

The Last Supper

The Last Supper, an important meal shared by Jesus and his disciples during the Feast of Unleavened Bread (or **Passover**), is a significant event for Christians to remember during Holy Week.



At a very dangerous time for Jesus, the thirteen men sat around the table to share the Last Supper. Jesus' claim to be the Son of God meant that many people wanted to see Jesus come to harm. This caused Jesus and his disciples to feel anxious during their final gathering together – the room was silent.

When Jesus finally spoke and said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me," all of his disciples were aghast, wondering which of them it would be – each believing that it could not possibly be them.

Jesus continued by explaining that he would die but the man who betrayed him would regret his actions for the rest of his life. Then Judas, the one who would betray him, said, "Surely you don't mean me, Rabbi?" to which Jesus replied, in a hushed voice, "You have said so." Judas felt ashamed and tense but pleased that the other disciples had not heard the conversation. He did not wish to think of the consequences.

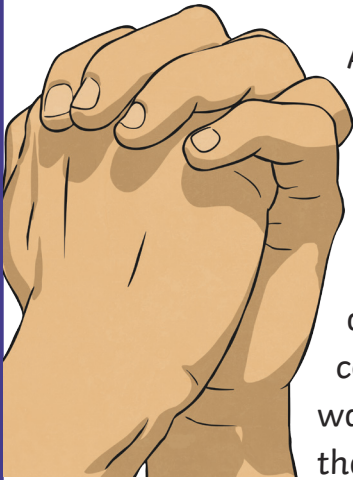
At this point, Jesus thanked God for the bread and broke it to share, explaining that it was his body which was given for them to remember him. Following this, he took a **chalice** of red wine and said, "This is my blood, which will be poured out for many people so their sins may be forgiven." Everyone took a sip as the cup was passed around.



This act is commemorated in the Christian church today in the form of the Eucharist, a **sacrament** in which bread and wine are **consecrated** and **consumed**.



The disciples were astounded by this lowly act, because to them, Jesus was the King of Kings not a servant as his actions were suggesting. Due to this, Peter refused to let Jesus wash his feet. "If you don't allow me to wash your feet, you can no longer be with me," Jesus explained. Peter replied that, if that was the case, then Jesus could wash his hands and head as well as his feet. Jesus replied that he only needed to wash his feet for his whole body to become clean so Peter complied and agreed to let Jesus wash his feet. Jesus completed his task of washing the disciples' feet before changing back into his normal clothes and returning to the table, where the disciples waited, eager to understand the unusual deed they had just witnessed.



As they prayed together, Jesus asked them, "Do you understand what I have done for you? You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord', and that is who I am. Now that I have washed your feet, you can wash one another's feet."

Through the significance of his actions, Jesus tried to share a message with his disciples about the importance of acting compassionately towards one another, just as he had done. He wanted to show that everyone should be treated as equals and that no one is better than anyone else.

Glossary

chalice – A large cup or goblet.

consecrated – Made sacred.

consumed – Eaten, drunk or ingested.

Passover – A Jewish celebration of the freedom of the Israelites.

sacrament - (in the Christian Church) A ceremony regarded as imparting spiritual grace.

The Last Supper Questions

1. **all of his disciples were aghast...**

Which word is closest in meaning to **aghast**? Tick one.

- scared
- excited
- appalled
- nervous

2. Number the events below to show the order they happened in the story.

- Judas asked if he would be the one to betray Jesus.
- Jesus washed the disciple's feet.
- Jesus shared the bread and wine.
- Jesus predicted his betrayal.
- Jesus and his disciples prayed together.

3. Find two words which mean the same as nervous.

- _____
- _____

4. What is the name of the sacrament which remembers Jesus sharing the bread and wine?

5. Find and copy a word or phrase from the story which tells you that Jesus' betrayer would feel sorry forever.

6. Why do you think that Judas did not wish to think of the consequences? Explain your answer.

7. What was the significance of Jesus changing his clothes? Explain your answer.

8. What was the message that Jesus was sharing by washing his disciples' feet? Explain why is this important.

The Last Supper Answers

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2. Number the events below to show the order they happened in the story.

