



## A Guide for Spiritual Formation

Text for the Week: Matthew 26:14-35

Message for the Week: "Wednesday"

Sunday, April 2, 2023

### Opening:

What is one low (a bad thing) and one high (a good thing) that happened to you this past week? Write them down and take turns sharing them with the others in your group.

Where have you seen the work of the Holy Spirit in your life this past week?

Have you ever been betrayed? What was your response? How did you handle it?

### Preparation:

Spend 1-2 minutes in silence with God to center and prepare yourself for your time with God today.

### Read:

Read / Have two people in your group read [Matthew 26:14-35](#) out loud. We are focusing in on verses 1-14.

[Clicking this link will bring you to multiple translations.]

As you read and/or listen to the text being read, circle, take note of, highlight, or underline what words, phrases, or ideas grabbed your attention and heart in these verses?

Write them down below and/or share them with those who are with you.

## **Respond / Reflect:**

When has someone stuck with you, even after you betrayed them or mistreated them? How did this make you feel?

What have you/we learned from the humiliation moments in your/our lives?

With what Jesus knows about you, why should you be allowed to come to the Lord Supper table?

As you reflect on Jesus commitment to the path of redemption in the midst of all the betrayals, denials, and abandonment, is there anything else in this world that approaches this type of commitment? What, if anything comes close? What does this tell us about Jesus character and commitment? What does it tell us about our character and commitment?

## **Try It:**

Meditate on Romans 5:8: But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (NIV) In response, write out a prayer of thanksgiving, acknowledging the cost of Jesus sacrifice for our redemption.

## **Prayer:**

Spend time in prayer with/for the other people who are with you. Pray this prayer together:

Father remind me/us of our desperate need for grace, mercy and love. Thank you for the gift of Jesus Christ who remained steadfast amid betrayal and denial. Thank you for showing us how to be in face of our own sins. Transform us by the power of the Holy Spirit to become more like Jesus today.

## **Missional/Spiritual Practice: Holy Curiosity for the Other**

During the month of March, you are invited and encouraged to engage in the missional practice of [Holy Curiosity for the Other](#). By engaging in this practice, we seek to create safe and inviting space in meaningful conversation with others. This involves us risking new and deeper relationships with the people we meet in the context of their lives, developing a holy curiosity that transcends your own needs for affirmation or expression and calls you into full attentiveness and discovery of another person's life and story. When we provide safe, inviting, and prayerful space for another to share, transformative encounters with God and one another occur over time.

## Matthew 26:14-35

### New International Version

26 <sup>14</sup> Then one of the Twelve—the one called Judas Iscariot—went to the chief priests <sup>15</sup> and asked, “What are you willing to give me if I deliver him over to you?” So, they counted out for him thirty pieces of silver. <sup>16</sup> From then on Judas watched for an opportunity to hand him over.

<sup>17</sup> On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Where do you want us to make preparations for you to eat the Passover?”

<sup>18</sup> He replied, “Go into the city to a certain man and tell him, ‘The Teacher says: My appointed time is near. I am going to celebrate the Passover with my disciples at your house.’” <sup>19</sup> So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them and prepared the Passover.

<sup>20</sup> When evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the Twelve. <sup>21</sup> And while they were eating, he said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.”

<sup>22</sup> They were very sad and began to say to him one after the other, “Surely you don’t mean me, Lord?”

<sup>23</sup> Jesus replied, “The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. <sup>24</sup> The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born.”

<sup>25</sup> Then Judas, the one who would betray him, said, “Surely you don’t mean me, Rabbi?”

Jesus answered, “You have said so.”

<sup>26</sup> While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body.”

<sup>27</sup> Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. <sup>28</sup> This is my blood of the <sup>[a]</sup> covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>29</sup> I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”

<sup>30</sup> When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

<sup>31</sup> Then Jesus told them, “This very night you will all fall away on account of me, for it is written:

“I will strike the shepherd,  
and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.”<sup>[b]</sup>

<sup>32</sup> But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee.”

<sup>33</sup> Peter replied, “Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will.”

<sup>34</sup> “Truly I tell you,” Jesus answered, “this very night, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times.”

<sup>35</sup> But Peter declared, “Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you.” And all the other disciples said the same.

## The Message

<sup>26</sup> <sup>14-16</sup> That is when one of the Twelve, the one named Judas Iscariot, went to the cabal of high priests and said, “What will you give me if I hand him over to you?” They settled on thirty silver pieces. He began looking for just the right moment to hand him over.

<sup>17</sup> On the first of the Days of Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus and said, “Where do you want us to prepare your Passover meal?”

<sup>18-19</sup> He said, “Enter the city. Go up to a certain man and say, ‘The Teacher says, My time is near. I and my disciples plan to celebrate the Passover meal at your house.’” The disciples followed Jesus’ instructions to the letter, and prepared the Passover meal.

<sup>20-21</sup> After sunset, he and the Twelve were sitting around the table. During the meal, he said, “I have something hard but important to say to you: One of you is going to hand me over to the conspirators.”

<sup>22</sup> They were stunned, and then began to ask, one after another, “It isn’t me, is it, Master?”

<sup>23-24</sup> Jesus answered, “The one who hands me over is someone I eat with daily, one who passes me food at the table. In one sense the Son of Man is entering into a way of treachery well-marked by the Scriptures—no surprises here. In another sense that man who turns him in, turns traitor to the Son of Man—better never to have been born than do this!”

<sup>25</sup> Then Judas, already turned traitor, said, “It isn’t me, is it, Rabbi?”

Jesus said, “Don’t play games with me, Judas.”

<sup>26-29</sup> During the meal, Jesus took and blessed the bread, broke it, and gave it to his disciples:

Take, eat.

This is my body.

Taking the cup and thanking God, he gave it to them:

Drink this, all of you.

This is my blood,

God’s new covenant poured out for many people

for the forgiveness of sins.

“I’ll not be drinking wine from this cup again until that new day when I’ll drink with you in the kingdom of my Father.”

<sup>30</sup> They sang a hymn and went directly to Mount Olives.

<sup>31-32</sup> Then Jesus told them, “Before the night’s over, you’re going to fall to pieces because of what happens to me. There is a Scripture that says,

I’ll strike the shepherd;

dazed and confused, the sheep will be scattered.

But after I am raised up, I, your Shepherd, will go ahead of you, leading the way to Galilee.”

<sup>33</sup> Peter broke in, “Even if everyone else falls to pieces on account of you, I won’t.”

<sup>34</sup> “Don’t be so sure,” Jesus said. “This very night, before the rooster crows up the dawn, you will deny me three times.”

<sup>35</sup> Peter protested, “Even if I had to die with you, I would never deny you.” All the others said the same thing.