

# Jesus' Last Supper – Creation Station

## At a Glance

Children will make a class project: a mosaic bread plate for use in the communion service. It will be begun by younger children and completed by the youth group.

## Outcome Objectives

1. Children will learn the story of the Last Supper
2. Children will discuss the concept of “brokenness.”
3. Children will create something that they will see used in the communion service.

## Supplies Needed

### **An Assistant!**

Bibles

Plates for breaking, colorful is best.

Old pillowcase or towel (you will not want to use these again)

Hammer

SAFETY GOGGLES (check Youth Mission Week supplies)

GLOVES (gardening, check Youth Mission Week supplies)

Extra-coarse sandpaper

Large cardboard with outline of plate or garden stone

Small craft tiles, stained glass tiles, or craft glass “marbles”

Broken craft sticks

letter beads (see “JOY” in the video example)

Youth Group, to finish the plate:

Gloves

**Aleene's Outdoor Adhesive**

Either after church with youth or at home:

Grout

Water and sponge

Rubber Gloves

## Advance Preparation

Preview the lesson and video at <http://www.cool2craft.com/how-to-make-a-mosaic-garden-stepping-stone-by-ecoheidi-borchers/>

Note that the video above uses tile cutters to control the size and shape of pieces. We are not going to be that exact and instead will be breaking the plates with a hammer (under a towel or inside a pillowcase). This video shows plate smashing (without the safety of a pillowcase or towel.) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Ro93O0oUsg>

You will need an assistant to rub the cut edges on a bit of sandpaper to make them less sharp. Explain to the assistant ahead of time what is needed.

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You may want to break one plate ahead of time.

### **Opening Activity**

Read Matthew 26:26-30 as a group.

Say: It's interesting, in my house when we have bread, we slice it with a knife. Or we buy it from the store already sliced. But Jesus "broke the bread and gave it to them." What does it mean to "break" bread?

Have you ever seen anyone break bread? (Give them the hint if they don't remember the communion service in the sanctuary.)

The pastors use different words, but one of the things they sometimes say is "in the broken bread, we recognize the brokenness of life." What do you think that means?

(Allow various answers)

I think it means that sometimes life is very, very hard. When you are going through a really really hard time, you can feel broken inside.

### **Main Lesson**

Together name someone who has gone through a really really hard time and may feel broken. If they can't think of things, prompt them with things such as: the people who are hungry who are fed here, or the people who are homeless who sleep here; someone who lost someone they love; a kid who is going through a really hard time at school; parents getting divorced, etc. Perhaps some of them can think of a time they felt broken, too. You can ask, but don't push them to disclose anything.

Explain that you are going to break some old plates to represent the "broken bread" and "the brokenness of life." Put on all safety goggles and gloves and remind them that they need to be very, very careful when they touch the broken pieces because they can be sharp. The children will take turns hitting the plate to break it into pieces. When they are ready to take their turn, they are to think of one of the people who they named in the discussion above. When they have decided who they are going to think of when they break the plate give them instructions on how to break it.

**To break a plate**, put it right side down under the towel or inside the old pillow cushion and hit it on the raised part of the plate. It takes some time to get the feel for hitting it. You want to break it into pieces about an inch in size -- not too much bigger or smaller than that. Some pieces may need to be hit several times. When you have all the pieces you can get from a plate, put those pieces aside. Have an assistant run the edges of each broken piece over a bit of very coarse sandpaper to dull the edges slightly. Even with this step, the plate has the potential to be very sharp.

After everyone has had at least once chance at plate breaking and when you feel you have enough pieces, move onto the next step.

### **Life Application**

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After the pastor says “in the broken bread we recognize the brokenness of life” he or she holds up the chalice with wine. Do you remember what they say? (“In the cup of blessing, we celebrate the new life Christ gives.”) What do you think that means?

Explain that we can look at Jesus’ death on the cross as his being broken, and his resurrection on Easter is the new life Christ gives. Or a person being homeless feels broken, but when they get to move into their own home, they are happy because they have a “new life.” Ask children to think of times where something sad turns into joy.

Explain that this part of the project they are going to be turning old, broken plates, and giving them “new life” by making them into a single bread plate for communion.

Everyone must wear gloves!

Ask them what they want to put on the outside edges. Usually the smooth edges of the outside of plates is best for this. Make sure there is enough space between pieces for grout.

Say, “Hmm, we want this plate to be about new life. What kind of design should we put in it?” Allow them to come up with their own ideas, but discourage anything too complicated. A rainbow (God will never flood the earth again) or a cross are simple patterns.

Say, “What are some words we can put in our bread plate that talk about Jesus’ Last Supper or about Communion? Pick these letters out of the letter bead and add this to the design.

### **Prayer Path**

Pray for “brokenness in the world” to receive “new life.”

### **To take home**

Letter about the bread plate and the day it will be used in church.

### **Adjustments for age levels and abilities**

For youth group, do the exact same lesson with the following modifications:

- 1) instead of breaking the plates, spend a moment meditating on “brokenness” while carefully holding a piece of broken plate. If more broken plates are needed, you can of course break more.
  - 2) Instead of laying out the design, they will be transferring the design made by the kids onto the stepping stone. Follow the video instructions, but they will need to use the adhesive to glue it down and later the grout to seal it. They can also add additional words using the letter beads.
- Note: It is best for the glue to have time to set. They can finish the project with you after church if you and they have time, or you can grout the project later.

### **If you have extra time...**

Younger children, with your supervision (and wearing rubber gloves) can adhere pottery to the base.

**If time runs short...**

Show pictures of the plate from the video, and talk about new life from the broken pieces, but leave it to the youth group to design and put together the design.

**Be creative**

This can be a powerful activity if members of the congregation each bring in a plate to be broken and added to the communion plate. If you are using many people's plates, be sure to use at least one piece from each plate that was offered. Then the completed plate is made up of the broken pieces of everyone's lives. What a powerful witness for communion!