

DIVE

The Lord is my shepherd,
I lack nothing.
He makes me lie down
in green pastures,
he leads me beside
quiet waters,
he refreshes my soul.
He guides me along
the right paths
for his name's sake.

Even though I walk
through the darkest valley,
I will fear no evil
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.

You prepare a table
before me
in the presence
of my enemies.
You anoint my head
with oil;
my cup overflows.
Surely your goodness
and love will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house
of the Lord forever.

—Psalm 23, NIV

Life Is a Journey . . .

Dive

Year 2, Unit 1

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A SPIRIT-LED JOURNEY

Acts 16:6-15, NIV

5. After the vision, Paul and Silas left the next day, leaving the brothers and sisters in Philippi. They went straight to Neapolis, then to Philippi, which was the leading city of Macedonia. Several

PREVIEW

6. On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there. One of those listening was a woman from the city of Thyatira named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth. She was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message. When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. "If you consider me a believer in the Lord," she said, "come and stay at my house." And she persuaded us.

4. So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us."

After Paul had seen the
we got ready at once to
for Macedonia, concluding
God had called us to preach
the gospel to them. From Troas
we went out to sea and sailed
for Samothrace, and
the next day we went on to
Neapolis. From there we traveled
to Philippi, a Roman colony and
leading city of that district of
Macedonia. And we stayed there
several days.

3. When they came
to the border of Mysia,
they tried to enter
Bithynia, but the Spirit
of Jesus would not allow
them to.

1. Paul and his
companions traveled
throughout the region of
Phrygia and Galatia,

2. having been
kept by the Holy
Spirit from
preaching the word
in the province of
Asia.

PREVIEW



Walking U

Paul and his companions set off on a journey. What friends has God given you who share your beliefs?

Paul had a vision. Is there anyone or heart to encourage? To help?

PREVIEW

Paul and his friends were on a mission to share the message of God's love. Who in your life has talked with you about Jesus and helped you get to know God?

The Spirit of Jesus directed the way Paul and his friends should go and should not go. When has the Holy Spirit guided you?

What do you think Paul would say to women? What would you explain Jesus to someone you have asked Paul to

With God

that God has put on your mind
To share God's love with?

Lydia and her family were baptized. Why
do you think it is important for God's
people to be baptized?

PREVIEW

The Lord opened Lydia's heart to respond to
the message. How has the Lord been working in
your heart lately?

Paul said as he spoke to the
you say if you were trying to
someone? What questions would
if you were there that day?

Q. Where does such faith come from?

A. The Holy Spirit creates faith in my heart by the gospel and
makes it sure by the sacraments.

—Q&A 43, Q&A: A Summary of Biblical Teachings

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Remembering . . .

Use this diagram to compare the Passover with the Lord's Supper. Write similarities in the space where the two circles overlap. Record the differences in the outer edges of each circle.

PREVIEW

The Passover: Exodus 12



PREVIEW

The Lord's Supper: Matthew 26:17-30



The Blood of the Lamb

PREVIEW

Passover

Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household. . . .

They are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs. That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast. . . . Eat it in haste; it is the LORD's Passover. On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn of both people and animals, and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the LORD. The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt.

—Exodus 12:3, 7-8, 11-13

Illustration by Flavia Sorrentino

**I will remember the deeds of the LORD; yes, I will remember
your miracles of long ago. I will consider all your works and
meditate on all your mighty deeds. Amen!**

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The Lord's Supper

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body." Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."

—Matthew 26:26-28, NIV

PREVIEW

At Passover God brought judgment and death to the households in Egypt, but when he saw the Israelites' doorposts covered with blood his judgment passed over them. The cup of wine or juice at the Lord's Supper reminds us that all who believe in Jesus are covered with his blood too, just like the doorposts.

Take a piece of red streamer or crepe paper and drape it across your shoulders as a reminder of Jesus' blood, poured out for you.

Like the Israelites, God's judgment will pass over us too. All who believe in Jesus are forgiven—free from the death our sins deserve—all because Jesus died (like the lamb) instead of us, and rose again!

Take a moment to thank God for the forgiveness he gives you through Jesus!

