



Parent Pages

Preparing the environment of the Domestic Church*

*The term "Domestic Church" refers to the family, the smallest body of gathered believers in Christ. Though recovered only recently, the term dates back to the first century AD. The Greek word ecclesiola referred to "little church." The early Church understood that the home was fertile ground for discipleship, sanctification, and holiness.

The Cenacle or Last Supper

Jesus celebrated the Last Supper with the twelve apostles. The Last Supper was celebrated in the "cenacle" or upper room of a house.



The Last Supper

As we well know, the Last Supper is foundational to the Paschal Mystery, to the mystery of Christ Himself, as well as to the mystery of the Eucharistic presence. Therefore, because it is among the greatest mysteries of our faith, it should be offered to young children. Yet, the question is how? How do we remain at the level of essentiality with children as young as three? Again, we follow the rule of beginning with only the most essential announcement and allowing the truth to expand as the child grows.

Sofia Cavalletti writes on page 81 of *The Good Shepherd and the Child: A Joyful Journey*: Initially, our focus is simply on this particular moment in Jesus' life, just before he died and rose. What did he do? What did he say in that upstairs room in the Cenacle? We introduce the reading of the text by acknowledging the liturgical time of Lent that we are in, preparing to celebrate the greatest feast when Jesus died but was risen. Just before that happened, Jesus had come once again to Jerusalem. It was the Jewish feast of Passover, which included a special meal with one's family. Jesus wanted to celebrate that feast with those most like family to him: his disciples, and so he chose a special place and sent two of his disciples there to get things ready for the Passover meal.

The materials are a wooden box representing the Cenacle, a long wooden table covered by a white cloth, three-dimensional figures of Jesus and 12 apostles, a small paten holding a clay model of bread, and a small chalice. Each item is put in place slowly at the right time in the narrative. Great emphasis is placed on Jesus' simple words: "**Take and eat. This is my body.**" "**Take and drink. This is my blood.**"

At Home

Read Mark 14:22-24 from the Bible on your Prayer Table.

"While they were eating, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them, and said, 'Take it; this is my body.' Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, and they all drank from it. He said to them, 'This is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed for many.'"

For the younger child, reflect on the following:

- What do you remember about this work in the Atrium?
- Did you hear the new words that Jesus said?
- Maybe you would like to draw what this moment looked like then or what it looks like today.

For the older child, ponder how the origin of the Eucharist continues to be passed down through the ages to the present time:

- Did you hear the new words that Jesus said?
- How are you called to participate in the Last Supper?
Were the events for us or only for the disciples? Or can you be a part of this event?
- Maybe you would like to draw what this moment looked like then or what it looks like today.



How to find a reading in your Bible

Example reading:

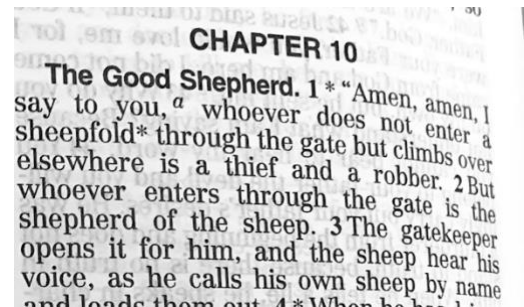
John	10:	14-18
Book	Chapter	Verses
John	10:	14-18

1. Find the **book** in your Bible using:

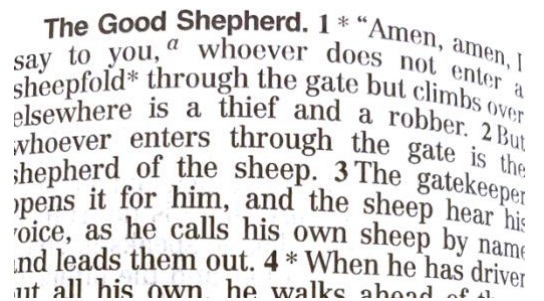
- Table of Contents at the beginning of the Bible
- Label tables on the edge of the pages
- Recalling the location by memory!



2. Turn through the pages of the **book** until you find the **Chapter** numbers in large, bold print.



3. Look down the page, under the chapter number until you find the **Verse**. **Verses** are printed in small numbers.



The Passion, Death & Resurrection of Jesus

	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
The Messiah Enters Jerusalem	21:1-11	11:1-11	19:28-40	12:12-19
The Last Supper	26:17-35	14:12-31	22:7-34	13:1-38
The Agony in the Garden	26:36-46	14:32-42	22:39-46	
Jesus is Arrested	26:46-56	14:42-52	22:47-53	18:1-12
Jesus Before Caiaphas	26:57-75	14:53-72	22:54-71	18:12-27
Jesus Before Pilate: The First Time	27:11-14	15:1-5	23:1-7	18:28-38
Jesus Before Herod			23:8-12	
Jesus Before Pilate: The Second Time	27:15-31	15:6-20	23:13-25	18:39-40 19:1-16
The Crucifixion	27:32-66	15:20-47	23:26-56	19:17-42
The Resurrection	28:1-8	16:1-8	24:1-12	20:1-10