

# 50

Bible: Luke 19:28–40; 22:7–23

## BROKEN FOR YOU

**THE AIM:** To understand why Jesus died – the new covenant

### The aim unpacked

This session is made up of two different passages: the Palm Sunday story and the Last Supper. They present young people with two different pictures of Jesus – as the king foretold in Zechariah 9:9 and as the sacrifice made for us all. Jesus enters Jerusalem in triumph, people cheer and shout out praises, and yet, four days later, Jesus is talking about his broken body and shed blood. What does all this mean? Why has this transformation from ruler to sacrifice come about?

## WAY IN



theGRID MAGAZINE

**WHAT:** food preparation

**WHY:** to think about the background to this session's Bible passage

**WITH:** magazine page 303 and ingredients listed there, utensils listed below

**1** Divide the young people into groups of three or four. Each group will need a chopping board, knife, grater, spoon and bowl, a copy of the recipe and the ingredients. Ask each group to prepare their charoset according to the recipe.

**2** The dish forms part of the Passover ritual celebrated by Jews to remember their escape from Egypt described in the book of Exodus. Read Exodus 5:6–17. Explain that charoset represents the straw and mud the Israelites had to use to make bricks.

**3** If you are using the Passover worship ritual later in the session, save your charoset for this. Otherwise, encourage everyone to taste it. Discuss how Passover was a big part of Jewish life and how everyone would have known the symbolism of all the elements of the festival, especially the sacrifice of a lamb.



SCENE SETTER

**WHAT:** discussion

**WHY:** to think about the nature of kingship

**1** Discuss the following questions with your group:

- What do you think it would be like to be a king?
- What kind of things do you think kings (and queens) do?

**2** Ask each person to think about where they would most like to be king or queen of (it could be a real or an imaginary place). Discuss their answers.

**3** Ask: 'If you could only be in charge for a short time, what three things would you do as king or queen of your kingdom?' Discuss any reasons the young people have.

**4** Ask: 'What do you think makes a "good" king? Why?'



THEMED GAME

**WHAT:** team game

**WHY:** to think about what makes a king or queen

**WITH:** newspapers, foil, sticky tape, scissors

**1** Divide your group into teams of four or five people. Give each team a pile of newspapers, a roll of foil, a roll of sticky tape and a pair of scissors.

**2** Ask each team to select a model. Challenge them to dress the model as a king or queen, using only the items you have provided. Give them a short time limit to make this even more fun!

**3** When time is up, vote for who looks the most regal. You could use this opportunity to discuss what we expect kings and queens to look like, and why.



## LEVEL 1: CONNECT

**WHAT:** drawing or writing the Bible story

**WHY:** to understand why Jesus died – the new covenant

**WITH:** Bibles, paper, pens

**1** Read Luke 19:28–40. Explain to your group that this was a time of great excitement for the followers of Jesus. They believed he was the king who would rescue them from the Romans, who had occupied their country and controlled their lives. How do you think they were feeling as Jesus rode into the capital city?

**2** Encourage everyone to write a diary entry or draw a cartoon strip, imagining they were a person in the crowd on that day. Ask them to think about these questions:

- What would they have seen and heard?
- What would they have thought about Jesus?
- What would they have expected to happen next?

**3** Encourage the young people to share what they have written or drawn. Talk about what people might have been expecting from Jesus. What would you expect if a man rode into London today surrounded by people shouting and celebrating?

**4** Jesus is a king, but he didn't turn out the way most people expected. Instead of fighting the Romans, he was killed himself. By being an unexpected kind of king, Jesus set up a new agreement between God and his people. Ask these questions:

- What kind of king do you think Jesus is?
- Where do you think his kingdom might be found?



## LEVEL 2: INTERFACE

**WHAT:** Bible study and discussion

**WHY:** to understand why Jesus died – the new covenant

**WITH:** magazine page 304, Bibles

**1** Read Luke 22:7–13. Using page 304, discuss the preparations the disciples would have had to make for Passover. If you made charoset earlier, then discuss what that was like to make and what it tasted like.

