

All Ages Lesson August 22, 2021

THE ROAD TO ETERNAL LIFE

Focus Scripture: John 6:56-69

Purpose: To help children explore the concept of eternal life, or God's time

Preparation

Worship Table - **Green cloth**

Pictures and materials for Story and Integrating the Theme are at the end of the lesson
Calendar and a clock with a face

Lighting of the Christ Candle

We light the Christ candle to remind us that God is always with us.

Opening Prayer

Dear God,
thank you for our happy times when we are playing with our friends.
Thank you for quiet times when we can learn about you.
Amen.

Opening Song/Closing Song

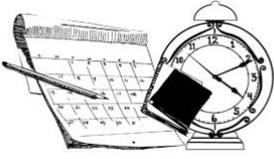
**Sing
Verses
1 and 2**

Come and wor-ship God; feel God's love a-round you.
Come and learn of God; feel God's love a-round you.
Go and serve your God; feel God's love a-round you.

Know that God is with us when we're in this place.
Know that God is with us when we're in this place.
Know that God is with us ev-ry-where we go.

Words and music: Donald Schmidt, arr. Micahel Bloss
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Introducing the Theme



In advance: Bring a large calendar and a large clock (**preferably an analog clock, with a face.**)

Present the first 4 paragraphs of the Theme Conversation. **(The remainder is part of Exploring the Theme.)** If times allows, follow it with some of the discussion questions from Option B.

Have you ever had the experience of losing track of time? Maybe you're busy playing or you're reading a really good book, but you don't notice time at all. You're really enjoying yourself; you're lost in what you're doing, and you don't want to stop. Has that happened to you? And have you ever had the opposite experience, when time seems to drag? Maybe you're waiting in a long line-up at the grocery store or are doing a chore that seems to take forever. One minute can sometimes seem like three hours.

(Hold up the clock.) This is a clock. We use clocks to keep track of time. A clock allows us to see the passage of hours and minutes so that we know when it is time for lunch, time for our favourite TV show, or time to go to bed. **(Hold up the calendar.)** This is another thing that we use to keep track of time. We use a calendar to keep track of days, weeks, and months so that we know when it is the day to come to church, which day is your birthday, which week is spring break, or which month is summer vacation. We use both calendars and clocks to keep track of time.

The people in Jesus' day kept track of time differently. Instead of using a clock, they watched the sun as it moved through the sky to see the passage of the hours from morning into afternoon and then evening. Instead of using a calendar, they watched the moon to see the passage of weeks and months. When there was a new moon, that was the start of a new month.

But, like us, they experienced time not always feeling the same. They too felt time flying by when they were having fun and dragging on at other times.

Option B: If the Theme Conversation has already been presented

Do you remember how the people in Jesus' day kept track of time? **(by watching the sun and the moon).** You also talked about things that we use to keep track of time today, like clocks and calendars. Most of us have several clocks in our houses. Where are the clocks in your house? **(on the wall, on the computer, on the TV, on the microwave, beside the beds, etc.)**

What do you use a clock for in your household? How do you know when it is time to go to bed or time to get ready to go to church? Do you have any calendars in your house? What do you use them for? **(to keep track of team practices, dentist appointments, family birthdays, vacations, visits or other special events, etc.)**

You also talked about how time sometimes seems to pass quickly, while at other times it drags on. Have you ever experienced that? **(Give each child an opportunity to share.)**

Exploring the Theme

In today's Bible story, Jesus taught his disciples about time. Before we hear about that, let's sing our song about Jesus' stories.

Sing: "Tell Me the Stories of Jesus," verse 1

Lyrics

Tell me the stories of Jesus, I love to hear
Things I would ask Him to tell me, if He were here
Scenes by the wayside, tales of the sea
Stories of Jesus, tell them to me.

People in Jesus' day experienced time a lot like we do. You may remember our Bible story from a few weeks ago. A large crowd of people were so absorbed by what Jesus was teaching that they lost track of time. Before they knew it, it was dinner time, and everyone was hungry. Do you remember what happened next? **(a small boy shared his 5 small loaves of bread and 2 pieces of fish; Jesus blessed the food and it fed everyone)**

Time was also passing by quickly for the disciples. They had been travelling with Jesus for 2½ years. To them, it seemed like a very short time. Then Jesus began to teach them that he would be put to death by people who didn't understand that he had been sent by God. Jesus said that it would be the disciples' job to carry on his work. The disciples were very worried. They hadn't had enough time to learn all they needed to know. Jesus couldn't leave them. They needed him with them.

So Jesus began to teach about another kind of time – time that cannot be measured with a calendar or a clock, or by watching the sun and the moon - God's time. Jesus told the disciples not to worry because God's spirit would help them and guide them. And he said that



in time – God's time – they would be with him again.

(Show the teaching picture "The Last Supper.") Jesus knew that it would be hard for his disciples to carry on after he had been put to death. So he gave them something to do that would help them feel him with them. He asked them to share bread and wine together in a special meal. He knew that when they did that it would be a special moment of God's time.

But when Jesus died, the disciples were very sad and lonely. At first, they forgot what Jesus had said. Jesus died on a Friday, and Saturday seemed like a day that would never end. The time went by so slowly without Jesus. But on Sunday morning something amazing

happened. Do you remember what happened? (**Encourage the children to tell the Easter story. Help them fill in details, as necessary.**)

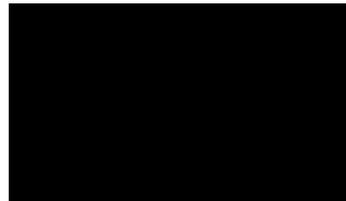
Now it was God's time! Jesus was with them again, but in a new way. Jesus appeared to the disciples many times, and then he went to be with God. After that, the disciples remembered what Jesus had promised them – that in time, they too would go to be with him in God's time, a time that goes on forever.

