

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of March 17-23, 2024

“MAUNDY THURSDAY”

GETTING STARTED

To the facilitator: Use this section to introduce the topic. If possible, give a brief recap of the sermon.

Share a memorable point, a spiritual lesson, a personal application, a question, or something that challenged you from the sermon last Sunday.

Do you have designated seats in your home during mealtimes? What behavior(s) was/were not allowed?

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Reflecting on the biblical accounts of The Lord's Supper (Matthew 26:26-29, Mark 14:22-25, Luke 22:14-20, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26), what aspects stand out to you the most? Do you really take to heart the significance of the Lord's Supper or has it become a ritual? How can you better prepare for the next time the church has Communion?
2. Read John 13:1-15. Consider the context of Jesus washing the disciples' feet, particularly in light of Judas' betrayal and Jesus' crucifixion. How does this act of humility and service foreshadow Jesus' ultimate act of sacrificial love on the cross? How does serving others reflect the teachings and example of Jesus Christ?
3. Think of someone you find it difficult to show love or respect to. How can you apply Jesus' example in this situation?
4. Read about emotions and struggles Jesus experienced in the Garden of Gethsemane, as described in Matthew 26:36-46, Mark 14:32-42, and Luke 22:39-46. How does Jesus' humanity and vulnerability in this moment deepen your understanding of his sacrifice?
5. Consider the disciples' response to Jesus' distress in the Garden of Gethsemane, as they struggle to remain awake and offer support (Matthew 26:40-45, Mark 14:37-41, Luke 22:45-46). How does their failure to fully comprehend Jesus' suffering and sacrifice resonate with our own struggles to understand God's plans and purposes?

6. Jesus prayed for the cup to pass from him, but ultimately submitted to God's will. What does this teach us about faith in God even in difficult times? What is a “*Not my will but Yours be done*” prayer that you need to release to God today?
7. Optional. When you consider that John and Judas were the ones sitting on the seats of honor beside Jesus, what thoughts come to your mind? How do you see betrayal in your own life in light of Jesus' actions?

NEXT STEPS

Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done. (Luke 22:42 NIV)

- ☐ I will remember Jesus' sacrifice especially during the Lord's Supper.
- ☐ I will remember Christ, serve him and others around me, and love as much as he loves me.
- ☐ Just like Jesus, I will surrender to God's will, even in the face of difficulty.

Don't forget to:

- ☐ Go through the devotionals every day this week.
- ☐ Have a regular daily time of prayer and reading of God's Word.

CLOSING THE SESSION

Close the session by taking the time to pray for one another. Consider the following as you pray:

- Pray for a heart that loves Jesus more as you reflect on what he did on Maundy Thursday.
- Pray for relationships to grow with other Christ-followers, that you will encourage and care for one another.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends, and loved ones.
- Pray for protection, provision, healing and comfort for everyone who's going through physical, emotional, mental and spiritual pain.

BIBLE READING GUIDE

March 18	Matthew 26:26-28
March 19	Matthew 26:30-35
March 20	Matthew 26:36-46
March 21	John 13:1-17
March 22	John 13:21-30
March 23	Psalms 31:12-24
March 24	Mark 12:28-34