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- Jesus washed the disciple's feet.
- Jesus shared the bread and wine.
- Jesus predicted his betrayal.
- Jesus and his disciples prayed together.

3. Find two words which mean the same as nervous.

Accept the following answers: anxious, tense

4. What is the name of the sacrament which remembers Jesus sharing the bread and wine?

The Eucharist is the name of the sacrament which remembers Jesus sharing the bread and wine.

5. Find and copy a word or phrase from the story which tells you that Jesus' betrayer would feel sorry forever.

regret his actions for the rest of his life

6. Why do you think that Judas did not wish to think of the consequences? Explain your answer.

Accept any suitable answer, such as: Judas knew that Jesus was supported by many people so if he betrayed Jesus, these people would not be pleased with him.

7. What was the significance of Jesus changing his clothes? Explain your answer.

Accept any suitable answer, such as: Jesus changed into simple clothes to show his disciples that he was humble, despite being a King of Kings, and that he was equal to them.

8. What was the message that Jesus was sharing by washing his disciples' feet? Explain why is this important.

Accept any suitable answer, such as: Jesus showed the disciples that it is important to act compassionately towards others and treat everyone as equal. This is important because, without kindness and equality, the world would not be a very nice place to live.

The Last Supper

Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey during the Feast of Unleavened Bread, or Passover (a Jewish celebration of the freedom of the Israelites). He was welcomed by large crowds, although there were also many people who wanted to see him dead because he claimed to be the Son of God and challenged religious authority.

Jesus sent two disciples, Peter and John, ahead with instructions on how to prepare the special meal. Following his entry into the city, Jesus and the ten remaining disciples went to the room where they all sat around the large table to share the Last Supper.



It was a very dangerous time for Jesus because of the bad feeling towards him so the disciples felt anxious; this caused them to remain quiet during the meal until Jesus broke the silence and said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.” All of his disciples were aghast, wondering which of them it would be – each believing that it could not possibly be them.

Jesus continued to say, “The one who dips his bread into the bowl with me will betray me. I will die, just as is written, but the man who betrays me will feel sorry forever.” Then Judas, the one who would betray him, said, “Surely you don’t mean me, Rabbi?” to which Jesus replied, in a hushed voice, “You have said so.” Judas, feeling discomfited and nervous, was pleased that the other disciples had not heard the conversation. He did not wish to think of the consequences.

At this point, Jesus thanked God for the bread and broke it to share, explaining, “This is my body which is for you: this do in remembrance of me.” Following this, he took a chalice (a large cup or goblet) of red wine and announced, “This is my blood: this do in remembrance of me.” Everyone took a sip as the cup was passed around.



This act is commemorated in the Christian church today in the form of the Eucharist, a sacrament (regarded in the Christian church as imparting spiritual grace) in which bread and wine are consecrated (made sacred) and consumed.

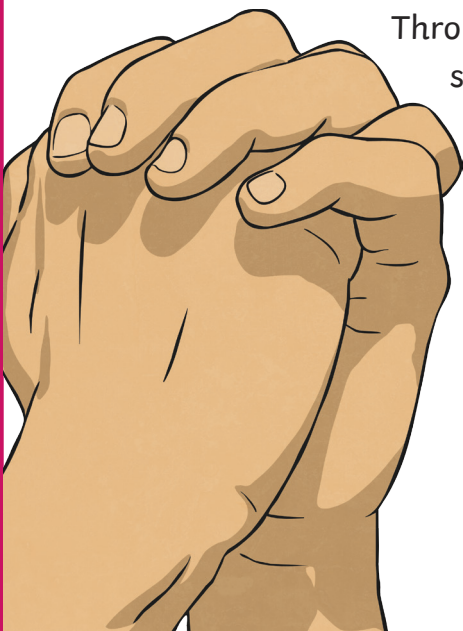


The meal continued with Jesus talking and celebrating with his disciples. After some time, Jesus moved to a different area of the room where he exchanged his clothing for uncomplicated servant clothes – a simple towel wrapped around his body – before filling a bowl with water. In an act of servitude to them, he used this to wash his disciple's feet before drying them with the towel he was wearing.

