

Groups Sermon Based Questions

Sacred Practices: Prayer

March 2/3, 2024



Series Overview

As Easter approaches, we delve into the profound and poignant journey of Jesus Christ in the Gospel of Mark. As we explore the Passion Narrative (Mark 14-16), we'll uncover the depths of sacrifice, love, and redemption, drawing timeless lessons for our own lives and faith.

Watch	Introduction
<p>The Passion of St Mark: The Feast</p> <p>The sermon is up on the spac.ca website Monday of each week.</p>	<p>We begin by focusing in on the Last Supper, the Passover feast that Jesus celebrates with His closest friends and disciples. The Passover meal, which had been the most important moment in the life and history of Israel, is reframed by Jesus, setting the table for the most important moment in history.</p>

Engage

Scripture: Mark 14:12-26

Optional Icebreaker Question

- 1. When was the first time you took communion? Is there a story, feeling, or experience you had with this?** For example: Did someone get upset that you took communion? Were you confused? Moved too? Etc.

Study

Context: Mark, considered a close companion of Peter, transcribed Peter's firsthand accounts of Jesus' life. Mark's Gospel can be read in two parts, the first (chapters 1-8) focusing on Jesus' identity as the long-awaited King, while the second half (chapters 9-16) explores the purpose of His death. Here in chapter 14, days before Jesus' crucifixion, Jesus and His disciples prepare for the Passover meal in Jerusalem. Passover commemorates God leading Israel into freedom from Egyptian slavery. The meal's elements symbolize the liberation (salvation) of Israel and represent four promises God has given to His people. During this Passover celebration, a presider or the head of the house will lead and explain the significance of all of this. Here, Jesus reframes the Passover, revealing Himself into the story, the promises God gave, and how the crucifixion will be the final Passover – the liberation – for all people.

Read Mark 14:12-26

- 1. What are your initial thoughts, curiosities, or questions about Mark's account of the Last Supper?**

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2. **How do you think the disciples felt as they prepared for the Passover meal with Jesus, considering the circumstances and tensions surrounding them (14:1-2 & 10-11)?**

(Optional) You may want to prepare a head of time, by printing off or making notes of the following:

If you're unfamiliar with the Passover/Sedar dinner and its symbolism, please read [here](#).

If you are unfamiliar with the meaning and importance of The Last Supper, please read [here](#)

3. **Discuss and reflect on the symbolisms that parallel Jesus to the Passover Story. What sticks out to you? Why?**

Read John 1:29; Isaiah 53:6-7; Colossians 1:13-14

4. **What do you notice is 'missing' at the feast in Mark's account of the last supper? Why?** Comparing Mark 14:12 to v.22-24.
5. **What significance does taking communion have on you? How have you taught others/family/kids/etc about this?**

Reflection and Prayer

6. **Reflect on this prayer by Jan Richardson, "And the Table Will be Wide." While reading/listening, consider where in your life or in your life group you're living out this posture of this prayer? Where might you or your group be able to grow?**

And the table will be wide, And the welcome will be wide.

And the arms will open wide to gather us in,

And our hearts will open wide to receive.

And we will come as children who trust there is enough.

And we will come unhindered and free.

And our aching will be met with bread.

And our sorrow will be met with wine.

And we will open our hands to the feast without shame.

And we will turn toward each other without fear.

And we will give up our appetite for despair.

And we will taste and know of delight.

And we will become bread for a hungry world.

And we will become drink for those who thirst.

And the blessed will become the blessing. And everywhere will be the feast

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