**JOURNEYING TOGETHER:** FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Session 3 of 4

# The last supper

### MEETING AIM

To explore betrayal and forgiveness and why the last supper was symbolic.

### BIBLE PASSAGE

Mark 14:12-26

### BACKGROUND

This session plan is intended for use either in-person or online, depending on how you’re meeting. Adapt the activities to fit your situation.

The writer tells us it was just before the Passover festival. This reference could be easily overlooked, but I love this (fully intended) metaphor by God: the Passover festival was integral to the Jewish calendar, commemorating when God killed the firstborn of all the families in Egypt, all except the Israelite families who had to paint their doorframe with the blood of a firstborn lamb. They wouldn’t have known why that was significant, but thousands of years later, as the writer tells the story, it would have become apparent for the first time. Can you imagine how they must have felt when they realised? This was an image of Jesus in the Old Testament! Suddenly they would have to reread and rethink everything they knew…Everything about this story is so meticulously choreographed by God, even right back to Moses.

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### STARTING OUT – 5 mins

As people join you, share any refreshments you have. Ask the young people to share what they have been doing during the past seven days. Chat about memorable meals – what is most important about these meals?

### INTRO ACTIVITY – 10 mins

**You will need:** scene of betrayal from a film or TV programme

Before the session, find a film or TV clip of one character betraying another. If your group are sci-fi fans, you could show a clip of [Lando betraying Han](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=93pXrmCdlI0) in *The Empire Strikes Back*. Watch the clip and chat about what happens. Is there betrayer right to do what they did? Can it be explained?

### BIBLE EXPLORATION – 10 mins

**You will need:** a ploughman’s lunch-style meal (including bread and grape juice)

Prepare the meal before the session. Make sure you consider food hygiene and allergy issues.

Invite everyone to eat together and chat about the meaning of bread and wine, and discuss its significance to the Church. Ask what their experience of communion has been so far, and if doing it means something special to them personally.

Explain that these two items would have been standard at Israelite meals…Jesus was a master at using relevant, understandable references and metaphors for his spiritual teaching.

Read Mark 14:12-26 as you share your meal. As you come to verses 22-25, act out the passage with the grape juice and bread. Wonder together about how the disciples might have felt. Would they have understood what was going on? Or would they look back afterwards and realise the significance?

### CHATTING TOGETHER – 5 mins

Chat about the story using these questions, encouraging everyone to join in if they want to:

* What is your favourite part of the story?
* If you were one of the disciples, what would you think about Judas’ actions?
* What do you think Jesus means when he calls the bread his body and the wine his blood?
* What does this story tell you about why Jesus came to live with his people?
* Do you know what happens next? Does knowing that help you to interpret what’s happening here?

### CREATIVE RESPONSE – 10 mins

**You will need:** paper; pens; bin

Make sure everyone has some paper and a pen. Ask the young people to write the names of people they have ever felt betrayed by in the past.

Next, they should write their own name and think of times they have betrayed God – by denying him, avoiding doing what he asked, or putting other things in front of him in their lives.

Finally, they throw away their paper to symbolise a new start, and ask God’s forgiveness and help.

If they realise they have unforgiveness or bitterness towards people, they should pray about that, or talk quietly to a leader.

Don’t rush this, even though it might seem a bit awkward. Give space for the young people to think this through.

### PRAYER – 5 mins

The last supper was a time when the disciples had an incredible bond – a very intense time of friendship and togetherness. Give each person the name of another in the group to pray for. Go around the circle with each person saying a prayer-statement such as: “You forgive me when I betray you by losing my cool when I play football.”

Finally, thank God for the people he has put in our lives to support us, and ask him to help us be supportive of the friends in our lives and stand by them in a godly way.

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