The disciples were astounded by this lowly act, because to them, Jesus was the King of Kings not a servant as his actions were suggesting. Due to this, Peter refused to let Jesus wash his feet. "If you don't allow me to wash your feet, you can no longer be with me," Jesus explained. Peter replied that, if that was the case, then Jesus could wash his hands and head as well as his feet. Jesus responded that he only needed to wash his feet for his whole body to become clean so Peter conceded and agreed to let Jesus wash his feet. As Jesus completed his task of washing the disciples' feet, he asked them, "to love one another as I have loved you," before changing back into his normal clothes. He returned to the table where the disciples waited, eager to understand the unusual deed they had just witnessed.

As they prayed together, Jesus prepared the disciples for his departure, telling them that they were his, "friends and not servants." Jesus then asked them, "Do you understand what I have done for you? You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord' and that is who I am. Now that I have washed your feet, you can wash one another's feet."

Through the significance of his actions, Jesus tried to share an important lesson with his disciples about the importance of acting compassionately towards one another and that everyone should be treated equally.



The Last Supper Questions

1. **Jesus responded that he only needed to wash his feet for his whole body to become clean so Peter conceded and agreed to let Jesus wash his feet.**

Which word is closest in meaning to **conceded**? Tick one.

- disagreed
- surrendered
- opposed
- left

2. Number the events below to show the order they happened in the story.

sacrament

made sacred

consecrated

eaten, drunk or ingested

consumed

in the Christian church, a ceremony regarded as imparting spiritual grace

3. Find a word or phrase that suggests Jesus did something which his disciples thought did not suit his status.

4. Name three of Jesus' disciples.

- _____
- _____
- _____

5. Describe the clothes that Jesus changed into.

6. **This act is commemorated in the Christian church today in the form of the Eucharist.**

Why do you think it is important for Christians to remember the act of Jesus sharing the bread and wine at the Last Supper?

7. Why were the disciples shocked when Jesus washed their feet?

The Last Supper Questions

8. Why did Jesus prepare the disciples for his departure? Explain your answer.

9. What do you think is the most important part of the story of The Last Supper and why?

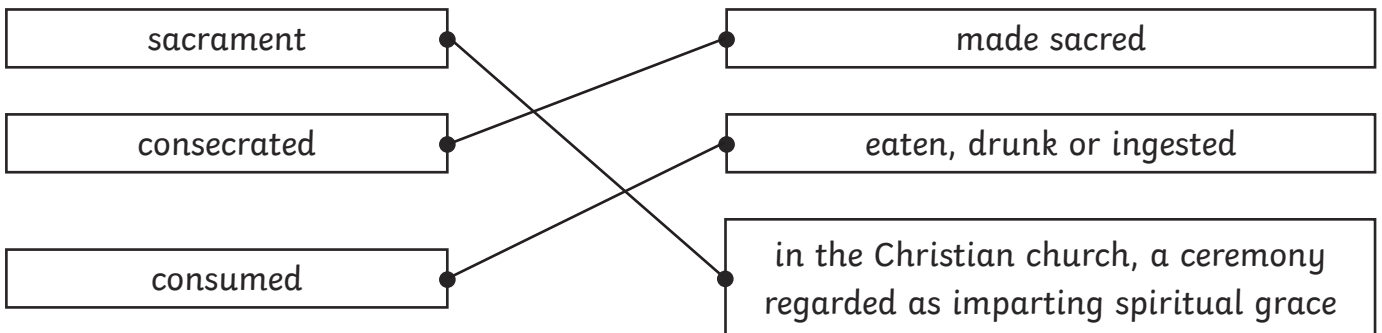
The Last Supper Answers

1. Jesus responded that he only needed to wash his feet for his whole body to become clean so Peter conceded and agreed to let Jesus wash his feet.

