



Jesus Feeds the Disciples

Goal: To remember Jesus' Last Supper in the celebration of communion.

RECOGNIZING GOD'S GRACE . . .

. . . In Mark 14:12-25

In Mark's Gospel, we find Jesus planning to share the Passover meal with his disciples. This became Jesus' last meal with his disciples and a meal with a very special meaning. Jesus wanted things to be set to share this last meal together.

His disciples followed Jesus' instructions and found a man carrying a water jar who showed them to a large upstairs room where they would gather to eat. The Passover meal commemorated God's grace in liberating the people of Israel from slavery in Egypt. The "angel of death" passed over the houses of the Israelites (Exodus 12). God gave the "Passover" meal so people would always remember—with gratitude—God's grace in rescuing the people.

In the Passover meal, God fed the people of God. They ate the food and were nourished by the message the meal celebrated. The Passover meal Jesus shared fed his disciples physically and spiritually. Jesus took the bread and wine and said, "This is my body" (Mark 14:22) and "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many" (v. 24). The Lord's Supper continues to nourish us today—with salvation. We receive grace with gratitude.

. . . In Your Children's Experiences

Children know about special meals—birthdays and meals shared with family on Christmas Eve or Christmas and Easter Sunday. They also know about the special meal shared at church called communion or the Lord's Supper. This story tells them about how this special meal given to us by Jesus began in a room with his disciples in Jerusalem. Birthdays and holidays are times when favorite foods are served and stories are shared. Children can understand how sharing bread and a cup of juice in worship are times when we can remember Jesus and how we can share his love with others.

. . . In Your Relationships with the Children

As you prepare to teach this story about Jesus sharing the Passover meal with his disciples, think about your children. If younger children have not taken part in communion in worship, you will need to explain that to them. A trip to the sanctuary to see the bread and cup will help. If you would like to do more research, older children may enjoy learning about a modern Passover meal and the kind of foods that are served to help Jews remember the time when they were slaves in Egypt, before Moses and Miriam led them into freedom: charoset (a mixture of apples, cinnamon, and nuts), matzo (unleavened flatbread), maror (bitter herbs), karpas (vegetable), and an egg. Some may know about this because of having Jewish friends.

O God, you are present to us in the breaking of bread. Be with us always as we live in the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Supplies

Music & Melodies
(MM) 2023-2024

Stories, Colors & More
(SCM) i-iv, 1, 16, 24

basic supplies
(see p. vii)

blankets or mats

snack

Guided Play

choice 1: copies of **Grace Notes (GN) 1**

choice 2: copies of **GN 2**

choice 3: toy food,
plates, utensils
(optional)

Exploring

choice 1: bread, juice

choice 2: copies of **GN 3**,
clear contact paper

choice 4: copies of
GN 4

Some SCMs are used throughout the quarter. It is a good idea to keep them in an envelope or folder for further use.

GATHERING IN GOD'S GRACE

Before the Children Arrive

Designate a story corner and lay out a blanket or individual mats for the children so their backs will be to the door.

Post **SCM i-ii**, “Your Visual Schedule.” Cut out and glue the arrow marker onto a clothespin. Use the schedule to provide clear expectations and a visual cue for the group.

See **SCM iii-iv** for the key to icons (for example, **LG T**) and ways to adapt for children who have special needs or disabilities.

Select the activities that will work best for you and for your children. You do not need to do everything suggested!

Before the session, cut a 3" x 8" rectangle from brown paper and set it aside. Cut the disciples and Jesus from **GN 2** for use in “Guided Play” choice 2.

“Exploring God’s Grace” choices 1 and 2 require more prep.

Welcoming and Guided Play **LG A**

Greet children as they arrive and say, “Grace and peace be with you.” Prompt them to respond, “And also with you.” Be sensitive to any children who might be coming for the first time. Introduce yourself to parents/caregivers you do not know personally. Tell the parents/caregivers that today’s story is about Jesus’ last supper with his disciples.