**2** Now read Luke 22:14–20. Ask the group to consider why Jesus said that he was giving his body for his followers. Why does the wine signify the new agreement between God and his people? Jesus was going to give up his life so that we might be forgiven. The wine symbolised Jesus' blood that was going to be shed for us – a sacrifice like the Passover lamb. The young people might be familiar with the symbols of bread and wine, but not with the meaning behind them, so take some time to ensure the young people investigate them as much as they need to.



## LEVEL 3: SWITCH ON

**WHAT:** Bible study

**WHY:** to understand why Jesus died – the new covenant

**WITH:** Bibles, paper and pens

**1** Read Exodus 12:21–30 and discuss with your group:

- What do the Israelites have to do to be spared from death?
- What happens to the Egyptians?

**2** God made an agreement (covenant) with the Israelites when they were in the desert. He gave them rules to obey, and in return promised to be with them and protect them. The agreement was sealed by the sacrificing of animals on a special altar. The blood of the animals meant the agreement was official.

**3** Read Luke 22:14–20 and discuss with your group:

- What do you think Jesus means when he says, 'This cup is the new agreement that God makes with his people'?
- What might this have meant to the disciples, who were used to the idea of animal sacrifices being offered to God?

**4** The new covenant that Jesus speaks about is sealed by his death on the cross. Jesus takes the place of the sacrifice, taking all the sins of humanity to the cross and paying for them with his death. Instead of trying to make up for our sin by following rules and regulations (like the Israelites under the old covenant), we can know that God is able to forgive us because Jesus died on our behalf.

**5** Challenge the young people to think about what it means to be forgiven for their sins.

# RESPOND



## MUSICAL

**WHAT:** singing

**WHY:** to thank God for this new agreement

**WITH:** music and lyrics for the song 'The Servant King', pens, paper

**1** Discuss with your group: 'How is it possible to be a sacrifice and a king? Can you imagine how hard it would be to fulfil both these roles properly?' Encourage the young people to reflect on this as they sing the words of the song.

**2** Lead a time of worship using the song 'The Servant King', and other songs that your group knows about Jesus' sacrifice and the new agreement between God and us.

**3** If the group is particularly musical, you could write your own song as a response to this session's Bible passages.



## PRACTICAL

**WHAT:** drama

**WHY:** to tell others of why Jesus died

**WITH:** flip-chart paper, pens, props as necessary

**1** Discuss with the group what they have learned from this session's Bible passages and exploration. What is it that has stood out for them? Write down any ideas that come up more than once; then, ask the young people which idea they could create a drama about, to tell others what they have learned.

**2** Spend some time devising a drama which communicates the idea that the group has chosen.

**3** When you have finished, you could perform it to other groups, or maybe you could talk with the leaders of your church about including it in an upcoming Easter service.



## CREATIVE

**WHAT:** creative prayer

**WHY:** to reflect on the meaning of Jesus' death

**WITH:** charoset (prepared earlier), horseradish sauce, red grape juice, matzos, paper cups

**1** Set out the food on a table which everyone can sit around. Pour everyone some grape juice, but ask the young people not to drink it yet.

**2** Explain that you are going to use the food on the table to help you to pray and reflect on Jesus' death and what it means to us. Read these words and perform the actions in italics:

As we take and break the unleavened bread, we remember that Jesus was broken because of us, because of the things we have done wrong. *(Take a matzo and break it, and invite everyone else to do the same.)*

As we taste the bitter herbs, we remember the things we have done wrong. We remember that our sin makes God sad. *(Take half of your matzo, dip it in the horseradish and eat it. Invite everyone else to do the same.)*

As we taste the sweet charoset, we remember that God wants to set us free from our lives of sin. *(Take the other half of your matzo and dip it in the charoset and eat it, encouraging everyone else to do the same.)*

As we drink the juice of the grape, we remember that Jesus' blood has rescued us from death. *(Drink some juice and invite everyone else to do the same.)*

We thank you, God, for the story of your people. We thank you that we are part of that story. We thank you that you sent Jesus to be one of us, to find us and to save us by his death on the cross. We thank you for his resurrection and the promise of new life it brings to us all. Amen.