Which word is closest in meaning to **conceded**? Tick one.

- disagreed
 surrendered
 opposed
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2. Number the events below to show the order they happened in the story.



3. Find a word or phrase that suggests Jesus did something which his disciples thought did not suit his status.

lowly act

4. Name three of Jesus' disciples.

Peter, John and Judas

5. Describe the clothes that Jesus changed into.

Jesus changed into uncomplicated servant clothes – a simple towel wrapped around his body.

6. **This act is commemorated in the Christian church today in the form of the Eucharist.**

Why do you think it is important for Christians to remember the act of Jesus sharing the bread and wine at the Last Supper?

Accept any suitable answer, such as: I think it is important for Christians to remember the act of Jesus sharing the bread and wine at the Last Supper because Jesus told the disciples to do it in remembrance of him so when they consume the Eucharist, they are demonstrating an act of worship.

7. Why were the disciples shocked when Jesus washed their feet?

The disciples were shocked when Jesus washed their feet because, to them, Jesus was the King of Kings not a servant and this was an act of servitude.

The Last Supper Answers

8. Why did Jesus prepare the disciples for his departure? Explain your answer.
Accept any suitable answer, such as: Jesus knew that he would die and, because the disciples were his friends, he wanted to prepare them for a time when he would no longer be here to share his knowledge with them.

9. What do you think is the most important part of the story of The Last Supper and why?
Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the most significant part of the story is when Judas feels nervous about his actions because this shows the importance of conscience in Christian teachings.

The Last Supper

During the Feast of Unleavened Bread, or Passover (a Jewish celebration of the freedom of the Israelites), Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey. He was welcomed by large crowds, who laid their cloaks down for him and sang, but there were also many people who wanted him to perish because they were angry at his claim to be the Son of God and his challenge to religious authority.



Jesus sent two disciples ahead, instructing them to find a man carrying a jar of water, who would lead them to a house where they would find a large upper room, furnished and ready. The two disciples did as they had been asked. They were later joined by Jesus and the ten remaining disciples, who sat around the large table to share the Last Supper.

It was a very dangerous time for Jesus because of the bad feeling towards him so the disciples felt anxious; this caused them to remain quiet during the meal until Jesus broke the silence to predict his betrayal. All of the disciples were aghast, wondering who the traitor would be - each believing that it could not possibly be them. Jesus continued to explain that he would die but his betrayer would feel sorry forever.

Then Judas, the one who would betray him, said "Surely you don't mean me, Rabbi?"

Jesus answered, "You have said so." Judas, feeling discomfited and nervous, was pleased that the other disciples had not heard the conversation because they were distracted.

Jesus took some of the unleavened bread (flat bread with no yeast) and broke it to share, explaining, "This is my body which is for you: this do in remembrance of me." Following this, he took a cup of red wine and announced, "This is my blood: this do in remembrance of me." Everyone took a sip as the cup was passed around.





This act is commemorated in the Christian church today in the form of the Eucharist, a sacrament (a ceremony regarded as imparting spiritual grace in the Christian church) in which bread and wine are consecrated (made sacred) and consumed (eaten, drunk or ingested).

The meal continued until Jesus moved to a different area of the room, where he exchanged his clothing for uncomplicated servant clothes – a simple towel wrapped around his body - before filling a bowl with water. In an act of servitude to them, he used this to wash his disciple's feet before drying them with the towel he was wearing.

The disciples could not believe that they were witnessing Jesus perform this lowly act; to them, Jesus was the King of Kings not a servant as his actions were suggesting. Peter refused to let Jesus wash his feet.

