

# SMALL GROUPS

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### Winter Semester - Week 3

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*Remember, these questions are just tools for discussion. You don't need to 'get through them all.' Use the questions that are helpful, and skip the ones that are not. And let the conversation flow naturally.*

#### OPTIONAL ICEBREAKER(S)

- a) Think of a time where you shared a memorable meal. What was it about this meal that made it so significant?
- b) If you could eat the perfect meal - stage by stage, what dishes would be included?

#### PASSAGE AND DISCUSSION

**Read Mark 14:12-26**

- a) What immediately stands out to you after reading this text?
- b) What are your earliest memories of communion? What did you think communion was, when you were first introduced to it? How would you describe what communion is now?
- c) The disciples gathered to share a Passover meal. To understand what the passover meal is commemorating, read **Exodus 12**. Discuss the importance of the passover celebration to the Jews.
- d) How does the Passover celebration relate to the Last Supper? What are their similarities and differences?
- e) What is the significance of knowing that the Last Supper was a traditional Seder meal, as opposed to any regular meal? Is this important?
- f) Pastor Cam shared that the structure of the Passover (Seder) meal is built around 4 cups of wine, which represent the four promises of God from **Exodus 6:6-7**. Read this passage, and pick out the four promises of God.

- g) Jesus goes off script, and inserts Himself into the meaning of the Passover meal - see **v22-24**. How significant would this have been for the disciples present? How significant is this for us, today?
- h) Think back to what you read in Exodus 12. How does the account of the passover paint a picture of how Jesus' death provides salvation. What similarities do you find in the story of the passover, and the death and resurrection of Jesus?
- i) In **v24**, Jesus says that there is a 'New Covenant' - this language is more obvious in Luke's account (**Luke 22:20**) and Paul's instructions (**1 Corinthians 11:25**) - that is now "for many". How is this New Covenant different from the Old one?
- j) Read **v25**. In ancient times, this language signified a promise or an oath. How does this verse, or even the entire passage, change when we read it as an oath made by Christ?
- k) There are significant debates among Christians regarding the nature of the elements of communion. Some believe that the elements are simply symbolic, while others believe that the elements turn into the literal body and blood of Christ, and when we eat, we are ingesting Christ into our being (this is called transubstantiation). Where do you land in this debate? Are the elements *simply* bread and wine / juice, or is there something more mysterious going on?
- l) In **v18-22**, the disciples (one by one) reject the idea that they would betray Jesus. While Judas' betrayal is unique (and the primary focus of these verses), all the disciples would betray Jesus at one point or another. How important is it for us to admit our betrayal of Jesus, in order to truly receive His forgiveness?
- m) Is there anything else that you found significant about this text, or the message on Sunday?

### **TAKE IT HOME (OPTIONAL IDEAS FOR RESPONSE THIS WEEK)**

- a) Thank God for saving you. That's it. Spend time thanking God, specifically for his sacrifice and your salvation.
- b) Plan a meal with your family this week that has some sort of meaning or significance attached. Explain it to your family, and enjoy it together.

## OPTIONAL IDEAS FOR PRAYER TIME

- a) Pray for the young women in our congregation who were baptized this Sunday (Brandi and Eliya). Pray that God would grow them in His love, and use them mightily as they seek to serve Him.
- b) Pray that God would make His sacrifice land in your heart and take on even greater significance than before.
- c) Continue to pray for those people who you have committed to introducing to Jesus this year.

## OPPORTUNITIES TO GATHER, GROW & GO

**Missionfest Manitoba:** Missionfest Manitoba Conference 2023, "Holy Ambition," will take place on February 3-5, 2023, at Church of the Rock in Winnipeg! Don't miss out!

**Men's Study:** This course began on January 15th and meets on Sundays at 9 a.m. and Tuesdays at 7 p.m. Whether you attended the first few sessions or not, we invite you to join us for the rest of the Men's Fraternity Class. Together, we will explore and discuss this deeply practical study.

**Daybreak:** If you are available Tuesday mornings, and you like to hold babies, come be a volunteer in the nursery for Daybreak. You can email [fgirardi@grantmemorial.ca](mailto:fgirardi@grantmemorial.ca) if you are available to volunteer.

**Membership Class:** January 28th at 10 a.m. We believe membership is an important way for new people to identify their commitment to Christ and His work through this local church and its mission.