

Unexpected Meal

October 11, 2020



Begin with prayer

As you begin your gathering, designate someone to pray the Holy Spirit would lead and guide your time together. Before they do so, spend a few moments together in prayerful silence. Then, after a few seconds of quiet centering, have the specified person pray for the group.

Read this overview

During this 13-week series, we are going to be opening up the book of Mark together to study the life of Jesus—The Unexpected King. During this series, we will gain a better understanding of who Jesus is and what it really means to be his disciples.

This past weekend Tom preached on **Mark 14** and the Unexpected Meal Jesus had with his disciples.

Scripture + Discussion

*This week's hope and prayer is that, the next time you receive the Lord's Supper, it will be different because you've spent time in this text from **Mark 14**.*

Take turns reading all the way through **Mark 14:12-26**. Then, use the questions below to guide your discussion to hit on the above objectives.

Here are a few questions to open and guide this time:

- What from this passage/sermon challenged or deepened your discipleship to Jesus?
- Growing up, did your family prioritize eating meals together? Did your family have others over frequently? Or were most of your meals done without any guests? Why do you think your family operated this way?
- Does your family presently prioritize eating meals together? Does your family have others over frequently? Explain.
- When you think about Jesus' final meal with his disciples, what do you think it meant to the disciples to have this experience with Jesus? What do you think it meant to them to have this meal *with each other* (think about the disciples' varied backgrounds)? If this table invitation is truly available to everyone, who is it that you have trouble envisioning next to you at the table?
- For various reasons, there are certain meals we're invited to that we're hesitant to attend. What feelings do you have knowing Jesus invites *you* to his table? What thoughts rise to the surface whenever you think about this invitation that may make you not want to accept it? What do you think God would say to you about those reasons?

- Have you ever had a profound moment taking the Lord's Supper? What did that look like?
- Spend a few moments reflecting on the words of Christ. He says, "This is my body broken for you. This is my blood shed for you." What does that mean to you? Imagine Christ Himself handing you the bread and the wine, speaking these words to you. How would you respond to Him?
- In his sermon, Tom mentioned during communion we get to look **backward** (at God's ability and desire to forgive our sins through Jesus), **forward** (to God's promises being fulfilled), **inward** (at our values, identity, and relationships), and **outward** (as we look for ways to retell the story of God). Which aspect do you feel most drawn to during communion time? Where might God be inviting you to press into now and even next time you take communion?

Practice: Take communion together as a life group.

1. Gather the necessary supplies:
 - Bread (unsliced) or crackers
 - Grape juice
 - Cups
 - A basket or plate for the bread
2. Prepare the elements ahead of time. Place the bread on a plate or in a basket and the juice in small cups.
3. Give a brief instruction on what you are doing and why.
 - Distribute the bread and juice
 - Read **1 Corinthians 11:23-26** together and then drink the juice and eat the bread as each are mentioned in the text.
4. Pray.

Accountability

Take some time this week to split your group into smaller or gendered groups and share your answers to the accountability questions below and go over the challenge for this week. Be sure to follow up on anything that was shared last week.

- Have you memorized **Philippians 2:5-11**?
- What has your time in God's Word and prayer been like this week?
- What have you learned from Jesus this week?
- Have you consistently reflected the love of Christ to those in your life this week (such as your spouse, children, or co-workers)?
- Where have you wrestled with temptation this week?
- What sins do you need to confess right now?
- Have you been 100% honest?

Finish with prayer

Finish your group session with prayer. You might designate someone in your group to write down everyone's prayer requests and then send them to the whole group for everyone to be praying about through the week.

- What is on your heart that you need prayer for?

- Who in your life needs prayer?

Have someone close your time together by interceding for the requests that were shared