priests...sought testimony against Jesus to put Him to death, but found none. For many bore false witness against Him, but their testimonies did not agree.... And the high priest...asked Jesus, saying, "Do You answer nothing? What is it these men testify against You?" But He kept silent and answered nothing. Again the high priest asked Him, saying to Him, "Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?" Jesus said, "I am...." Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "What further need do we have of witnesses? You have heard the blasphemy! What do you think?" And they all condemned Him to be deserving of death....

Now...one of the servant girls of the high priest...saw Peter warming himself, she...said, "You also were with Jesus of Nazareth." But he denied it, saying, "I neither know nor understand what you are saying." And he went out on the porch, and a rooster crowed. And [she] saw him again, and began to say..., "This is one of them." But he denied it again. And a little later those who stood by said to Peter again, "Surely you are one of them... Then he began to...swear, "I do not know this Man of whom you speak!"

A second time the rooster crowed. Then Peter called to mind the word that Jesus had said to him, "Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times." And...he wept.

In the morning, the chief priests...bound Jesus...and delivered Him to Pilate. Then Pilate asked Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?" He...said to him, "It is as you say." And the chief priests accused Him of many things, but He answered nothing. Then Pilate asked Him again, saying, "Do You answer nothing? See how many things they testify against You!" But Jesus still answered nothing....

Now at the feast he was accustomed to releasing...whomever they requested. And there was one named Barabbas, who...had committed murder.... Then the multitude...began to ask him to do just as he had always done.... But Pilate answered them, saying, "Do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?" But the chief priests stirred up the crowd.... Pilate answered and said to them again, "What then do you want me to do with Him whom you call the King of the Jews?" So they cried out again, "Crucify Him!"... So Pilate...released Barabbas to them; and he delivered Jesus...to be crucified. Mark 14, 15, parts.

The Lord's twelve disciples represented all aspects of faith and love in their entirety, just as the twelve tribes of Israel did. Peter represented faith, James charity, and John the works or good deeds that flow from charity.

As regards John's following the Lord, this was a sign of the truth that those who perform the good deeds of charity follow the Lord, are loved by the Lord, and do not leave Him, whereas those whose faith is separated from charity not only fail to follow the Lord but are also angered by that truth, as Peter was. *Arcana Coelestia* 10087

By "apostles" are meant those who teach the truths of the church, because the apostles [those sent] were so called from their having been sent to teach and to preach the Gospel concerning the Lord and the drawing near of the kingdom of God through Him; thus to teach the truths of the church, by which the Lord is known and the kingdom of God is brought near. The kingdom of God on the earth is the church. From this it is evident what is meant by "apostles" in the spiritual sense of the Word, namely, not the twelve apostles who were sent by the Lord to teach concerning Him and His kingdom, but all who are in the truths of the church, and in a sense abstracted from persons, the truths themselves. *Apocalypse Explained* 100:2

Discuss

Choose questions for discussion.

1. The word “disciple” means “follower” or “student.” In what ways does the Lord call each person to follow Him? (See sidebar, p.1.)
2. The Lord said, “Whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven” (Matthew 10:32). How do we “confess” the Lord? Think about actions as well as words.
3. The twelve disciples picture all the qualities in us that follow the Lord. Peter symbolizes faith—the part of us that wants to understand, test, and acknowledge what is true. He is a leading disciple. Why is *faith* a leader in our own lives? (It is the first thing in us that acknowledges that the Lord lead leads and guides us. Without it we cannot be disciples of the Lord.)
4. What other important things did Peter do? (He was the only disciple to walk on water (Matt. 14); he was the first to reach the tomb on Easter morning (Luke 24); the rock on which Jesus will build His church (Matt. 16); he acknowledged Jesus as the Messiah (Matt. 16); he asked Jesus to wash his hands and feet during Last Supper (John 13).
5. Jesus asked His Peter, James and John to watch with Him while He prayed, but they fell asleep. What spiritually falls asleep *in us*? (*Hint*: The Writings tell us that Peter=faith in the Lord; James=charity; John=the good of charity. See *Arcana Coelestia* 2135)
6. Why was Peter so upset when the rooster crowed for the second time?
7. Have you ever noticed yourself denying the Lord, for example in a group that challenged your faith in the Lord? Why is it difficult to stand up for what you believe when the truth is on trial or being persecuted? What might alert you if this happens, like the rooster crowing?
8. Peter stands for our faith. In what ways might a person “deny the Lord” or deny having faith in Him *in their own mind*? For example, think of a time when you might know what is true, but choose to deny it, e.g. you lie or cheat but don’t want to admit it to yourself or others.
9. Before ascending into heaven the Lord gave His disciples a ‘Great Commission’: “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you....” (Matthew 28:19) In what way does this statement apply today?
10. Judas sold Jesus for thirty pieces of silver. Who else was sold for pieces of silver? (Joseph was sold for twenty pieces of silver.) What other similarities are there between Joseph and Jesus? (Falsely accused; imprisoned; had no weaknesses; ruler) (*Interesting note*: Thirty pieces of silver was also the price the owner of an ox was required to pay the master of a servant if an ox accidentally killed a servant. So thirty pieces of silver are recognized as the price of a servant. *Arcana Coelestia* 2567)
11. What else do we know about Judas? (He was not from Galilee like the other disciples but was from Judah; he did not want to use expensive oil to anoint Jesus; he betrayed Jesus with a kiss; he hanged himself after the crucifixion.)