His Death, Our Life

In the Old Testament a lamb was often killed and sacrificed to God to pay the death penalty for sins committed by people. But a lamb could never take all the punishment for human sin—someone else had to do that.

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”

—John 1:29

“He [Jesus] himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.”

—1 Peter 2:24

PREVIEW

Like the lamb at Passover, Jesus’ death means life for us. A new life dedicated to God.

The bread at the Lord’s Supper reminds us that Jesus’ body was broken for us. Tear the bread and think about how much Jesus must love you.

Jesus didn’t stay dead; he rose from the grave so that one day we will rise from the dead too!

The Lord’s Supper reminds us that one day we’ll celebrate a feast with Jesus in heaven! Take one of the flowers from the bunch. Stick it in your shirt pocket or tuck it behind your ear or in the pages of your magazine as a reminder that death is not the end for us!



Freedom!

Now the length of time the Israelite people lived in Egypt was 430 years. At the end of the 430 years, to the very day, all the LORD's divisions left Egypt. Because the LORD kept vigil that night to bring them out of Egypt, on this night all the Israelites are to keep vigil to honor the LORD for the generations to come.

—Exodus 12:39-42

Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

—Ephesians 5:1-2

PREVIEW

At the Passover the Israelites were set free from slavery. The Lord's Supper reminds us that we were also set free from slavery to sin because of what Jesus has done for us. You don't have to make the same old choices. You don't have to feel stuck. God wants a better life for you—a life that reflects God's goodness and love. A life with a mission to serve God and others, to make the world a place where Christ's love is felt! God has sent the Holy Spirit to make that life possible.

Do you feel free, or stuck? Take a minute to talk to God about that. Then list some ways that you can live life to show God's goodness and love:

Q&A

Q. What are sacraments?

A. Sacraments are holy signs and seals which the Holy Spirit uses to assure us that we belong to him and are saved by Christ's sacrifice for us on the cross.

—Q&A 44, *Q&A: A Summary of Biblical Teachings*

Q. How many sacraments did Christ command in the New Testament?

A. Two: baptism and the Lord's Supper.

—Q&A 45, *Q&A: A Summary of Biblical Teachings*

PREVIEW

But now, this is what the LORD says—

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have summoned you by name; you are mine.

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;

and when you pass through the rivers,

they will not sweep over you.

When you walk through the fire,

you will not be burned;

the flames will not set you ablaze.

For I am the LORD your God,

the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.”

—Isaiah 43:1-3



PREVIEW

Baptisms in Acts

- ▶ Acts 2:36-43—Pentecost
- ▶ Acts 8:26-38—Ethiopian man
- ▶ Acts 9:1-26—Saul
- ▶ Acts 10:23-36, 44-48—Cornelius and others
- ▶ Acts 8:9-17—People of Samaria
- ▶ Acts 16:13-15—Lydia and her household
- ▶ Acts 16: 22-34—Jailer and his family

Summarize the story in your own words.

What details about baptism are given?

How is the Holy Spirit involved?

Does anything seem different than the last story?

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Who You Are

Remember

I do not always feel like a child of God.
I do not always look like a child of God.
God knows I do not always act like a child of God!
But I am.

I am one of God's children not because
of what I did or because of who I am but
because God chose me,
out of all the universe,
to be his child.

I am owned.

When I am anxious or alone or defeated,
baptism ought to speak a firm word of comfort to me:
"Relax, be calm.

You did not choose me, I chose you."

—William H. Willimon

Remember Who You Are: Baptism, a Model for Christian Life by William H. Willimon; © The Upper Room © 1980; Used by permission from Upper Room Books.®



Which parts of this poem are meaningful to you? Why?

When do you need to remember who you are?

How can you do that?

PREVIEW

Q. How does baptism tell you that Christ's sacrifice is for you personally?

A. In the water of baptism the Holy Spirit assures me that I am joined to Jesus in his death and resurrection, all my sins are washed away, and I am a child of God.

—Q&A 46, Q&A:
A Summary of Biblical Teachings

Is That **What Baptism Means?**

Decide whether the statements below about baptism are true or false. Then discuss them together with your group, or with someone in your family.