Invite the children to choose a guided-play activity to start:

1. **Seek and Find**—Give each child a copy of **GN 1**. Tell them to search for and circle the bread and cups in the picture. Invite the children to color the picture. Suggest that the children who have completed the task help others. Help as needed so that the children do not get frustrated with the activity.
2. **Twelve Disciples**—Invite the children to color one or more of the disciples or Jesus on **GN 2** and fold each figure at the dotted line. When the children have finished, invite them to glue the lower half of the disciples and Jesus figures to one large sheet of construction paper so that each is sitting down. Glue the brown 3" x 8" rectangle in the center of the picture over the figures’ legs, making a table for the disciples and Jesus. Tell the children they will hear a story about a special meal Jesus had with his disciples.
3. **Prepare a Meal**—Invite the children to play in a kitchen station. Invite children to pretend to prepare a special meal.

T *Children can get confused and frustrated by too many “stops and starts.” Try to keep the flow of the session predictable to lessen those feelings.*



Transitioning to Story Time L

When you sense the children are ready to move into group time, call them to the story corner, playing and singing “Let Us Break Bread Together”—**MM 14**; **SCM 16**. Repeat words and phrases as appropriate.

Calling A MS

Instruct the children to walk around the room. Tell them that you will pretend to be Jesus calling his disciples to come sit with him. Call the children one by one, saying, “Disciple (*Name*), come and sit with me.” When all the children are gathered, tell them they are going to hear a story about Jesus having a special meal with his friends.

Be a Friend L

Use the melody of “If You’re Happy and You Know It” to teach the children the following lyrics:

If you want to make a friend, shake a hand. (*Repeat.*)
If you want to make a friend, be a friend who never ends.
If you want to make a friend, shake a hand.

If you want to be a friend, give a high five. (*Repeat.*)
If you want to be a friend, be a friend who never ends.
If you want to be a friend, give a high five.

If you want to be a friend, give a hug. (*Repeat.*)
If you want to be a friend, be a friend who never ends.
If you want to be a friend, give a hug.

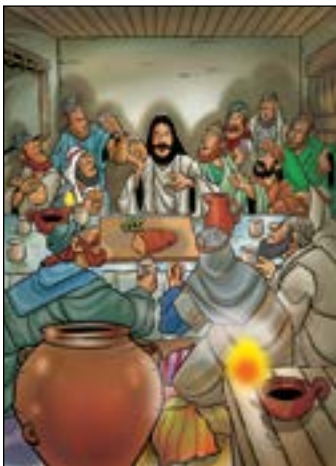
Hearing the Story L

Open the Bible to Mark 14 so the children know the story comes from the Bible. Tell the children that they are going to hear a story about Jesus’ last supper with his disciples.

Read **SCM 1**. Express the emotions of the story in your voice, gestures, and facial expressions. Conclude the story by prompting the children to say, “Amen.”

After you have read the story, invite the children to repeat after you and follow your actions to the following poem:

Here’s what I remember: (*point to head*) /
Jesus loves me. (*place hands over heart*) /
Jesus helps me. (*hold hands out with palms open*) /
Jesus is my friend. (*hold hands with each other*) /



Today’s story as told in Luke’s Gospel can be found in *Growing in God’s Love: A Story Bible*, edited by Elizabeth F. Caldwell and Carol A. Wehrheim (Louisville, KY: Flyaway Books, 2018), www.pcusastore.com.



Here's what I remember: *(point to head)* /
 Jesus had a meal *(pretend to eat)* /
 with his special friends. *(point to children)* /
 Today, we have this meal *(clap)* /
 in our church with all our friends. *(make a big circular motion with arms)* /

Here's what I remember: *(point to head)* /
 The meal is the Lord's Supper. *(hold hands out with palms up)* /
 The meal is called communion. *(place hands over heart)* /
 It's a time to remember Jesus. *(point to head)* /

EXPLORING GOD'S GRACE



Be sure to check for allergies before serving food or drink to children. You may need to have a gluten-free option for bread.

1. Bread and Cup



Give each child a paper plate and invite them to decorate their plate with colored pencils or markers for a special meal. When they are finished decorating, invite the children to help set the table for a special meal. Hand out cups and napkins to place at each child's plate.

