

Prayer Ritual to Celebrate the Last Supper

PREPARATION

Place students into six groups and explain that they are to prepare for the prayer ritual that focuses on Jesus at the Last Supper by brainstorming specific ways Jesus used his ears, eyes, hands, words, memories and feelings during this meal. Give each group card cut-outs of ears, eyes, hands, mouth, thought bubbles and heart (see following page) onto which to write or draw their responses. At the time of the prayer ritual, place a chalice, paten, and candle in the middle of a circle.

GATHERING

The teacher invites students to bring their cut-outs with them and to come and sit in a circle in silence. As they sit the teacher asks students to take a few moments to be still, as a candle in the middle of the circle is lit.

The teacher reads the opening reading, 1 Corinthians 11: 23b-26; 33.

Then, each group in turn reads how Jesus used his hands, feet and so on during the Last Supper. At the conclusion of each group's reading they place the cut-out into the middle of the circle. The ritual concludes with the closing prayer.

Leader:

We gather to recall how Jesus celebrated the Last Supper with his friends. We will begin by listening to a passage from Scripture.

Reader:

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

The Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

So then, my brothers and sisters, when you come together to eat, wait for one another.

This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

PRAYERS OF THANKS

Leader:

On the night before he died, Jesus shared a special meal with his friends. He was experiencing many feelings remembering many things on this night. We celebrate these feelings and memories at Eucharist:

1. Jesus used his eyes. (Invite that group to read their response and to place their cut-out into the middle of the circle).

(Allow some silence for reflection between each group's responses.)

2. Jesus used his ears...

(Silence)

3. Jesus used his voice...

(Silence)

4. Jesus used his hands...

(Silence)

5. Jesus was remembering...

(Silence)

6. Jesus felt

(Silence)

CLOSING PRAYER

Loving God, the symbols of Eucharist, the chalice and the paten help us to remember Jesus on this night. When believers share Eucharist they are remembering Jesus. May we truly celebrate Jesus at Eucharist. We ask this through Jesus your son.

All: Amen.

Cut-out Templates for Last Supper Prayer Ritual

The following templates can be expanded to desired size on a photocopier to be distributed to the six groups as detailed on previous page.

