

Eat, Drink, and Remember Me

By Jill Meek

for use as
STEP 1 

Lesson 3**Focus:**

Jesus gave us a way to remember Him.

Lesson 3**Bible Basis:**

Matthew 26:26-30;
1 Corinthians 11:23-28

Lesson 3**Memory Verse:**

Whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. —1 Corinthians 11:26

To introduce the topic of how we remember Jesus, students will consider the ways we remember people by watching a video clip about fans memorializing Kobe Bryant.

Materials:

Internet access

Earlier this year the world was shocked to learn the news of Kobe Bryant's death. Bryant was an NBA all-star and appeared larger than life. After retiring from the sport, he was enjoying time with his family, mentoring young players, and becoming a storyteller through books and short films. At a time when it seemed like his new chapter was beginning, his life was cut short leaving behind family, friends, and fans with memories of his legacy. As fans gathered outside the Staples Center, where he played, to mourn, celebrate, and remember his life, they brought with them mementos and created art and memorials in his memory.

Play the following video [2:14]:

Giant Kobe Bryant Memorial Boards Filled with Messages from Fans

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6dW1r5XSpm8>

➤ **What inspired these fans to create memorials for Kobe Bryant?** (Accept all reasonable answers. These fans were inspired by Kobe's many identities as a basketball player, a hard worker, an L.A. icon, a dad, an artist, and more. They wanted to show their respect.)

➤ **How do memorials help us celebrate and remember a life?** (Accept all reasonable answers. Memorials take up physical space. This gives people an opportunity to pause and reflect, to join together with others, and to bring mementos. This also shares the legacy of the person with all who walk past and encounter it, carrying on their story.)

➤ **Do you have any physical reminders of those in your life who have passed?** (Answers will vary. Ensure students are sensitive with one another as they share, particularly if you know of

a recent or poignant loss. Often it is the everyday items we keep and cherish from our loved ones who have passed—handwritten recipes, a sweatshirt, their Bible, etc.)

Before Jesus went to the cross to give His life, He left us with a tangible way, using everyday items and a particular meal, to remember His life and purpose. This memorial meal—what we call communion—is something that Christians have come together to share and celebrate ever since in remembrance of Him.

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your teacher's guide; your Step 4 appears below.)

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Eat, Drink, and Remember Me

for use as
STEP 4 

Lesson 3

Focus:

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Lesson 3

Bible Basis:

Matthew 26:26-30;
1 Corinthians 11:23-28

Lesson 3

Memory Verse:

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Materials:

Optional: Whiteboard and markers, pencils and paper, art supplies

When we take communion each week, there is a sense of reverence. Perhaps you even find the mood somber. After all, we are remembering a sad night where Jesus was killed and took this punishment on our behalf. On the other hand, we know the end of the story is that through Jesus' death and resurrection we are offered reconciliation with God. Jesus' great, demonstrative love that accomplished so much is something to celebrate and be joyous about. All of these emotions come together as we remember Jesus' death and life.

- **Do your weekly experiences of communion feel somber or joyful or both?** (Answers will vary. Encourage students to expound on their answers.)
- **What is on your heart as you take communion?** (Answers will vary. Some might feel deep gratitude, others might utter a prayer for forgiveness, and others still may wonder what to think about during communion.)
- **How would you describe what Jesus' life and death mean to you? What images or symbols come to mind?** (Answers will vary. They may describe images of forgiveness, eternal life, purpose in this life, a bridge leading back to God, an open door, open arms, a sunrise, springtime, a torn curtain, or other ideas entirely. If students struggle to answer, you might give your own description first.)

Today we will make a memorial of sorts to remind us of what Jesus' death and life mean to us. This exercise is meant to be fun, creative, joyous and also reverent and reflective.

Have your students use the materials available to create a tribute expressing what Jesus' life and death means to them. Materials can be anything you have handy. If you have a whiteboard and markers or pencils and scrap paper, use that. If you have access to a craft closet with some paper or poster board and markers or even paint, you could use that. The goal is to help students reflect on the meaning of Jesus' life and death and represent those reflections tangibly.

When you finish, find a way to remember what you've created and what it means. Small drawings by individual students could be kept in a coat pocket or inside their phone case to carry with them each day. A mural or poster could be displayed in your classroom, but have students take a picture of it with their smartphones so they can look at it throughout the week. A 3D creation could be photographed and shared on your church's social media page along with a message explaining the meaning.

Close in prayer.

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