Take out a loaf of bread and a bottle of grape juice. Say, "Thank you, God, for this bread." Cut the bread and give each child a slice. Say, "Thank you, God, for this juice." Pour juice in each child's cup.

Tell the children that Jesus said we should remember him each time we share a special meal. Ask the children what stories they remember about Jesus.

FA *Many children have food and other allergies. An allergy to wheat involves an allergic response to a protein in wheat. A wheat allergy can be commonly confused with celiac disease, but they are very different. With celiac disease, gluten triggers an immune system response in the intestines, causing a problem with the absorption of food. Gluten is not one of the wheat proteins that typically causes an allergic reaction. Parents and caregivers should notify you of both conditions. Provide alternate activities or use options to keep children safe.*



2. Cup and Bread Placemat

Before the session, cut hand, bread, and cup shapes from construction paper using the shapes on GN 3 for each child.

Give each child a piece of large construction paper. Let them select a hand, bread, and cup from the pre-cut shapes. Talk with the children about what the shapes look like and where they heard about them in the story. A hand can give thanks; Jesus and the disciples gave thanks at the meal. The oval looks like a loaf of bread; the disciples had bread



at the Last Supper. The cup shape looks like a cup; the disciples drank from a cup at the Last Supper.

Review the story together.

- ▼ Jesus gave thanks. Have the children glue the hand shape on the left side of the construction paper.
- ▼ Jesus broke the bread. Instruct the children to tear the oval shape in half. Then have them glue the two halves to the center of the paper.
- ▼ Jesus took the cup. Have the children glue the cup shape to the right side of the paper.

Tell the children that Jesus told the disciples to always remember him when they shared the meal of bread and drink. Write “Remember Me” on each child’s paper.

Cover each sheet with clear contact paper to make a placemat. Tell the children to take their placemats home so they can remember that Jesus said to remember him when we eat and drink.

3. Remember Me Rhythm C L

Invite the children to repeat each line after you and follow your clapping rhythm. Clap on the bold syllables. After they feel comfortable with the verse, hand out rhythm instruments.

Jesus **S**AID,
“TAKE this **B**READ
AND re**M**EMber **M**E.”
Jesus **S**AID,
“TAKE this **C**UP
AND re**M**EMber **M**E.”

Use “wonder” questions that do not force a child to remember facts. Wondering questions help a child think aloud. Answers are neither right nor wrong. They help teach children to speak from their hearts.

4. Coloring Page C

Hand out copies of GN 4 and crayons. Invite the children to color the picture. Engage the children in conversation as they color, using the following wondering questions:

- ▼ I wonder, “What food was on the table?”
- ▼ I wonder, “What did the disciples think when Jesus said, ‘Remember me?’”
- ▼ I wonder, “What did the disciples remember about Jesus?”

T *Transitions can be difficult. This may be a good time for some quick physical activities, such as reaching up to the sky and bending down to touch toes, clapping hands, and so forth.*



LOVING AND SERVING GOD



Call the children together, playing and singing “God’s Love for Us Is Truly Amazing (El amor de Dios es maravilloso)”—**MM 29; SCM 24**. Repeat words and phrases as appropriate. Ask the children what story they remember about Jesus. Encourage them to tell a friend or family member that story.

