



BACKGROUND

During preparation for First Communion, children become more familiar with the Mass including both the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. At Mass, Jesus is present in the Word and in the Eucharist and both 'feed' us in a special way.

INTRODUCTION

This activity provides children (and parents) an opportunity to engage with scriptures that connect to the Eucharist. At the same time, they are able to consider the way scripture connects to the sacraments we celebrate today. This activity is best done in small groups or as child and parent teams.

YOU WILL NEED:

- A print out of the Eucharist scripture code cards and the scripture pages (print as many as you need for the size of your group)
- Pens/pencils

INSTRUCTIONS

At the session:

1. Explain the activity to the children and parents.
2. Give the teams time to break the code and read the scripture.

DEBRIEF

- Invite the children to read their scripture aloud. Ask questions like:
 - Does anyone have another scripture that sounds similar? If so, have them read it too.
 - What does the author of the scripture want us to know about Jesus?
 - What does this scripture teach us about the Eucharist?
- Here are some supporting notes about the scriptures included in the activity.
 - Mark 14:22-24, Luke 22:19-20 - The Gospel accounts of Jesus instituting the Eucharist.
 - John 6:35-36 - Here Jesus says he is the 'Bread of Life'. This points to the Eucharist as food that gives us strength in our Christian life.
 - Matthew 14:13-21 - The accounts of Jesus feeding the multitude are a scripture foretaste of the way Jesus feeds us in the Eucharist.
 - 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 - In his letter to the Corinthians, St Paul is telling us about the institution of the Eucharist and of it being passed on to others.
 - Acts 2:42 - tells us how the early believers celebrated the Eucharist (breaking of bread) from the very early days of the Church.
 - John 6:48-51 - Jesus tells us he is the living bread that will help us forever.

Code

breaker

A - @ N - 4
B - # O - 5
C - % P -]
D - ^ Q - :
E - & R - ;
F - * S - <
G - ! T - >
H - (U - ?
I -) V - /
J - 0 W - ~
K - + X - \$
L - = Y - `
M - 3 Z - }

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I am the that gives

Your ancestors ate in the desert, and

later they died. But the from

 has come down, so that no one who eats it will

ever die. I am that from

Everyone who eats it will live forever.

My is the giving I

give to the people of this world. (John 6:48-51)

They spent their learning from
>) 3 &

the , and they were
@] 5 < > = & <

like to each other. They also broke
* @ 3) = `

 and
; & @ ^

 together. (Acts 2:42)
] ; @ ` & ^

Jesus replied:

I am the that gives ! No one
 # ; & @ ^ =) * &
who to me will ever be .
 % 5 3 & < (? 4 ! ; `.
No one who has in me will ever be
 * @) > (
 . I have told you already that you
> () ; < > `.
have seen me and still do not have
 in me. (John 6:35-36)
 * @) > (

During the meal Jesus took some bread in his

hand. He blessed the bread and broke it.

Then he gave it to his disciples and said, "Take this.

It is my body." Jesus picked up a cup of wine and

gave thanks to God. He gave it to his disciples, and

they all drank some. Then he said, "This is my

blood, which is poured out for many people,

and with it God makes his agreement.

(Mark 14:22-24)

Jesus took some in his hands and gave

 for it. He broke the

 and handed it to his .

Then he said, "This is my , which is given
for you. this as a way of remembering me!"

After the he took another cup of in

his hands. Then he said, "This is my . It

is out for you, and with it makes

his new agreement. (Luke 22:19-20)

But they said, "We have only $\bar{*} \bar{)} \bar{/} \bar{\&}$
 small loaves of $\bar{\#} \bar{;} \bar{\&} \bar{@} \bar{\wedge}$ and two
 $\bar{*} \bar{)} \bar{<} \bar{(}$." Jesus asked his disciples to
 bring the $\bar{*} \bar{5} \bar{5} \bar{\wedge}$ to him, and he told the
 $\bar{\%} \bar{;} \bar{5} \bar{\sim} \bar{\wedge}$ to sit down on the $\bar{!} \bar{;} \bar{@} \bar{<} \bar{<}$.
 Jesus took the five loaves and the two
 $\bar{*} \bar{)} \bar{<} \bar{(}$. He looked up toward $\bar{(} \bar{\&} \bar{@} \bar{/} \bar{\&} \bar{4}$
 and blessed the food. Then he broke the
 $\bar{\#} \bar{;} \bar{\&} \bar{@} \bar{\wedge}$ and handed it to his disciples,
 and they gave it to the $\bar{]} \bar{\&} \bar{5} \bar{]} \bar{=} \bar{\&}$.
 After everyone had eaten all they wanted,
 Jesus' disciples picked up
 $\bar{>} \bar{\sim} \bar{\&} \bar{=} \bar{/} \bar{\&}$ large baskets of leftovers.
 There were about 5,000 men who ate, not
 counting the women and children.

(Matthew 14:17-21)

I have already told you what the Lord

did on the night he was betrayed.

And it came from the himself. He
took some in his hands. Then after

he had given thanks, he it and
said, "This is my , which is given for
you. Eat this and remember me."

After the , Jesus took a cup of
 in his hands and said, "This is my
blood, and with it makes his new
agreement with you.

 this and remember me." The Lord
meant that when you eat this bread and

 from this cup, you tell about his
 until he comes.

(1 Corinthians 11:23-26)