

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. ***Enjoy discovering more about Him!***

## "THE MEAL THAT CHANGES EVERYTHING" | MARK 14: 12-25 | PASTOR BRIAN BELL

### WARM-UP QUESTION:

What was a memorable meal in your life?

### ***"The Passover Meal" Mark 14: 12-16***

Jesus sent two of His followers to a place to prepare Passover, a special meal to remember God's rescue of the Jews. **What is challenging today about making time to remember what God has done?**

### ***"The Last Meal" Mark 14: 17-21***

Jesus shares that He knows he will be betrayed and it's the one who dips bread in the dish with him, showing it's Judas right next to him. **Why does Jesus go forward with His special meal even with Judas there? What does that show about Him?**

### ***"The Value Meal" Mark 14: 22-24***

Jesus shares that the bread now represents His body, and the cup now represents His blood, poured out for many. Jesus' deliverance is bigger than the Exodus. **How is this meal a symbol of God's grace? How have you experienced God's grace?**

### ***"The Invaluable Meal" Mark 14: 25***

Jesus shares this is His last time drinking wine until the new kingdom of God comes. He looks forward to hosting and sharing with His people. **How does knowing Jesus looks forward to hosting and sharing a meal with His people impact you?**

### REFLECTION QUESTION:

God always intended for the Passover meal to point to Jesus' deliverance of world, and Jesus makes that clear with His disciples. He prepares, hosts and shares this special meal so that all of His people can remember His sacrifice and worship Him. **What do you remember most about God's deliverance for you? How have you let that impact your worship of God? When was the last time you shared that story with someone? Take time to remember God's grace in your life and to share it with someone this week.**

Mark 14:12-25

1-7-25

## *The Meal That Changes Everything*

### I. Announce:

- A. Welcome to those watching online 10am.
- B. Slide1-4 AP: Baptism. WSL. FPU. Welcome Team.
- C. Slide5 Israel *Information* Mtg: next 2 Sundays, 1:30pm in Agape room (attend 1).
  - 1. Come Explore Israel: it's *a Journey of Faith and Discovery* – Spring 2026.
  - 2. It will be an *unforgettable journey* to the Holy Land. This isn't just a vacation, though you'll enjoy comfortable 5-star accommodations, it's a *spiritual and educational experience* like no other. Walk where Jesus walked, see the Scriptures come to life, and deepen your faith as you explore Israel's rich history and breathtaking landscapes.
  - 3. Spaces are limited, reserve your spot today and take this step in both learning and spiritual growth.
- D. Slide6 Youth Center Update: we should be starting *demolition* next week. Once the *grading* is finished, we will be in the process to get our *building permit* following the cities's guidelines.
  - 1. Several people have asked how they could be involved and where we are at *financially*. Youth Center donations: I first want to say thank you to those who have *donated* so far. We originally asked for 600 donors who could donate \$500 or ... 4 monthly payments of \$125. As of today, we have received \$45,000 (goal is \$300,000). [App>giving>drop down *Final Phase*]
  - 2. I touched on last Sun, since 7/13 when I talked about *overall personal giving* (we have been in the black 8 consecutive weeks since we talked about personal giving! Till I mojo'd it last week by accidentally saying we were in the red (black) - yep it was our 1st week this fiscal yr in red). My bad.
- E. Prayer:

### II. Slide7 Intro: *The Meal That Changes Everything*

- A. What's been your **best** meal? Thanksgiving? Or a certain meal, like my moms *eggplant parmegiana*. If you're traveling, a taste of **home**, even KFC/McDonald's.
1. The Lord supper reminds us of **home**. It reminds us of where we belong. It preaches to us. It reminds you of the covenant that Jesus made to you. A **covenant** pledged in **blood** for you.
- B. Here Jesus takes a major Jewish celebration/Passover, that the Jews had observed each year for **over 1500 yrs** since the time of **Moses**) And now converted it and **elevated it** into what we know now as **Lord's Supper/communion/the eucharist**.
1. The Lord's Supper is *the Fuller View, the Completed view*, of **Redemption**.
  2. It contains the Passover, and its fulfillment in **Jesus Christ**.
- C. Ancient biographies explain *how a person died* revealed that person's true identity. Jesus' death changed the ancient world.
1. **How? Who** would look at the death of Jesus and say, *that's my leader?* We have leaders like: Confucius, Muhammad, Buddha, founders of major religions, dying in old age, mostly in comfort. Yet **Jesus**, dying in his early 30's, naked, mocked, spit upon.
  2. How did it then **transform** the ancient world? It was the **meaning** of his death. **That's why this meal is so significant**. He chose this time to reveal Himself, and the meaning of His death at this meal. Thurs night before that Friday morn (on the cross 9am).
  3. He finally reveals what **it's** about, what **He's** about. **It's about ME**. In a word, it's about **substitution**.
- D. **Outline: The Passover Meal. The Last Meal. The Value Meal. The Invaluable Meal.**