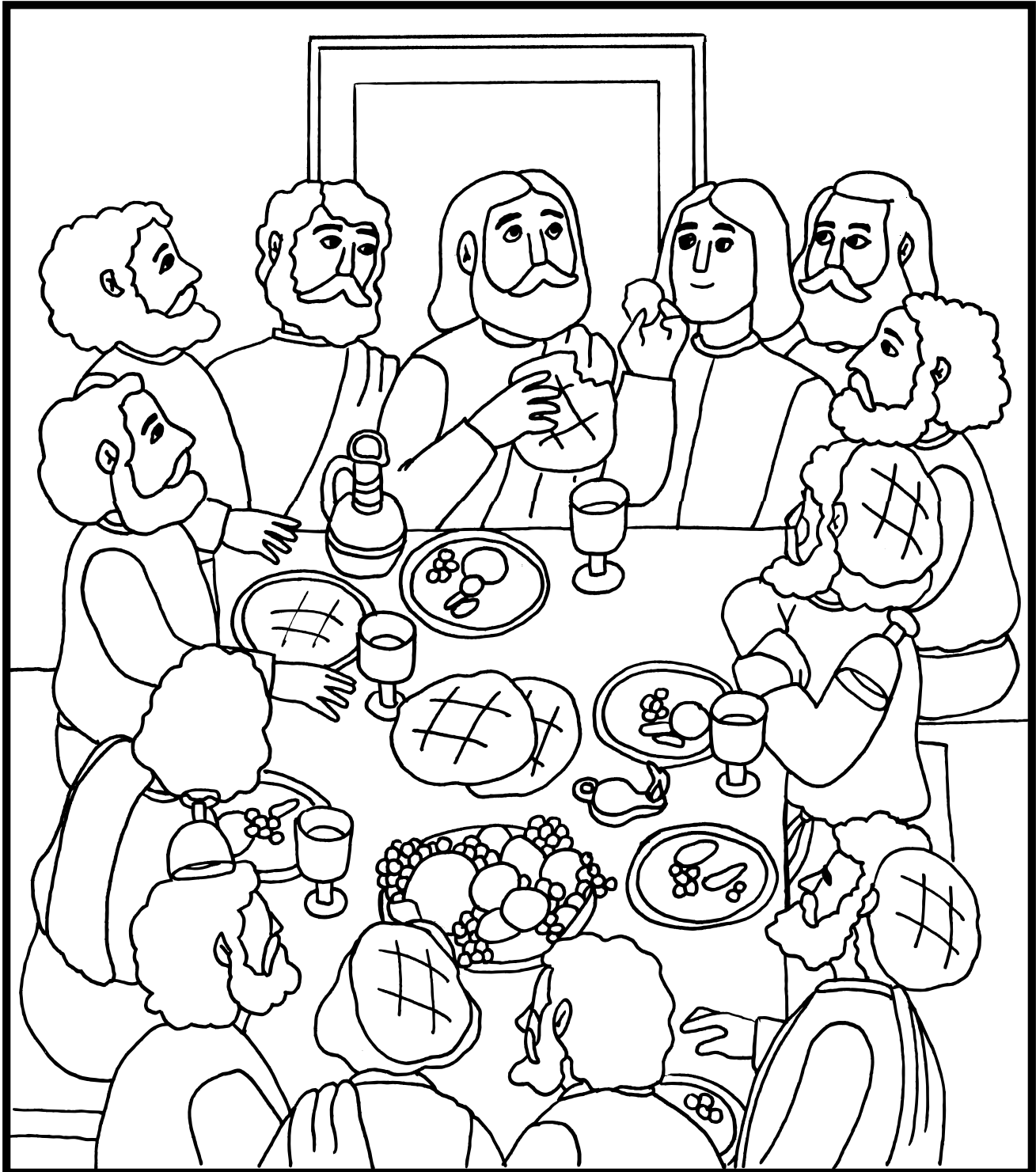
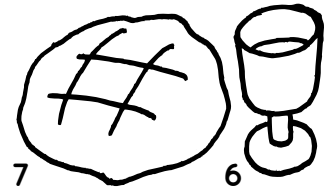
If you would like to share a snack, now would be a good time. Invite the children to repeat after you as you pray:

