

# Community Group Question Guide

## Matthew 26:17-29 – The Ultimate Passover

17 Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Where will you have us prepare for you to eat the Passover?"

18 He said, "Go into the city to a certain man and say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is at hand. I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.'"

19 And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover.

20 When it was evening, he reclined at table with the twelve.

21 And as they were eating, he said, "Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me."

22 And they were very sorrowful and began to say to him one after another, "Is it I, Lord?"

23 He answered, "He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me will betray me.

24 The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born."

25 Judas, who would betray him, answered, "Is it I, Rabbi?" He said to him, "You have said so."

26 Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body."

27 And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you,

28 for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

29 I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

30 And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

• after reading this passage together as a group, have someone link to the web page below and read the section titled: *The Heart of the Pasach: the Passover Seder*. As you read, make note of any elements you find both here and in Matthew's account above.

<https://jewsforjesus.org/jewish-resources/community/jewish-holidays/passover/>

- what did the unleavened bread do for the Israelites in the wilderness?
- what does the wine represent for the Israelites?
- what about the bowl into which fingers are dipped?
- what, if any, elements of the meal seem to be changed / redefined by Jesus in this scene?
- what do you make of these changes / variances as acted out by Jesus?
- what do you make of the fact that, in the article, we are told that the typical Passover meal no longer includes lamb?
- What do you make of Judas' mindset that he not only asks if he is the betrayer (knowing full well his intentions) but then goes ahead with his plan in spite of the chilling words from Jesus? What does this say about the condition of the human heart?
- Jesus says he will not drink of the fruit of the vine until he is with his followers in his Father's kingdom. What kind of gathering will that be? What will the wine symbolize then?