So they began to share the special meal together, knowing that Jesus was with them as they shared the bread and wine. And they knew that one day – in God's time – they would be with him again.

Memory Verse: *Those who eat bread representing my flesh and drink juice representing my blood abide in me, and I in them.*

John 6:56

Dance Song:
“The Last Supper”



Integrating the Theme – “Decorating Eggs” (All Ages)

Let's celebrate Easter in August! And why not? Every Sunday is a “little Easter.” Eggs remind us of the stone that was rolled away from the tomb. When that happened, Jesus was living in God's time. Easter eggs also remind us of Jesus' promise – that when we die, we will go to live with him in God's time, but in a different form.

In advance: Bring hard-cooked eggs (**one per child**), colouring mixture (**food colouring diluted in water, with a little vinegar added**), bowls, spoons, paper towels, wax crayons or markers and stickers.

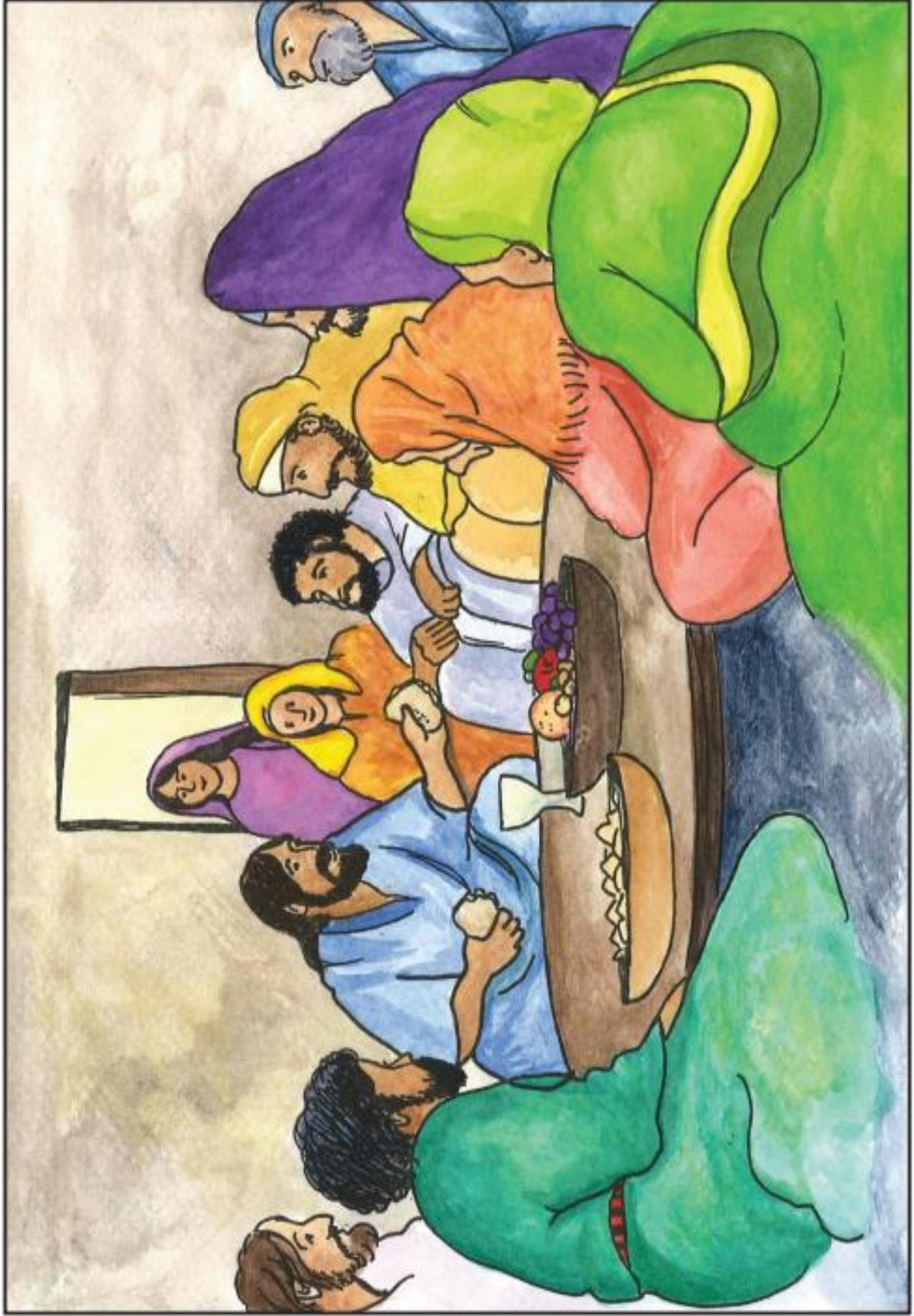
Have you ever decorated Easter eggs? Here are some bowls of food colouring. Carefully dip your egg in a bowl. If you leave it longer, the colour will come out darker. If you want to do more than one colour, set your egg on a piece of paper towel and let it dry for a minute or two before dipping in a second colour.

If you are using wax crayons, have the children draw on the eggs before dipping them in the food colouring. If you are using markers and stickers, they should colour the eggs first and let them dry for a few minutes before decorating.

Closing Prayer

Dear God,
we praise you for the new life of Easter,
and for the promise that one day
we too will live with you.
May the joy and hope of Easter
fill our lives, every day.
Amen.

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The Last Supper