

**GOD'S NEW COVENANT**  
**Luke 22; Matthew 26:26-30 (Mark 14:22-26)**

**Memory Verse:** *“This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me. . . This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood”* (Luke 22:19b, 20b ESV).

**Background Helps:**

As you can see, we are covering the life and ministry of Christ at breakneck speed! After one week spent on the birth narratives (lesson #38) and one week on his public ministry (lesson #39), we come now to Holy Week, where we will devote two weeks (lessons #40 and #41).

These two lessons are probably the most important in this entire series on “God’s Covenant Story.” At the Last Supper, Jesus instituted a ritual meal, which we call “the Lord’s Supper” or “Communion.” On this occasion he identified “this cup that is poured for you” with “the new covenant in my blood” (Luke 22:20). Of course, this cup was a symbol. The new covenant itself was established by what the cup symbolized, namely, the shedding of Jesus’ blood on the cross for our sins. At the Last Supper Jesus was looking forward to the establishment of the new covenant the next day (Good Friday) when Jesus died, and at the Lord’s Supper, each time we observe it, we look backward to the establishment of the new covenant 2000 years ago.

Here, at last, we have come to the fulfillment of the new covenant prophecy of Jeremiah 31:31-34, which climaxed with the promise, “for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more” (v. 34)—a forgiveness made possible by the death of Christ for our sins. The language that Jesus used in announcing the new covenant at the Last Supper is similar to the language Moses used in establishing the old covenant: compare Luke 22:20 with Exodus 24:8. Jesus was deliberately supplanting the old covenant with the new. It is significant also that Jesus instituted the Lord’s Supper at a Passover meal. The Passover celebrated the old covenant God made with Israel when he delivered them from Egyptian bondage. Jesus is our Passover lamb (1 Cor. 5:7). At the Lord’s Supper we remember that he freed us from our bondage to sin.

**Lesson Helps:**

Your lesson this week is really Part 1 of a two-part lesson on the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This week you can give an overview of the events in Luke 22, but emphasize the institution of the Lord’s Supper in 22:1-20 as a celebration of the new covenant. Use information given in the Background Helps above to fill out your lesson. Use this lesson to prepare your students to participate in our next Communion service (indeed, every Communion service) as a celebration of the new covenant we have with God through Jesus Christ.

**Home Assignment:**

 Read Luke 23–24.

 Memorize Luke 24:46-47 ESV.