“If you don't allow me to wash your feet, you can no longer be with me,” Jesus explained so Peter replied that, if that was the case, then Jesus could wash his hands and head as well as his feet. To this, Jesus responded that he only needed to wash his feet for his whole body to become clean. Peter then conceded and allowed Jesus to wash his feet. As Jesus finished his task of washing the disciples' feet, he explained that he came, “not to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.” Following this act, Jesus changed back into his normal clothes and returned to the table of men eagerly waiting to try to understand the unusual deed they had just witnessed.

Together they prayed and Jesus prepared the disciples for his departure, telling them they were his “friends and not servants.” He then asked them, “Do you understand what I have done for you? You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord’, and that is who I am. And now that I have washed your feet, you can wash one another's feet.”

Through the significance of his actions, Jesus tried to share an essential lesson with his disciples about the importance of acting compassionately towards one another and that everyone should be treated equally.

The Last Supper Questions

1. ...but there were also many people who wanted him to perish because they were angry at his claim to be the Son of God.

What does **perish** mean? Tick one.

- leave
- die
- starve
- dehydrate

2. What does the Eucharist commemorate? Tick one.

- the Last Supper
- Jesus washing the disciples' feet
- Jesus sharing the bread and wine
- the death of Jesus

3. Find and copy one word which tells you that Judas felt ashamed.

4. Find and copy two phrases or sentences which show that Jesus was behaving differently during the Last Supper.

- ---
- ---
- ---

5. Why was it a dangerous time for Jesus?

6. Why do you think the meal is known as the Last Supper?

7. Summarise what Jesus was trying to teach his disciples when he washed their feet in one sentence.

8. Why was Judas pleased that the other disciples had not heard his conversation with Jesus?

The Last Supper Questions

9. What do you see as the most significant part of the story of The Last Supper? Explain your answer.

10. Do you think that the story of The Last Supper can still be important to people in the world today?

The Last Supper Answers

1. ...but there were also many people who wanted him to perish because they were angry at his claim to be the Son of God.

What does **perish** mean? Tick one.

- leave
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2. What does the Eucharist commemorate? Tick one.

- the Last Supper
 Jesus washing the disciples' feet
 Jesus sharing the bread and wine
 the death of Jesus

3. Find and copy one word which tells you that Judas felt ashamed.
discomfited

4. Find and copy two phrases or sentences which show that Jesus was behaving differently during the Last Supper.

Accept the two following sentences: Jesus 'exchanged his clothing for uncomplicated servant clothes'; 'The disciples could not believe that they were witnessing Jesus perform this lowly act'.

5. Why was it a dangerous time for Jesus?

Accept any reasonable explanation linked to text, e.g. There were many people who didn't like him due to his popularity and wanted to see him dead.

6. Why do you think the meal is known as the Last Supper?

Accept any suitable answer, such as: I think the meal is known as the Last Supper because it was the last meal that Jesus shared with his friends before his death.

7. Summarise what Jesus was trying to teach his disciples when he washed their feet in one sentence.

Accept any suitable answer, such as: By washing the disciples' feet, Jesus was trying to teach them that it is important to be kind and compassionate to others whatever your status in the world.

8. Why was Judas pleased that the other disciples had not heard his conversation with Jesus?

Judas felt ashamed that he was going to betray Jesus and didn't want the other disciples to know because they were all friends of Jesus and he would feel embarrassed.

The Last Supper Answers

9. What do you see as the most significant part of the story of The Last Supper? Explain your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the most significant part of the story is when Judas feels nervous about his actions because this shows the importance of conscience in Christian teachings.

10. Do you think that the story of The Last Supper can still be important to people in the world today?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that the story of The Last Supper can still be important to people in the world today because Jesus' humble act encouraging kindness and equality among people is still an important message relevant for today's world.