

Taste and See



Find

- The character Mark who is helping to tell the Easter story
- A piece of bread or a cracker to place behind Mark's back
- Food or pictures of food that we eat at special times (eg. birthday cake, mince pies)

Introduce

Introduce Mark, a boy who has been on an Easter adventure - he will help us to explore our Easter story today. Invite a child to come and look what Mark has hidden (they will find the bread you have hidden there). Today we are going to be looking at an event that happened in the last week of Jesus' life on earth. Ask the children if they can think of something that happened during Jesus' last week where he ate bread - eventually point them to the Last Supper.

Today's story took place around a meal. Jesus and his friend had travelled to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover festival. This was a very important time for the Jews when they remembered how God had rescued Moses and the people from Egypt where they had been slaves. Every year since then, and even still today, the Jews remember this amazing story with a meal. Having a meal with your friends and family can be very special - so I am sure the disciples were really excited to be with Jesus at this special time.

Play

Before we think more about today's story we are going to play a fun game about foods that we associate with special occasions.

Here you will need to have two sets of cards and two sets of pictures. The cards will have the name of five or six celebrations written on them (Christmas, Easter, Birthday, Bonfire Night, American Independence Day) and the pictures will be of the corresponding food (mince pies, chocolate eggs, birthday cake, toffee apples, pumpkin pie).

Have two teams of children playing against one another. The idea is for them to match the celebration with the food - it is a race to see who will win first. Prizes could be given if appropriate.

In our game we were thinking about foods that remind us of special celebrations. Today's story is all about how Jesus used the bread and the wine as a sign of what was to happen to him.



continued...



Talk

As we have said the story we are going to hear today is about a very special meal that Jesus and his friend had together and many believe it was actually held in Mark's house. The Bible tells us that the meal included, among other food, some wine and bread, not like the bread we usually eat but flat bread that the Jews ate during the Passover.

Imagine having Jesus at your house for a meal there would be so much to get ready. There would be the cleaning to do, the table to get ready, you might even want to put special decorations up. I am sure that Mark had to help his Mum to get ready for Jesus and his friends. This was a special time for all the Jewish people because it was the time of the Passover celebration. This was a huge party when the people remembered the story of Moses – this was a really important story from their history.

As Jesus ate the bread he took a piece and he broke it and said, 'Soon my body will be like this bread– it is going to be hurt and broken just like the bread is broken.'

He then took a cup of wine and said, 'This wine is red like my blood and in a few days time my blood is going to be shed to show how much God loves the world.'

This was difficult for his disciples to understand and they didn't know what he meant.

Question: Does anyone here know what part of the Easter story Jesus was preparing the disciples for with the bread and red wine? (Jesus was actually referring to the crucifixion and if appropriate you could explain that Christians still use the bread and wine to remember this today).

What was supposed to be a very happy meal had become a sad time. Jesus' friends began to realise that something terrible was soon going to happen.

How do you think Jesus' friends felt at the meal? It must have been a very sad and a confusing time for them. That is important for us to remember. Sometimes we may be faced with difficult times and just want them to go away. Sadly because of the world we live in that isn't always possible. Even Jesus and his friends had to go through this hard time. One thing we do know though, is that no matter what is happening Jesus wants to help us get through it.

Pray

Father God help us when times are tough to look to you for help. We think about all the people we know or we have heard about who need your help today and pray that you will be with them, helping them and caring for them. We also pray that you will give us the eyes to see when people are in need and give us the heart to be willing to help. Amen

Classroom follow up:

Invite a Christian to come in and explain the communion service to the children.

In groups get the children to plan a meal for a special occasion – if you kept it simple they could even make the meal and invite someone special to share it with them.

Tell the story of Moses and the first Passover meal. Jesus is sometimes known as the Passover lamb – why do you think this is so? (Discuss the link with the lamb's blood that was put on the doors and Jesus' death)

