



Mark 14

"A Passover Table in the Presence of His Enemies"

(Mark 14:12-25)

Reading and Study Guide for the week of July 16-23, 2023

Memory Verse for the Gospel of Mark: *Jesus called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."* (Mark 8:34)

This week, read Mark 14. On Sunday, July 23: Pastor John will be preaching on the theme, "*A Passover Table in the Presence of His Enemies*" (Mark 14:12-25). Jesus gathered His disciples to celebrate the Passover and to institute the Lord's Supper. The head of the table not only recalled the Passover sacrifice, but He showed them that He was the true Passover sacrifice.

Some questions to answer and think about this week with your family or Community Group:

The Lord's Supper - [Mark 14:12-26](#)

1. What is one ceremony or observance that is important to you?
2. What did Jesus' disciples ask Him? ([14:12](#))
3. How did Jesus make the arrangements for the Passover meal? ([14:13](#))
4. How did Jesus' predictions compare to what the disciples actually found when they got into the city? ([14:16](#))
5. What was the reaction of the disciples to Jesus' prediction of His betrayal? ([14:19](#))
6. The central emphasis of the Passover meal was traditionally the sacrificial lamb; where did Jesus place His emphasis? ([14:22-24](#))
7. What important announcement did Jesus make? ([14:25](#))
8. How did Jesus and the disciples conclude their Passover meal? ([14:26](#))
9. What can we learn about the practice of Communion through this passage?
10. Why is Communion or the Lord's Supper important?
11. What are two or three steps you can take to prepare for the next time you celebrate the Lord's Supper?

Life Application Bible Notes

[14:13](#) The two men Jesus sent were Peter and John ([Luke 22:8](#)).

[14:14, 15](#) Many homes had large upstairs rooms, sometimes with stairways both inside and outside the house. The preparations for the Passover would have included setting the table and buying and preparing the Passover lamb, unleavened bread, sauces, and other ceremonial food and drink.

14:19 Judas, the very man who would betray Jesus, was at the table with the others. Judas had already determined to betray Jesus, but in cold-blooded hypocrisy he shared the fellowship of this meal. It is easy to become enraged or shocked by what Judas did; yet professing commitment to Christ and then denying him with one's life is also betraying him. It is denying Christ's love to disobey him; it is denying his truth to distrust him; it is denying his deity to reject his authority. Do your words and actions match?

14:20 It was often the practice to eat from a common bowl. Meat or bread was dipped into a bowl filled with sauce often made from fruit.

14:22-25 Mark records the origin of the Last Supper, which is still celebrated in worship services today. Jesus and his disciples ate a meal, sang psalms, read Scripture, and prayed. Then Jesus took two traditional parts of the Passover meal, the passing of bread and the drinking of wine, and gave them new meaning as representations of his body and blood. He used the bread and wine to explain the significance of what he was about to do on the cross. For more on the significance of the Last Supper, see [1 Corinthians 11:23-29](#).

The Last Supper is remembered by different terms. Each name believers use for this sacrament brings out a different dimension to it. It is the "Lord's Supper" because it commemorates the Passover meal that Jesus ate with his disciples; it is the "Eucharist" (thanksgiving) because in it we thank God for Christ's work for us; it is "Communion" because through it we commune with God and with other believers. As we eat the bread and drink the wine, we should be quietly reflective as we recall Jesus' death and his promise to come again, grateful for God's wonderful gift to us, and joyful as we meet with Christ and the body of believers.

14:23 Whatever name your church uses for this event (Communion, Lord's Supper, or Eucharist) and on whatever schedule you celebrate it, the importance is that through celebrating Communion together believers experience the presence of Christ. The celebration of Communion: (1) humbles us before God. We confess our sin and restate our need for Christ to guide us. (2) reminds us that we are forgiven. We remember that his shed blood paid the price. (3) expresses our oneness in Christ. We are unified in our faith. (4) encourages us to recommit. We are reminded to pledge ourselves to serve him who died for us.

14:24 Jesus' death for us on the cross seals a new covenant between God and us. The old covenant involved forgiveness of sins through the blood of an animal sacrifice ([Exodus 24:6-8](#)). But instead of a spotless lamb on the altar, Jesus offered himself, the spotless Lamb of God, as a sacrifice that would forgive sin once and for all. Jesus was the final sacrifice for sins, and his blood sealed the new covenant between God and us. Now all of us can come to God through Jesus, in full confidence that God will hear us and save us from our sins.

14:26 The hymn they sang was most likely taken from [Psalms 115-118](#), traditionally sung at the Passover meal.

Mark Study Guide questions and notes are from

