

2. In what way did Christ give his body for us?
3. In what way was his blood “the blood of the covenant?” Which covenant is he talking about? What are the main features of that covenant?
4. Why is it significant that Christ “will not drink the fruit of the vine unto that day when [he] drinks it new in the kingdom of God?”

## A PROJECT FOR YOUR GROUP

Why not share the Lord’s table as a group. If you meet in a home stop by the store and get a bottle of wine (or grape juice) and some flour tortillas. If you meet at Red Horn order a glass of wine and some pita bread.

1. Distribute the bread. As you hold it in your hand, take a moment to have each member of the group confess some of the ways we have been unfaithful to the one who has been so completely faithful to us. You don’t have to share your deepest secrets, simply use “we” language to describe our failings as a whole. After everyone has shared, offer thanks for “the body” that was given for us. Eat a small portion of the bread.
2. Pour a cup of grape juice or wine for everyone. As you hold the cup in your hand, take a moment to recall all the ways that God has been faithful to us in spite of our unfaithfulness to him. Take the time to offer thanks for the New Covenant we have with God ratified by “the blood of Christ.” Drink from the cup.



360 DISCUSSION GUIDE: 10.25.15

## A MEAL WITH JESUS | Mark 14:12-26

We take the bread and the cup in our hands so often that we forget the radical departure from the traditional Passover that Jesus’ final meal with his disciples actually represents. The most significant moment in the history of Israel was the moment that God rescued his people from the death grip of Pharaoh and gave them a new identity as His people.

Passover was a time to remember and rehearse the awesome display of God’s mighty power as he delivered His people from the cruel hands of a brutal world ruler. The youngest child would ask his father to explain the significance of each of the elements of the passover meal—the lamb, the bitter herbs, the bread, and the wine.

Because Jesus celebrated the traditional Passover meal on the day the lambs were being sacrificed, they probably celebrated the meal without a lamb, which is fitting. Jesus, himself was the lamb that “would take away the sins of the world.” Instead of offering the traditional explanation of the bread and wine, Jesus said, “This is my body,” and “this is my blood.” The disciples must have been shocked.

In effect Jesus was saying, “While the most significant moment in Israel’s history was their rescue from captivity in Egypt; the most significant moment in the history of humanity was about to take place on the cross, where God would act in Christ to rescue wayward sons and daughters from captivity and bondage to a far more brutal task master—their own sin and shame.

## THE DAY OF PREPARATION (vv. 12-16)

It would be hard for us to envision the significance of Passover to the Jewish people. The Passover was the defining event in the life of the nation. Through the Passover they came to recognize God as a god who responds to his people in tenderness and compassion, while responding to those who oppose him with devastating power and might.

God toppled the most powerful nation in the world, embarrassed their civil and religious leaders and decimated their armies in order to reveal himself to his people and rescue them from slavery.

### READ MARK 14:12-16

1. Why do you think Mark gives us such a detailed description of Jesus' preparation for this final meal?
2. Which details seem particularly significant to you? Why?
3. As each family participated in the Passover they were to relive the moment. Put yourself in the place of a family that experienced the original Passover, God's rescue of his people from Egypt.
  - a. What might it have felt like to be rescued in such a dramatic fashion?
  - b. What role did the "Israelites" play in their rescue from Egypt?
  - c. What role did the "lamb" play?
  - d. What role did "God" play?

## BETRAYED BY A FRIEND (vv. 17-21)

In Psalm 41, David laments that he has been betrayed by a close friend, one who shared his table. Nothing was more intimate than table fellowship in the Jewish culture. It is one thing to be rejected by the Chief Priests and the Teachers of the Law, it is another thing altogether to be betrayed by one of the twelve and later abandoned by the rest.

### READ MARK 14:17-21

1. Most of us have experienced betrayal or have at least been bitterly disappointed by a close friend.
  - a. How do we usually respond to disappointment or betrayal?
  - b. What are some of the feelings that come to the surface when you feel you have been betrayed?
2. How do you think Jesus must have felt knowing that he would be betrayed by "one of the twelve"?
3. What do you think motivated Judas to betray Jesus?
4. How does Jesus extend grace to Judas even in these final moments?
5. Do you see anything of yourself in Judas? If so, what? If not, why not?
6. What is significant about the fact that Jesus offers his "body" and "blood" even to the one who will eventually betray him?

## A NEW TWIST ON AN OLD STORY (vv. 22-26)

The drama of Passover was enacted around the table as the youngest child asked the patriarch of the family about the meaning of the meal. He would begin with the question, "Why is this night different from all other nights?" The patriarch would respond by telling the story of Passover and describing how every part of meal was part of their story as a people.

When Jesus says "this is my body" and "this is my blood of the covenant," he is changing the narrative in a dramatic way. In other words, God's rescue of his people from Egypt was only a prelude to the far more dramatic rescue that was about to take place on the cross.

### READ MARK 14:22-26

1. Mark tells us that Jesus and his disciples' celebrated Passover "when it was customary to sacrifice the Passover lamb." That means that they would not been able to have a lamb at the meal because they had not yet been sacrificed (which also, by the way, places Christ on the cross, at precisely the moment when the lambs were being sacrificed). How is Christ our Passover lamb?