### III. Slide8a **THE PASSOVER MEAL (12-16)** *Read*

- A. Disciples prepare the annual Passover, remembering God's deliverance from Egypt. Every Passover pointed to this night - Christ fulfills what the meal anticipated.  
Slide8b *Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.* 1 Cor.5:7
- B. For Israel, the Passover meal was **a table set** to remember **God's rescue**.

C. Streets weren't named and ran crooked, so easiest way for directions - follow him.

1. A man carrying a pitcher was unusual, easy to spot. Prob a male servant.

D. Guest room (14) - same word as Inn in Nativity story ... *kaTAL-eema*. (only 3 x's).

E. At the Passover God was saying, I'm *delivering* you tonight w/a lamb.

Your choice dead son, or dead lamb. *The lamb got what the son deserved.*

But you need *another* lamb, even more important than this one.

#### IV. Slide9 THE LAST MEAL (17-21) Read

A. Jesus announces His betrayal at the table. Jesus last earthly meal is marked by sorrow. Jesus is surrounded by *weakness, sin, and betrayal*. Our sin is exposed at the table, yet Jesus still *moves forward to the cross* for us.

B. You would hope your "last meal" would be w/close friends, filled with warmth and love, but instead His was *tainted by betrayal*.

1. Sin always finds its way to the table. Even at the most sacred meal ... there's *brokenness*.

C. (20) Dipping bread into the dish with me – in the East to break bread w/someone means *to enter into a pact of friendship and mutual trust*. So to then betray your host, would be *the basest of treachery*.

1. Judas must have had the honored position on the Lord's left (as he was close for Jesus to hand him the bread). So, John was on Jesus' right, everyone would lean on their left hand, thus leaning partially on the person to their left, and then they would eat w/their right hand.

a) Thus we have John leaning on Jesus chest/shoulder. And Jesus leaning on Judas?

D. (21) Never been born – some say Judas was just forcing Jesus hand to reveal his power and setting up the kingdom. Others say, he was just obeying what God's Word had prophesied of him.

1. Judas was neither martyr nor robot. He was neither a hero nor the victim of some merciless predestination. "He was a responsible human

being who made his own decisions, *but in so doing, fulfilled the Word of God.*"<sup>1</sup>

## V. Slide10a **THE VALUE MEAL (22-24)** *Read*

- A. Jesus gives the bread and cup, symbols of His body and blood. This is no ordinary meal, it points to *the priceless value/eternal of Christ's sacrifice*. In it we receive *grace, forgiveness, & fellowship* w/Christ.
- B. Everyone knows the term "*value meal*" from fast food (you get more for less). But here, Slide10b Jesus gives us *the ultimate value meal*: priceless grace, purchased at infinite cost, given to us freely.
- C. The bread and cup are symbols of what He paid: *His body broken, His blood poured out*. What seems ordinary bread and wine carry eternal worth, **for us** pointing back to the cross **and** forward to the feast in the Kingdom.
  1. Slide10c Bread - was about *affliction* in the Exodus. "*This is the bread of our affliction.*" Jesus revises it and says, *This is the bread of My affliction. This is My suffering. I'm leading a greater exodus.*
  2. Slide10d Cup - gave thanks (eucharisteo). When we come to the table, we give thanks to Jesus for all He has done.
    - a) *They all drank of it. Next they all left Him and fled.*
- D. Another **Mark Sandwich** (story - interrupted w/a story - comes back to the story) Mark does it deliberately, to place emphasis on *what's in the middle*.
  1. What's around the Lord's Supper? Judas betrayal and the disciples defection. Right *in the middle* Jesus talked about His death/body-blood.
  2. What's He saying here? That Jesus came to die - not just for the Judases and the Nero's, **but also for the disciples** as well. The Lord's Supper is all about *the grace* of Jesus, these guys are **not** morally perfect. **Listen:** The table is for those who are **repentant!** - *It's the table of grace.*

<sup>1</sup> Warren Wiersbe, pg.136.