- ☐ 1. Water is used in baptism as a sign of cleansing.
- ☐ 2. The water of baptism washes away all our sins.
- ☐ 3. Only infants can be baptized.
- ☐ 4. Baptism is a seal that assures us of God's love for us.
- ☐ 5. Baptism is a sign that we belong to God and to the Christian church.
- ☐ 6. If we're baptized, we're automatically saved.
- ☐ 7. If we've been baptized as infants, God wants us to claim those promises for our own when we're ready.

Bonus:

Make up your own **True** or **False** question about baptism to share with the group!

Q&A

Q. Should children of believing parents also be baptized?

A. Yes. By baptism, they also are promised that God will forgive their sin and will send them the Holy Spirit. They are also marked as part of God's covenant and of the Christian church.

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Q&A 47, Q&A: A Summary of Biblical Teachings



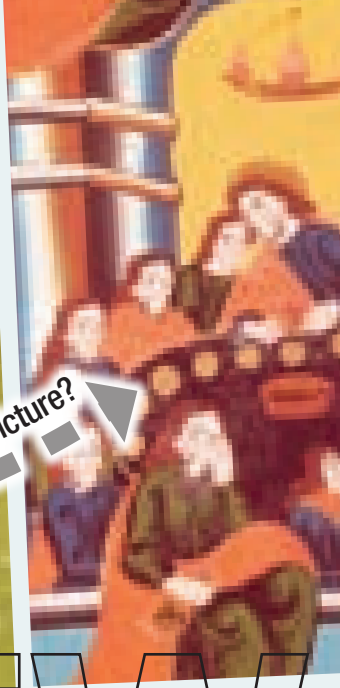
PREVIEW

How does the Lord's
Supper bring the blessings
of Christ's sacrifice on the
cross to you personally?

Who may come to the Lord's table?

The Lord's Supper

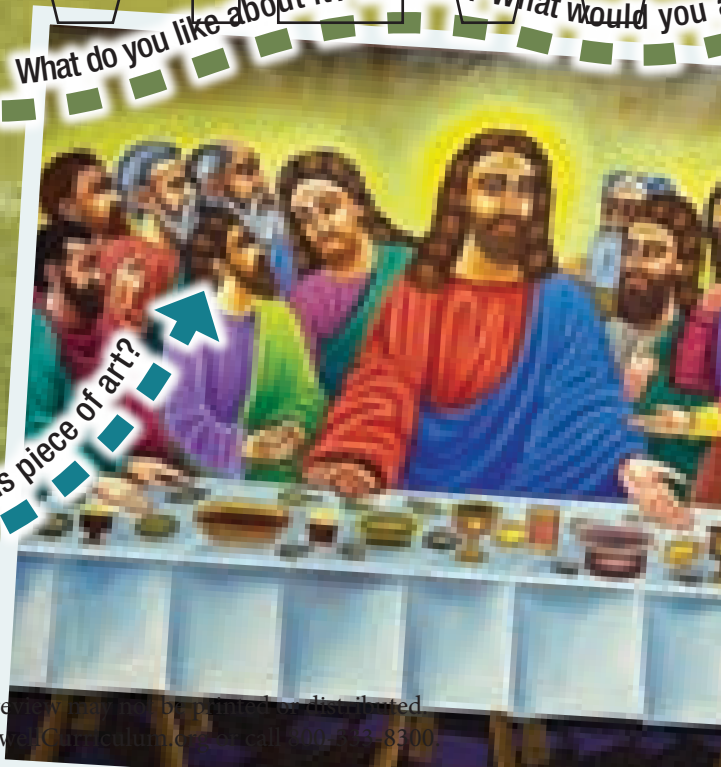
What feelings does this piece of art evoke? What is the mood of the picture?



How is the picture similar to the biblical story in Luke 22? How is it different?

PREVIEW

What do you like about it? Not like? What would you change?

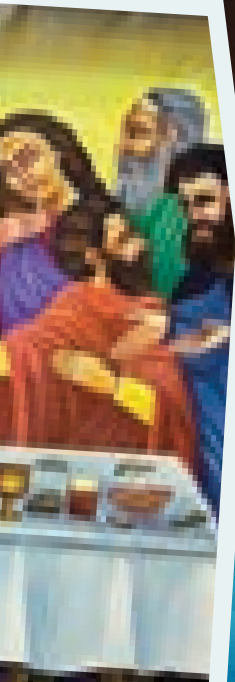


What strikes you the most about this piece of art?



different?
add or change?

