



STORY FROM...

Matt 26 Mark 14
Luke 22 John 13-17

The New Covenant

◀ **REVIEW PREVIOUS STORIES** *(Guide the group as they give an overview of previous stories and retell the last story)*

▼ **TELL THE STORY** *(Don't just read it—know it and bring it to life!)*

Jesus and his disciples traveled to Jerusalem for the Passover Festival. The Pharisees and other Jewish leaders were becoming increasingly upset with Jesus and his claims. They looked for ways to trap Jesus into saying something they could arrest him for, but Jesus was too wise for them.

Many of Jesus' stories pointed out the hypocrisy of the Jewish leaders. He said, *"When the Pharisees and teachers share with you God's commands, listen to them—but don't follow their example. They don't live out what they teach."*

The High Priest met with these leaders to discuss capturing Jesus and putting him to death. *"We can't arrest him during Passover,"* they agreed, *"or it will create a huge riot."*

That week, Jesus and his 12 disciples met together in a home to celebrate the Passover.

Before the meal began, Jesus got up from the table, tied a towel around his waist, and poured some water into a bowl. Then he went to each of his disciples and washed his feet, wiping them with the towel he had around him. This shocked the disciples... only hired servants are supposed to wash guests' feet! They wondered why he was doing this!

After washing their feet, Jesus sat down and asked, *"Do you understand what I was doing? Since I have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other's feet. I have given you an example to follow."*

During the meal, Jesus picked up some bread, thanked God for it, and broke it into pieces. Giving it to his disciples he said, *"Take this and eat it, this is my body given for you."*

Then Jesus picked up a cup of wine and thanked God for it. He gave them the cup and said, *"All of you, drink this. It is my blood given for you—a new covenant between God and his people. It is poured out to forgive the sins of many. Remember me each time you eat and drink these things together."*

"When you see what happens tonight, you will all abandon me. It is part of God's plan that I will be betrayed and die. But don't fear, I will rise again from the dead!"

He knew that his disciple Judas would soon betray him, bringing Jewish soldiers to capture him later that night when no one was around.

Jesus continued to speak to them, saying, *"Now I am giving you a new commandment: Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for each other will prove to the world that you are my disciples. The greatest love is shown when people lay down their lives for each other."*

But you can't do this on your own. You must remain in my love and obey what I have taught you. If you remain in me, I will remain in you... like branches connected to a vine... if you remain in me, you will produce much fruit. This will bring great joy to you and to God our Father!"

Then Jesus said, *"I will be leaving you soon, but God will send his Spirit, who will never leave you and who will guide you in all the ways of truth."*

After the Passover meal, when it was dark, Jesus and his disciples went to an olive grove to pray.



STORY FROM...
Matthew 9:9-13 Mark 2:13-17
Luke 5:27-32 Luke 11:37-54

The New Covenant

▲ **RETELL THE STORY** *(This may seem redundant, but it is very effective in helping the listeners own the story)*

▼ **DIALOGUE** *(These questions are a good start for you to draw out the group's observations about the story)*

- **Why was Jesus going to Jerusalem? What do we know about this celebration?**
- **Why did the Jewish leaders want to kill Jesus?**
- **What did Jesus do right before the Passover meal began? Why did he wash their feet?**
- **Jesus said, "Take this and eat it, this is my body given for you" and "...drink this. It is my blood given for you – a new covenant between God and his people."**

What was the Covenant God made with Abraham and his people? What did it require?

What is God's New Covenant with his people? What do you think it requires?

- **What was the new commandment that Jesus gave his disciples?
How were his disciples to show this love?**

◆ **APPLICATION** *(Optional questions that also work well in smaller groups)*

- **Jesus said, "You must remain in my love and obey what I have taught you. If you remain in me, I will remain in you... like branches connected to a vine..."
How do we remain in Jesus' love?**