

Guidelines for Leaders:

If you aren't doing so already, encourage everyone in the group to read and answer the questions before your meeting. There is more than enough material in these questions to fill up your whole discussion time. So, consider these three suggestions for group discussion:

- *First, choose just one of the 2 Introduction questions.*
- *Second, choose no more than 4 or 5 of the Understanding questions.*
- *Third, be sure to allow enough time for the Application, which is where we really seek the impact of the sermon on our daily Christian lives. The Application is also a great opportunity for group prayer.*

Introduction:

1. What was the most unusual experience or setting you have had in getting together with people and having a meal?
2. How did you react when someone predicted that you would not be able to fulfill what you promised? OR How did someone react when you predicted that *they* would not be able to fulfill what they promised?

Understanding:

3. God said, "Every year at Passover, when you sacrifice the Passover lamb, you'll be reminded." Read Exodus 24:12-13. What is the importance of the lamb's blood? The normal Passover meal involved a lamb. But why do you think there was no lamb served at the last supper? See 1 Corinthians 5:7.
4. Would Judas be able to justify himself before God on the day of judgment by claiming, "I was just fulfilling prophecy"? Explain.
5. In today's passage, Jesus sang. Many commentators think that included Psalm 118. Read Psalm 118:5-7 and 22-24. In what ways does this apply to what Jesus is about to go through? And what is its importance for us?
6. Someone claims "I'm glad I'm not a sinner like Judas. I am like the other 11 disciples who were all good guys. "Is this claim biblical? Explain.
7. Some people think that the bread and wine are symbols and that communion is only a memorial. Others think that the bread and wine are symbols and that in communion we can partake of and enter Jesus' presence in a special, spiritual way. Which do you think? Why?
8. What was the difference between Judas' betrayal and the way the other disciples messed up? How does that connect to Communion?
9. If you struggle with guilt and self-condemnation come to the communion table and look back at what Jesus accomplished for you on the cross. We confess our sins. See 2 Timothy 2:13. How do you receive blessed assurance as you come before the Lord?
10. What are the advantages and disadvantages of celebrating Communion every week?
11. What does the verse that Jesus quoted mean: "I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered"?

Application:

12. Jesus promised that there's a day coming when he will sit down with his people and he'll eat and drink with us, with love and joy and celebration. And Jesus says, "That's what you have to look forward to." In what ways does communion encourage you, in the light of your present life's hardships, to look forward?
13. Communion is all about remembering the *sacrifice* of Jesus. It's saying, "The only reason I belong is because Jesus sacrificed himself for me." And when we really get that, and when we let that shape us, we will go out and sacrifice *ourselves* for others. In what ways does this understanding of sacrifice change your attitude to how you are presently serving and spur you on to seek new ways of serving?