PREVIEW





PREVIEW

Q&A

Q. How does the Lord's Supper bring the blessings of Christ's sacrifice on to you personally?

A. I see the loaf broken and the cup poured out and taste the bread and wine. This assures me that on the cross Christ offered his body and poured out his blood for me.

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the cross to

reminds and
me.

Biblical Teaching

Q. Who may come to the Lord's table?

A. Those who confess their sins, who believe Jesus died for them, and who eagerly try to serve and obey him.

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The Master Serves

Do you remember that night? It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew what none of us knew—that the time had come for him to leave us to go to the Father—he had loved us—all those who belonged to him—and now he would show us love to the end.

Even as we were eating the meal, the evil scheme was already at work—the devil had urged Judas to betray Jesus. Though we didn't suspect it, none of this was a secret to Jesus. He already knew that God the Father had given him power over everything, and that he had come from God and would be returning to God. With that in mind, he got up from the table, took off his cloak, and wrapped a towel around his waist.

I watched and thought . . .

Then he filled a basin with water and began washing feet. Our dirty feet. He moved from person to person, washing each of our feet and drying them with the towel he wore around his waist.

When he came to me, I said . . .

Then he went to Simon Peter, who asked, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?”

Jesus responded, “You don’t understand this now, but later it will all make sense.”

But Peter said, “No! You should never have to wash my feet.”

Jesus answered, “Unless you let me wash you, you can’t have a relationship with me.”

“Then, Lord,” Simon Peter replied, “don’t stop with my feet—wash my hands and my head. Make me clean!”

Jesus responded, “Those who have had a bath only need to wash their dusty feet; their whole body is clean. And you are all clean, well—almost all of you.” He said that because he knew one of us wasn’t clean—one of us would betray him.

When he said it, I thought . . .

Then he finished washing our feet and put his cloak back on. He sat back down in his place, and everyone’s eyes were on him. He said, “Does this make sense, what I have done for you?”

I wanted to say . . .

But instead I listened as he said, “It’s right for you to call me ‘Sir,’ ‘Teacher,’ and ‘Lord,’ because I am all of those things. I am the one you have learned from and obeyed for all this time. But as your Lord and Teacher I have washed your feet. Now it’s your turn to wash each other’s feet. I have set an example for you to follow. And since no servant is greater than his or her master, and no messenger is greater than the one who sent him or her, you should do just what I’ve done. And you will be blessed when you do.”

We don’t wash each other’s feet these days, so what does this story say to us now? How can you follow Jesus’ example of serving others today?



PREVIEW



PREVIEW

Q&A

Q. How should you live as a Christian?

A. Freed from Satan's power, and thankful for God's salvation, I should live a new life, freely serving Christ, my Lord, every day in every way.

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Q. How do you make this new life real?

A. By running away from sin and by trying eagerly to do every kind of good as God wants me to.

—Q&A 51, Q&A: A Summary of Biblical Teachings

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Narrator: Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way. When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him,

Jesus: Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.

Narrator: So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly. All the people saw this and began to mutter,

People: He has gone to be the guest of a sinner.

Narrator: But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord,

Zacchaeus: Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.

Narrator: Jesus said to him,

Jesus: Today salvation has come to this house, because this man too is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.



Theater: naeus



PREVIEW

Q&A

Q. How do you make this new life real?

A. By running away from sin and by trying eagerly to do every kind of good as God wants me to.

—Q&A 51: Q&A: A Summary of Biblical Teachings



Q. What is this “good” God wants you to do?

A. Thoughts and actions that are done out of faith, agree with God’s law, and praise God.

—Q&A 52: Q&A: A Summary of Biblical Teachings




What “good” does God
want you to do?

List examples of thoughts and actions that are done
out of faith, agree with God’s law, and praise God:

PREVIEW

Doing *Good*



What are some examples of ways
you can run away from sin?

PREVIEW

Avoiding



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PREVIEW

... Life is a Journey

Dive, Year 2, Unit 1

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