In the Bible, Jesus had one last meal with his disciples before he was arrested. This was called the Last Supper. At this meal, he shared bread and wine. He told his disciples about all the things which were going to happen to him.

Some say that the cup he used at this meal was kept safe by his followers to remember the man they believed was the Son of God.

This cup was called the Holy Grail. There are many stories and legends about it. Some say that this Grail never existed, and that it was just a fairy story. This story might have been made up by a man named Chretien de Troyes in the 12th century.

Some believe that the Grail was also used to catch Jesus’ blood as he died on the cross. Some believe that a man called Joseph of Arimathea got hold of this cup. They say that Joseph looked after it and passed it on and that it survives to this day.

There are legends that the Grail has mysterious powers. Some say that whoever drinks from it will live forever.

Some think the Grail was taken all around Europe and that it was once guarded by the Knights Templar.

At the end of its long travels, some believe that it found its final resting place in Rosslyn Chapel.

The interest in the Holy Grail was linked to tales of King Arthur and the Round Table. In this illustration the Grail appears as a gold vessel held by two angels.

An illustration of Joseph of Arimathea, who was related to Jesus.
Rosslyn Chapel and the Holy Grail

Big Questions

What difference would it make to the world if the Grail was found? How would we know it was the Grail?

Think it through

- Why would the cup Jesus used at the Last Supper be important to his followers?
- Could a cup with the power to let you live forever really exist?
- Would you want to live forever?

Investigate

- Where else in the world do some believe the Grail might be found?
- If the Grail was the cup used by Jesus at the Last Supper, what would such a cup look like? Golden? Plain? Jewelled?

The Damsel of the Sanct Grael or Holy Grail by Dante Gabriel Rossetti from 1874 shows the mystery of the Holy Grail has interested people through the ages.

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