

Rhythms of Grace • August • The Eucharist • Year 2

Theme: The Eucharist

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 11:24-25

Date: _____

Location: _____

Volunteer Role:

Facilitator _____

Storyteller _____

Celebrant _____

Center Leader _____

Guide _____

Items Needed for this Session

Gathering: large white piece of material to fit the altar you use for Eucharist, colorful paints, water, towels, two plastic coverings, protection for table and floor, if available small sponge paint rollers, pencils, paintbrushes

Storytelling: Bible, Jesus doll, long low table, chalice, paten, stole, purificator, altar cloth, story card pictures

Response Activities:

Making chalices/patens: plastic wine glasses and dessert plates, gems, glue, stickers

Setting the table: plate, utensils, cup, napkin, 8 X 10" placemats (see resources)

Making stoles: felt stoles (see resources for pattern, 2 pcs sewn together), cut out symbols from colored felt, gems, felt glue

Grape juice: grapes, plastic gloves, big bowl, sieve

Regathering: *Jesu, Jesu*, "What's Missing?" game, elements: a chalice, paten, purificator, altar cloth and a drawing of all the items (see resources), elements for the Eucharistic table (see Eucharist-Book 1)

Eucharist: altar table and elements (pita bread/rice crackers, juice, chalice, paten, purificator, corporal, altar cloth), Eucharistic Prayer (see Book 1 p. 100), *Gather our Hearts* song lyrics (see Book 1 p. 99)

Dismissal: *Jesus Loves Me* with hand motions

Session Plan • Eucharist • August Year 2

Gathering: Spread plastic covering over the table. Then spread a cloth to be painted over the plastic covering. Participants will pick a paint color and make handprints on the cloth. If participant does not want to use hand (put paint on hand) trace hand on cloth and paint with brush. Let cloth dry during storytelling and response activities. Use if dry for Eucharist

Storytelling: With the Jesus doll and the Bible gather around the low table with storytelling items and story cards. Tell the story of our Eucharist using the props and pictures. See storytelling.

Response Activities:

Making Stoles: Participants will choose a color stole and decorate. They will glue the decorations on the stoles.

Making Chalice and Paten: Using a plastic wine glass and plate participants will glue the gems and stickers on the items.

Setting the Table: Place utensils, plate, cup and napkin on a prepared placemat (see resources)

Grape Juice: Participants will put on gloves or wash hands then squeeze grapes in the bowl. Pour juice through the sieve into a pitcher.

Regathering: “What’s Missing?” game, Place elements on table with one missing. Using the prepared placemat participants will find the missing element. Singing *Jesu, Jesu*, leader gives participants an Eucharist element and participant brings it to the celebrant then sit back down in the circle around the Eucharistic table.

Eucharist: Sing: *Gather our Hearts*

Gather our hearts, oh God,
Gather our thoughts, oh God.
Bring us together around you.

Celebration of the Eucharist

Dismissal: All sing and sign *Jesus Loves Me*,

Celebrant provides a blessing:

Celebrant: “Go in Peace to Love and Serve the Lord.”

Participant: “Thanks be to God!”

Story Telling • Eucharist • August Yr. 2

Place the Jesus doll and the Bible with the storyteller.

Also place the chalice, paten, altar cloth, words of the Eucharist and the story cards with the storyteller.

Last month we talked about all different kinds of families that we belong to. Who do you have in your family? *(have participants respond)* Did you know that you are also part of a bigger family...the family of God....Remember last month we talked about joining God's family when we are baptized.

Many families have special celebrations to remind them of special events in the life of the family. Do you have any special celebrations in your family? *(participants respond)*

Many of these celebrations include a meal. When your family has a celebration with a meal what is on your table? *(if able have participants brainstorm; tablecloth, cups, plates...as they are mentioned, place altar cloth, candle, chalice, etc. on table)* When we have special celebrations with a meal some people add: special tablecloths, special dishes and glasses. Sometimes people also dress up for the celebrations.

Jesus had a group of friends he felt were like his family. They were together for a special meal to celebrate a holiday called Passover. But, Jesus knew that he would not be with his friends much longer. He wanted to leave them with a way to remember Him when He was gone, a way that He could be with them as they shared their special meals. He wanted to leave a gift for them and for us. As the end of the meal, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, and broke it. *(Break bread in the air as a priest does and then hold up the paten.)* He gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body." Then He took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, *(also repeat the motions a priest does)* saying, "Drink, all of you. This is my blood of the new promise." All of those around the table did as Jesus asked. And we still do as Jesus asked. When two or more of us are gathered together to remember Jesus (God's son), we listen to the stories of our family (the family of God) and think about them and what they mean to us. We pray to God- giving thanks for all the gifts that have been given to us and to ask for help for those who are sick or in need, we offer the gifts from our work, and using the story of this special last supper with Jesus a priest or a bishop leads us in asking God's Holy Spirit to come and bless the bread and wine...break the bread, and share the bread and the wine, with all. Then we thank God for all the gifts we have been given including this special gift of Jesus.

Can you think of some other gifts that God has given us for which we are thankful? (*have participants respond*) Let's remember these for later when we share Jesus's meal, the Eucharist.

Let's also practice giving and receiving Jesus's special gift to us, the Eucharist. (*place a few of the sheets with the words of distribution around the table for the children to refer to*) Also give them a set to take home with their other items from the activity responses.

Amen. *Continue by explaining the activities.*