

Connection Group Discussion Questions

For the week of March 5, 2017

Mark 14:12, 22-25

These questions are to be used as a spring board for discussion.

Answers may or may not be found in the sermons.

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

¹² On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, his disciples said to him, “Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?”

²² While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, “Take; this is my body.” ²³ Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. ²⁴ He said to them, “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. ²⁵ Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.”

Common English Bible (CEB)

¹² *On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb was sacrificed, the disciples said to Jesus, “Where do you want us to prepare for you to eat the Passover meal?”*

²² *While they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to them, and said, “Take; this is my body.” ²³ He took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, and they all drank from it. ²⁴ He said to them, “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. ²⁵ I assure you that I won’t drink wine again until that day when I drink it in a new way in God’s kingdom.”*

Connection Questions:

1. The gospel writers devote most of their work to 1,100 days of Jesus' life and of those days most attention is given to the day Jesus was crucified. Discuss why you think the writers gave so much attention to Jesus' last day on earth.
2. Discuss what you know about the Jewish Passover or Seder meal.
3. Jesus has the disciples set up the Last Supper as a Seder meal, but it turned out to be a different kind of meal. What is different about this particular meal that separated it from a traditional Seder meal?
4. What issues brought up in this meal made it confusing for the disciples to understand Jesus' motives and actions?
5. Jesus says in this meal that one of the disciples would betray him. Who betrays Jesus and what do you think led to the betrayal?

6. In the Lord's Supper ritual we celebrate today, why do we call for confession and repentance of our sins before we receive the elements? How does the betrayal in our text relate to our need to confess our sins?

7. In John's gospel, foot washing was a part of the Last Supper. Discuss why you think John includes this as a part of the supper.

8. The United Methodist Church, as well as most Protestant churches, sees the Lord's Supper as a sacrament. Sacrament is a ritual that points toward God's grace or initiative. Discuss the meaning of the Lord's Supper from this context.

9. It was a common practice in the early church to celebrate the Lord's Supper daily. Why do you think it was done in this manner? Today most churches celebrate this meal on a monthly basis and it is sometimes referred to as low Sunday. Discuss why you think this Christian tradition has changed over the years?