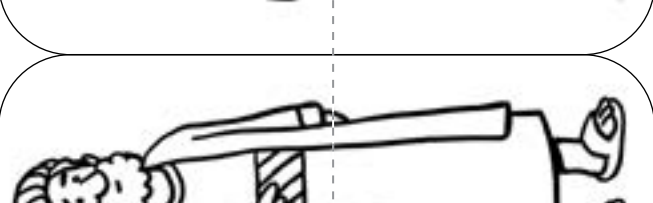
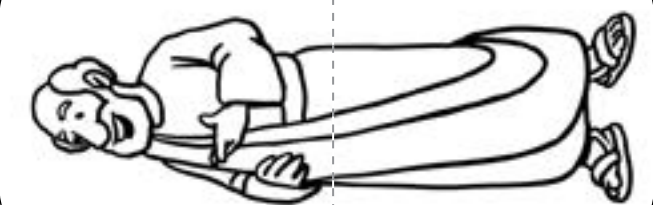
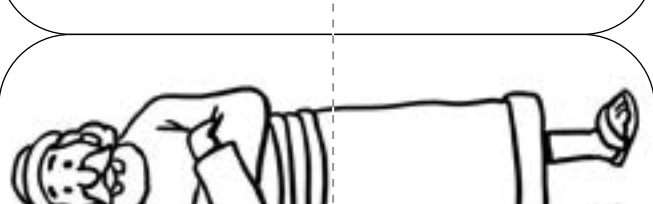
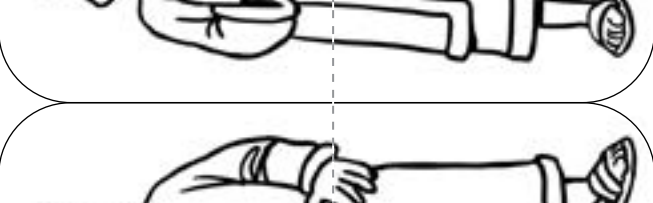
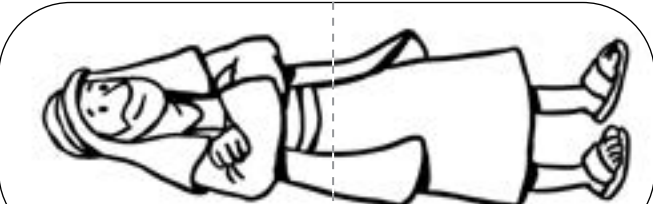
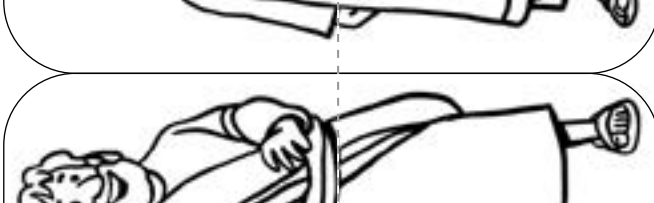
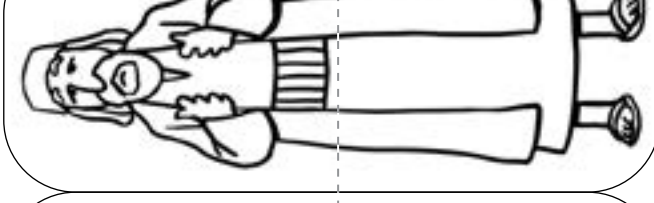
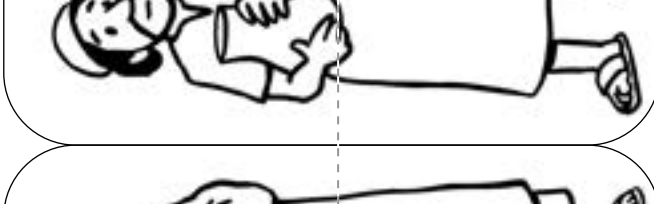
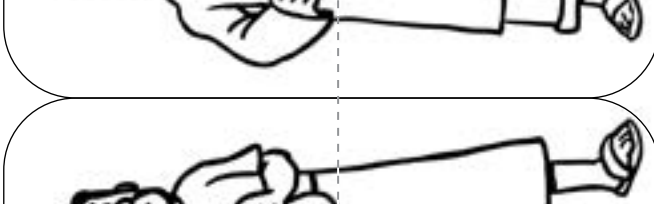
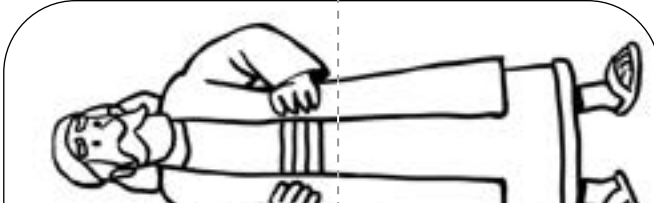
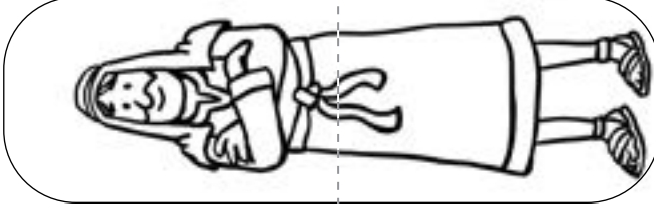
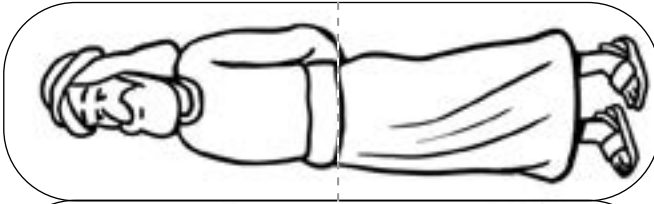
God is great. /
God is good, /
and we thank God /
for our food. /
By God’s hand /
we are fed. /
Thank you, God, /
for drink and bread. /
Amen. /

