

# PASSOVER MEAL AND THE LORD'S SUPPER

Matthew 26:20-35; Mark 14:18-35; Luke 22:14-34; John 13:18-30, 36-38; 16:32

## STRUCTURE

**Key-person:** Jesus

**Key-location:** Jerusalem

### Key-repetitions:

- Lord's Supper: bread (Mat 26:26; 1 Cor 11:23); cup of wine (Mat 26:27; 1 Cor 11:25); eat/drink to remember Jesus (1 Cor 11:24, 25); whenever one eats/drinks the bread/the cup, they proclaim the Lord's death (1 Cor 11:26).
- Judas: Jesus foretold of Judas being a traitor (Mat 26:20-25; Mk 14:18-21; Lk 22:21-23; Jn 13:18-26); Satan entered Judas (Jn 13:27); Judas left Jesus and the disciples (Jn 13:30).
- Jesus' foretelling about his disciples: Judas would betray him (Mat 26:20-25; Mk 14:18-21; Lk 22:21-23; Jn 13:18-30); Peter would deny knowing Jesus (Mat 26:31-35; Mk 14:27-31; Lk 22:31-34; Jn 13:36-38); all would abandon him (Mat 26:31; Jn 16:32).
- Jesus said, "I tell you the truth" (Jn 13:16, 20, 21, 38).

### Key-attitudes:

- Jesus' seriousness during the Lord's Supper.
- Judas' deception.
- Jesus' concern for his disciples.
- Disciples' self-confidence.

### Initial-situation:

At the end of three years of public ministry, Jesus went to Jerusalem for the Passover Feast. On Sunday, he made his Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem. On Monday, he cleansed the temple by expelling those who were buying and selling. On Tuesday, Jesus and the religious leaders argued. On Tuesday evening, Jesus was honored at a banquet at Lazarus' home where Mary anointed him with perfume. After the banquet, Judas bargained with the chief priests to betray Jesus.

On Thursday, Jesus sent two of his disciples to prepare the Passover Meal. That evening, Jesus arrived with the other disciples. During the Passover Meal, Jesus washed his disciples' feet.

### Initial-problem:

Jesus told his disciples, "One of you, who is eating with me, will betray me."

### Final-situation:

Peter protested that he would never deny that he knew Jesus.

## BIBLE STORY

### Jesus Foretells of His Betrayal

Jesus and his disciples were eating the Passover Meal. Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, one of you who is eating with me will betray me."

Shocked, each one asked him, "Surely you don't mean me, do you?"

Jesus replied, "It's one of you Twelve who dips his bread into the dish with me. The Son of Man will die just as the Scripture promises. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he'd not been born" (Mk 14:18-21).

John, the disciple whom Jesus loved, was reclining next to Jesus. Peter motioned to John and said, "Ask him which one he means."

John leaned closer to Jesus and asked him, "Lord, who is it?"

Jesus answered, "I'll dip bread in the sauce dish and give it to him." Jesus dipped the piece of bread and gave it to Judas Iscariot. Judas took the bread; immediately, Satan entered Judas and took control of him.

Jesus told Judas, "Go quickly and do what you're about to do." Nobody else at the table understood what Jesus meant. As soon as Judas took the bread, he went out. And it was night (Jn 13:23-30).

### Lord's Supper

Jesus and the disciples were eating the Passover Meal. Jesus took bread in his hands, gave thanks, broke the bread, gave the bread to his disciples, and said, "Take this and eat it. This is my body which is for you. Every time you eat it, do it to remember me."

In the same manner, Jesus picked up a cup of wine, gave thanks to God, and offered it to his disciples. Jesus said, "Take this and drink it. This is my blood and with it God makes a new covenant. My blood is poured out in order for many people to have their sins forgiven. Every time you drink it, do it to remember me.

"Whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes" (Mat 26:26-29; 1 Cor 11:23-26).

### Jesus Foretells of Peter's Denial

Jesus and the disciples left the house and started walking toward the Mount of Olives (Mat 26:30).

Jesus told the disciples, "This very night, all of you will run away from me. The Scripture says, 'I'll strike the shepherd, and the flock of sheep will be scattered.' After I've risen to life, I'll go ahead of you into Galilee (Mat 26:31-32).

"Simon Peter, Satan asked to sift you as a farmer sifts wheat. He wants to separate you from me as a farmer separates wheat from husks. But Simon, I've prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you recover, strengthen your brothers."

Peter replied, "Lord, I'm ready to go to prison with you and to die with you. Even if everyone runs away from you, I never will."

Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, before the rooster crows twice tonight, you'll say three times that you don't know me."

Peter protested, “Even if I have to die with you, I’ll never say that I don’t know you.” All the other disciples said the same thing (Mat 26:33-35; Lk 22:31-34).

### GENERIC DIALOGUE QUESTIONS

1. What catches your attention in the story?
2. Is there anything in the story that is hard to understand?
3. Who are the main characters in the story?
4. What problems did the characters face?
5. How did the characters face their problems?
6. How have you faced similar problems?
7. Is there someone in the story who is similar to you or who is different from you?
8. What does the story tell about God?

