

# Thursday: Day of Action

JESUS' FINAL WEEK - 5

And he said to them,  
'I have eagerly desired to eat  
this Passover with you  
before I suffer. For I tell you,  
I will not eat it again  
until it finds fulfillment in the  
kingdom of God.'  
– LUKE 22:15-16

Let me go over with you again  
what goes on in the Lord's  
Supper and why it is so  
centrally important....For every  
time you eat this bread and  
drink this cup you are re-telling  
the message of the Lord's  
death, that he has died for you.  
Do this until he comes again.  
–1 CORINTHIANS 11:23, 26,  
LIVING BIBLE

All four gospels record Jesus' last supper with His disciples. It meant so much to Jesus to spend these hours with His disciples. He loved them (John 13:1), and their presence encouraged Him. He took the cup and the bread of the Passover and transformed them into memorials of His own blood and body. God knows that *forgetfulness* leads to *faithlessness*, so He made certain to provide us with a continual way of remembering what is truly important (1 Cor. 11:23-26).

## WELCOME

When you were growing up, what were mealtimes like? What's one vivid memory you have about that time?

## WORSHIP

You might consider observing the Lord's Supper in your group this week—possibly just after the study itself. If so, ask someone to come prepared to lead the group with appropriate thoughts, readings, and/or prayer. Max Lucado has an appropriate reading in his book, *And the Angels Were Silent*, chapter 20.

## WORD

### Read Mark 14:12-26

1. Why did Jesus give two of his disciples (Peter and John) roundabout—rather than straightforward directions to where they would eat the Passover (vss 12-16)? [Finding a man carrying a water jar was an effective sign because typically only women carried jars on their head. Jesus didn't want to disclose the location of the meal for several obvious reasons!]
2. More than once, Jesus predicted he would be betrayed. This time, however, Jesus reveals that one of *His own* would be the betrayer! Why do you think Jesus dropped this bombshell (vs 18)? [Was Jesus offering Judas an opportunity to repent, or merely encouraging him to follow through with his actions? Jesus also wanted his disciples to know ahead of time so that they would know that He wasn't a victim of circumstances, but was in control—see John 13:19.]
3. After Judas left (see John 13:31), Jesus turned a meal into a memorial (vss 22-26). What new meaning did Jesus give to the Passover bread? The wine?
4. What does the Lord's Supper teach you about the meaning of Jesus' death? [God doesn't forgive just because He is kind. God forgives because the penalty of sin is paid. We are saved only because of the death of Jesus (see Mark 10:45).]
5. Share a particularly meaningful or vivid memory of Communion. How does it provide strength and motivation to your Christian walk?

## WORKS

What does the Lord's Supper mean to you? How steadily do you know God's forgiveness of your sins? Share your responses with one another and end your time with prayer in smaller groups.