- E. The night before Jesus dies, He institutes the last supper.  
The night before Israel's Exodus, Moses institutes the Passover.
- Moses introduces an event that would remind them of their deliverance. Jesus introduces an event that is a greater deliverance, a greater redemption, a greater Exodus. - He's the greater Moses.
- F. This is the Original Value Meal ... and what a value He placed on it!

## VI. Slide 11a THE INVALUABLE MEAL (25) *Superfluous Supper* more than enough, to flow over. Read

- A. *I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God* - This meal to come is - *The Invaluable Meal!*
- B. Like in vs.22 we note all the verbs: *He took it, he blessed it, he broke it, he gave it, he said ...* it's a beautiful picture, of how we are going to be at the table. He did all of the work, as He will do in the future (He loves to Host). He gives, they receive.
- C. Slide 11b Isaiah 25:6-8a - That's how it's going to be when we sit at his table.
- It's Jesus, loving us, hosting us, feeding us. *What other the religion has a God like that.* [dare picture yourself sitting at His table]
- D. Slide 11c There's a mystery in the Lords Supper. I don't think He was just saying this is my *physical* person, but even more ... This is **My whole person**.
- This is my body/soma (not sarx/flesh). Soma is like *my whole being/self*. Jesus is giving His whole self. I hope we can hear, *This - is - My - whole self!*
    - Soma - *present your bodies* (sōma) *as a living sacrifice*. Your **body** (sōma) *is a temple of the Holy Spirit*.
    - Sarx - *The Word became flesh* (sarx) *and dwelt among us*. His humanity.
  - I believe there's a reality involved here in the celebration of Lord supper **beyond a memorial**.
  - We can have full assurance when we come to **the table this morning** that we come to be in **His real presence** here. - You say, He's always present here. **That's true**. - The difference is *what He's doing*. He's inviting



us into a *situation of intimacy*, at **His** table. He invites you to spiritually *feed on Him, be nurtured by Him, be strengthened by Him*.

E. \*Worship Team come on back up.

F. **Not much of a *Meal*?** But we're not supposed to come to it as a *physical meal*. He says, eat at home (*What! Do you not have houses to eat in?* 1 Cor.11:22). **But** spiritually **come hungry** when you *gather at my table* ... hungry for **Me**! [u may get the elements]

### G. **Communion:**

1. **Bread** - What "*deliverance story*" do you most often remember how has God rescued you personally? Confess your **weakness** and **betrayals** in your own walk with **Jesus**. - **Now receive His mercy** (He still went to the cross FOR YOU)
2. **Cup** - *this is my blood*. **Old covenant** (Sinai) ratified w/the blood of animals sacrifices. **New covenant** was ratified by **His blood**. [the 1st **covered** their sin, **now** it would be *taken away*]
  - a) Thank God for ...
  - b) Help us to learn to *live in the power of the new covenant*.

H. Keywords: communion, Lords Supper, Passover.

### I. **Other thoughts:**

- J. **I know you're familiar with this passage.** If you've lived by a **train** that runs past your house, or you lived in the flight path up a nearby **airport**. **Pretty soon you just don't hear them anymore.** And unfortunately, that's what happens with **the Lord's Supper**. We lose the **awe** and **wonder**.
1. **This morning, we want to hear the train again.** The whole Bible pivots on this week. It hinges on this meal.
  2. **Unfortunately the Church downplays the Lords suffer.** Though that is a modern phenomenon. (John Calvin's Institutes, about 1500 pages, **90**

pg's are devoted to the Lord's supper. More modern, Wayne Grudem's Systematic Theology/which I love, 1200 pg's, 12 pg's devoted to it).

3. The reformers believed in: the preaching of the word and the table (the word preached to the ear and the table to the eye). Both are **Christ centered**, both should feed God's people with the grace that's in Jesus.

K. What is unique, or missing, absent, unusual in our story? There is no mention of the meat. No lamb. *Ever had a meal where there's no meat?*

1. Now we don't know if there was a Lamb on the table (very strange for there not to be, but not one of the gospels mention it). But just maybe there was no Lamb **ON** the table, because there was a lamb **AT** the table! [sacrifice: a bloody death of a helpless victim, a lamb] (28 ref's to Christ as a conquering/sacrificial Lamb in John's Rev.)