



**COMMUNION:** Remembering Jesus over a Meal, Sharing How the Gospel is Changing You

Did you reflect this week at all on the contrast of Mary and Judas?

Who are you more like: the spontaneous worship of Mary or the calculating hypocrisy of Judas?

**COMMANDMENT:** Being formed by the Story of God

Text: Mark 14.12-28

Summary of Text: *this is for you, group leader... to help you in preparing & thinking about discussion!*

Tonight we look at the contrast between Jesus' explanation of his coming death and the disciples betrayal and defection. Consider taking communion together as a part of your dinner meal. As you finish eating, read the passage and eat bread & drink wine together while you discuss this incredible contrast. Jesus is giving his life for many, including these faithless and disloyal disciples. Reflect on the implications of that for ourselves who are often unfaithful disciples.

Discussion:

What is the Passover meal? Read Exodus 12 for the background.

Why does Jesus orchestrate this meal? What does he communicate to his friends in it?

What is happening to Jesus friends in this passage? Notice how Mark brackets the meal.

Judas will betray Jesus; the disciples will fall away. What is the difference? Does it matter?

What is it about challenging life circumstances that reveal the nature of our faith?

How do you respond when life gets challenging? Do you "fall away" from Jesus, or cling to him?

Challenge Point: *try to land the discussion here!*

The thrust of the passage is Jesus' commitment to his disciples. It is not the faith of the disciples that saves them, but Jesus' death and resurrection and his promise to "pick them up on the way to Galilee." Though they will all fall away, Jesus is fully intent on going to the cross for them, giving his life for them. Try to land your discussion on how marvelous this is, and what it would look like if we really fully deeply believed Jesus' commitment to us.

**COMMISSION:** Together for Restoration, Redemption, and Relationship

If Jesus is willing to give his life in order to transform betrayers and the friends who desert him in his time of need, then he is willing to give his life to transform anyone. Who in your circle of friends have you given up hope that they will ever know Jesus? Spend time tonight praying that the great love of Jesus would melt their hearts and draw them near!