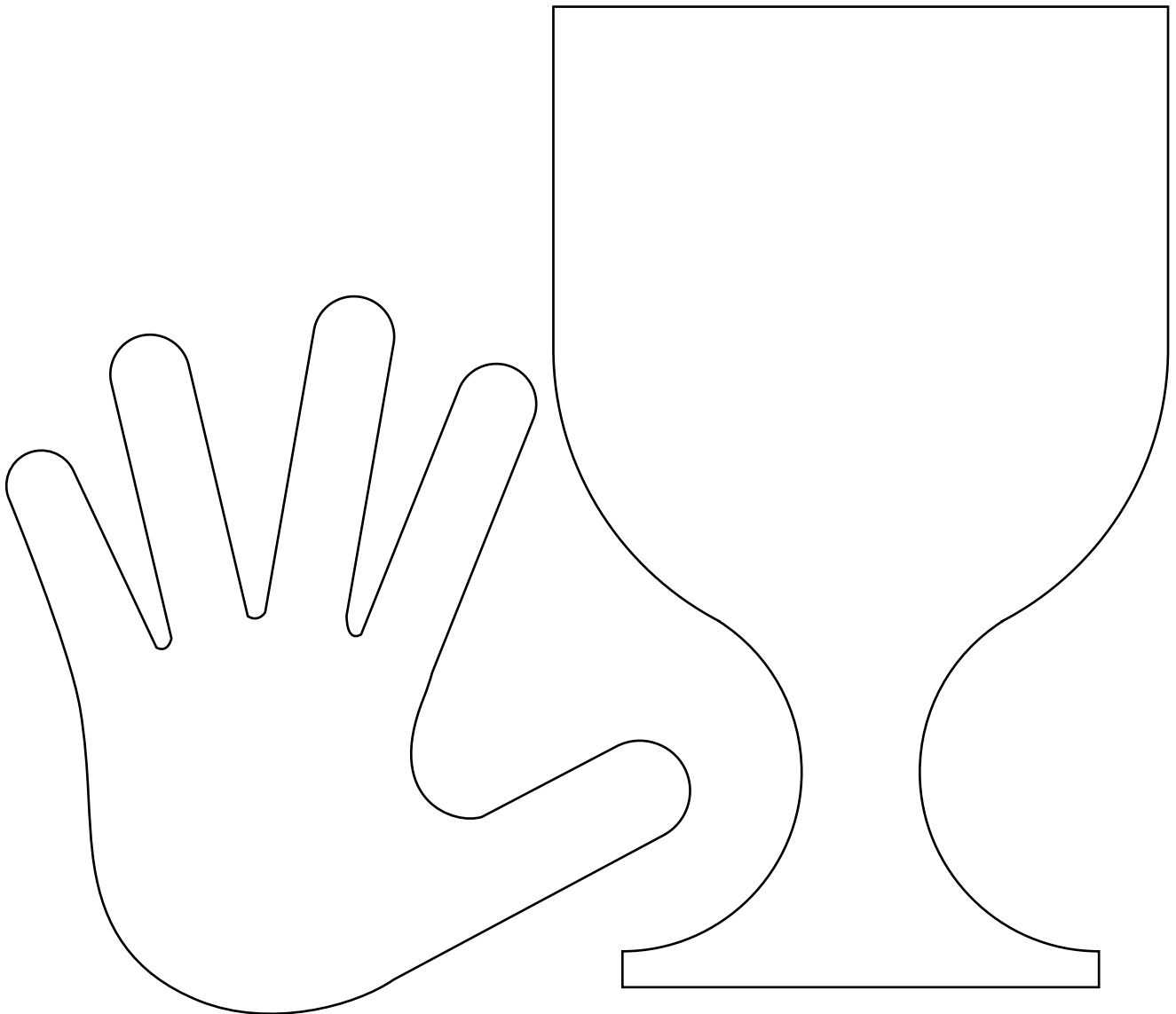
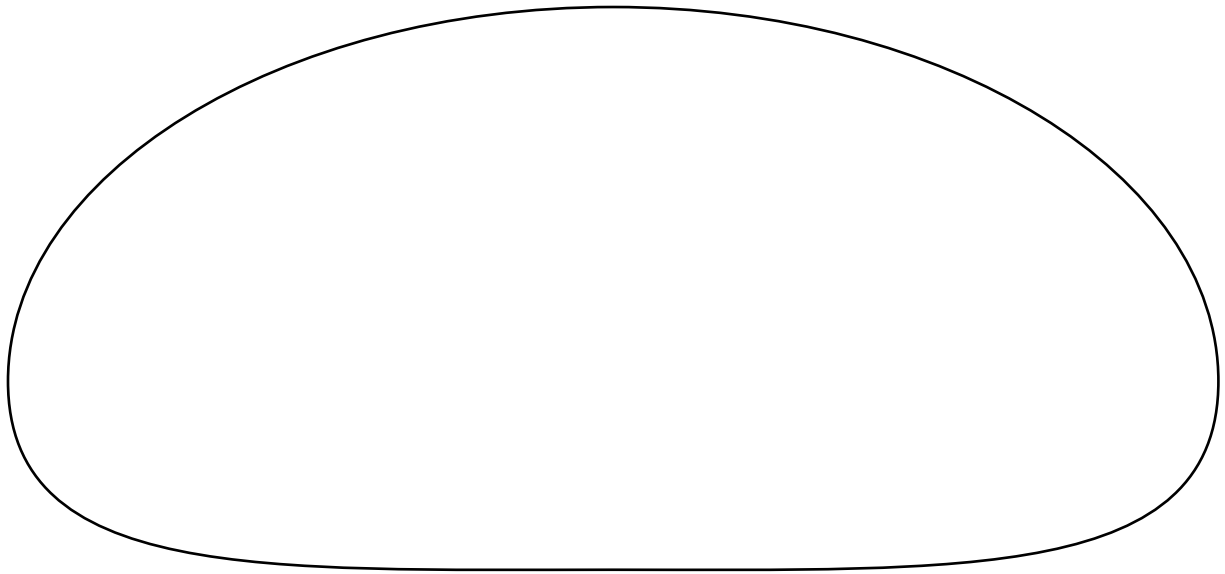
As the children leave, send and bless them: “(Name), remember Jesus, and share his story with others. The grace of God is with you.”



Ask parents and caregivers for their email addresses so you can send the Grace Sightings link, or invite them to visit www.pcusastore.com/GGGdownloads. Remind the parents and caregivers about the story audio (see p. vii).







Jesus Feeds the Disciples



Jesus celebrates the Passover with his friends.