### SPECIFIC DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What did Jesus say about his betrayer?
2. When Jesus said one of them would betray him, how did the disciples react?
3. What do the elements used during the Lord’s Supper represent:
  - The bread?
  - The wine?
4. What is the connection between the Passover and Jesus’ death and resurrection?
5. What did Jesus foretell about his disciples?
6. When Jesus foretold of Peter’s denial, what was Peter’s reaction?
7. What can help us avoid betraying or denying our knowledge of Jesus?
8. In what ways do Christians today experience Satan’s “sifting” (*hard testing*) of them?

### LIFE-LESSONS

1. **Judas serves as an example to show the steps that give Satan freedom to possess a person:**
  - **A person’s choices determine his character and his destination.** Judas gave in to greed, covetousness and deception, and became a thief (Jn 12:4-6).
  - **Yielding to sin allows Satan freedom to plant thoughts in the mind.** Being a thief and greedy, Judas gave an opening for Satan to suggest the idea of betraying Jesus (Jn 13:2).
  - **Accepting Satan’s plans, opens the door for Satan to dominate a person.** Judas accepted Satan’s suggestions and made the choice to betray Jesus, then Satan entered Judas and took control of him (Lk 22:3; Jn 13:27).
2. **In the Lord’s Supper, the bread and the wine symbolize Christ’s sacrifice.**
  - The bread symbolizes Christ’s body. To break the bread symbolizes that Jesus’ body was broken when he died (Mat 26:26). His body was given as a sacrifice for us (1 Cor 11:24).
  - The wine symbolizes the blood that was shed so people could have their sins forgiven (Mat 26:28).

- The believer, who receives the bread and the wine, symbolizes that he has received the crucified Jesus as his spiritual food.
  - Partaking together of the Lord's Supper expresses friendship and Christian companionship among those who are present, and that all believers in Jesus belong to the same family.
3. **Participants in the Lord's Supper declare their commitment to Jesus, yet they still have their sinful nature and struggle with cultural baggage.** The participants of the first Lord's Supper with Jesus were people who were committed to him. Yet, they had their sinful nature, cultural baggage, and they didn't understand his purposes. Among the participants of the first Lord's Supper with Jesus, were:
- **Confused disciples.** The disciples were confused about Jesus' purposes. They expected Jesus to become a warrior who would free Israel from the Romans; then he would become a king who would make the country of Israel as strong as it was during King David's time.
  - **Fearful disciples.** They were afraid of being in Jerusalem and of dying with Jesus (Jn 11:16).
  - **Self-confident disciples.** Peter was self-confident that he would never become a stumbling rock and that he would die before denying he knew Jesus. All the others had the same confidence (Mat 26:31-35).
  - **Treacherous disciple.** Judas (Mat 26:23). Judas was a thief (Jn 12:4-6). Satan put in his heart to betray Jesus (Jn 13:2). Satan entered him and led him to betray the Lord (Jn 13:27). In the church, the true believer and the imposter (*the weed and the wheat*) exist side by side (Mat 13:24-30).
  - **Self-promoting disciples.** James and John wanted positions of power (Mat 20:20-23).
  - **Jealous disciples.** The ten other disciples were angry with James and John who had asked for special privileges (Mat 20:24).
4. **Jesus knows his followers' wrongdoings, yet loves them.** Jesus knew Judas would betray him, Peter would deny knowing him, and all would desert him. Still he showed them the full extent of his love (Jn 13:1).
5. **Jesus' follower can suffer the "sifting" (hard testing) of the devil.** The devil received from Jesus permission to sift Peter as a farmer sifts wheat when he is separating wheat from husks (Lk 22:31-34):
- The devil's "sifting" was foreseen and allowed by Jesus (Lk 23:31).
  - The purpose of the devil's "sifting" is to destroy the faith of Jesus' followers.
  - Jesus' purpose in allowing the devil's "sifting" is to strengthen the faith of his followers (Ja 1:3) and to restore the "sifted" one so that he may strengthen weaker brothers in Christ (Lk 22:32; 2 Cor 1:3-4; Gal 6:1).
  - The believer's safety, when he is being "sifted," is that it is done with Jesus' knowledge within the limitations established by him (Lk 22:31; 1 Cor 10:13).

Jesus is also interceding in prayer while the believer is being “sifted” (Lk 22:32; Heb 4:14; 1 Jn 2:1-2).

## **LEARNING ACTIVITIES**

### **Interaction with Characters in Story:**

Invite listeners to interact with characters in the story with the question: What would you like to say:

- To Judas who leaves the Passover Meal to betray Jesus?
- To the disciples who have just partaken of the bread and cup of wine served by Jesus?
- To self-confidant Peter who tells Jesus, “Lord, I’m ready to go to prison with you and to die with you. Even if everyone runs away from you, I never will....I’ll never say I don’t know you”?