### MORE ON THIS THEME:

If you want to do a short series with your group, other sessions that work well with this one are:

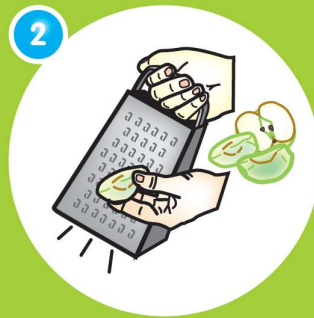
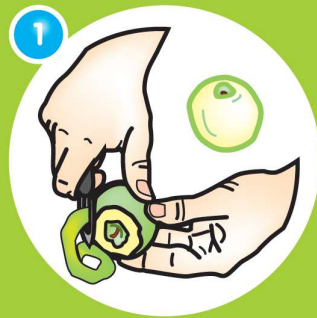
51 'He is not here!' Luke 24:1–35

52 We are witnesses Luke 24:36–49

## Broken for you

**Bible bit**  
**Luke 19:28–40; 22:7–23**

Jesus enters Jerusalem as the Messiah, the one who will save God's people, fulfilling a prophecy from Zechariah 9:9. But four days later, Jesus tells his friends that he will suffer, his body will be broken and his blood will be shed. This is the new agreement, the agreement that means we can all be saved.



## Make charoset

Charoset is a traditional Jewish dish served as part of the Passover meal. Here is a recipe so that you can try making it yourself.

### What you need:

- 2 firm eating apples (Granny Smith or similar)
- 1/2 cup chopped walnuts (or other nuts)
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 2–3 tablespoons red grape juice
- 1 tablespoon honey

### What you do:

Peel the apples and remove the core by cutting them into large pieces. Discard the core and peel and grate the apple. Put all the ingredients into a bowl and mix well.

This dish has a special meaning. You can read about the story it relates to in the Bible: Exodus 5:6–17. The charoset represents the mud and straw the Israelites used to make bricks for the Egyptians. Thankfully it doesn't taste like mud or straw! When this dish is eaten, it reminds the Jews that they were slaves in Egypt but that God set them free. You can read the rest of the story at the beginning of the book of Exodus in the Old Testament.



# Passover

When Jesus sends his disciples off to 'prepare for Passover' (Luke 22:7-12), have you ever wondered what they had to do? Here is a quick guide to some of the things they would have had to organise, and why. They would have had a very busy day!

## Kill a lamb and roast the meat

When God rescued the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, they were commanded to kill a lamb and paint some of its blood on the doorposts of their houses. God sent the angel of death to Egypt that night and every first born son was killed – only the houses which had blood on the doorposts were spared. Roast lamb was eaten at every Passover to remind the people of how God spared them from death.



## Prepare some 'unleavened' bread

The bread we usually eat is made with yeast, which helps it rise and makes it fluffy. When the Israelites fled Egypt they were in such a hurry there was no time to add yeast to the dough they had made, and no time to let it rise. As the people travelled, they baked the dough to make hard, flat loaves. Every Passover this type of bread was eaten as a reminder of the escape from Egypt.



## Gather bitter herbs and greens

Bitter herbs were eaten to remind the people of the bitterness of slavery. Greens were eaten to symbolise the coming of spring and the new life of freedom which the slaves looked forward to when they left Egypt.



## Prepare charoset

This is a sweet paste which supposedly resembles the straw and mud which the Israelites used to make bricks for the Egyptians when they were slaves. The sweetness of the dish symbolises the sweetness of freedom.

Jewish families still eat this meal today, once a year in spring. They have celebrated this feast every year since they were released from slavery in Egypt. Jesus would have grown up celebrating it with his family each year, and he shared it with his disciples before he died. We sometimes call that meal 'The Last Supper'.

