A MEAL TO REMEMBER

MATTHEW 26:17–30 (NIV)

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?” 18 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.’” 19 So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them and prepared the Passover. 20 When evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the Twelve. 21 And while they were eating, he said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.” 22 They were very sad and began to say to him one after the other, “Surely you don’t mean me, Lord?” 23 Jesus replied, “The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. 24 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.” 25 Then Judas, the one who would betray him, said, “Surely you don’t mean me, Rabbi?” Jesus answered, “You have said so.” 26 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.” 27 Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. 28 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 from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.” 30 When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

A meal to remember God’s faithfulness and our calling

“This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.” For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes. 1 Corinthians 11:24–26 (NIV)

1. **Blessed**

   Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. John 13:1–4 (NIV)

   And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. 2 Corinthians 9:8 (NIV)

2. **Broken**

   And he said to them, “I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.” Luke 22:15

   But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. 2 Corinthians 12:9 (NIV)

   But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. 2 Corinthians 4:7 (NIV)

3. **Given**

   Then he took the seven loaves and the fish, and when he had given thanks, he broke them and gave them to the disciples, and they in turn to the people. Matthew 15:36 (NIV)

   I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.” John 6:51 (NIV)
SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS—WEEK OF APRIL 5, 2020
THE FULFILLMENT—A MEAL TO REMEMBER

CONNECT
• Reflect on this past week. Where has God provided a sign of hope for you?

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE
During the current practice of social distancing, it is more important than ever that we stay connected to God and one another. The church is God’s gift to his people, to nurture, sustain, and build up his body. God calls us to be a light in the darkness; as we gather together we are reminded that it is God’s power within us that is the light. As we share our lives, we can encourage one another in our weaknesses, knowing that God is strengthening us for the days ahead.

Opening: Take a moment in silence to sit quietly, breathe deeply, and open your heart to the Holy Spirit and one another.

Share: Last week, we considered the condition of our mind, body, and heart. Share how this practice affected you this week. Then, using the same questions, share with one another how you are doing in each of these areas this week, using only ONE word to describe each. No explanation is needed, just listen and receive what each person shares with grace and acceptance.
• How is your mind?
• How is your body?
• How is your heart?

Respond: What do you observe about how the group is doing as a whole from what you heard shared? Are there any themes or similarities? What might God be revealing to you?

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

Home Communion: What was it like for you to participate in Communion from your home? What surprised you about this experience?

Read Matthew 26:17-30:
• Reflecting on this week’s Scripture and message, what stands out to you?
• How confused do you think the disciples were that evening? What are some of the things they probably didn’t understand?
• Part of the Lord’s Supper is examining our sin, which leads us to confession. What does it mean to examine ourselves? What does your self-examination reveal? Are you ever tempted to start examining others instead of yourself?
• How has God led you to “lay down your life” for others while honoring the directives to stay home?

CLOSING PRAYER
Take a moment to pray in silence (allow 2 minutes for silent prayer). Ask God to show each of you a person in the group that he is putting on your heart to pray for, silently pray for that person. Continue to hold that person in your heart and in your prayers throughout the week.

BENEDICTION
Read aloud together: (From 2 Corinthians 4:7; 2 Corinthians 12:9)
But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. For Jesus says, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. Amen.

DAILY PRACTICE
Continue to spend time with God daily in Solitude, Scripture and Prayer (download new Reading Plan from the website). Ask God to show you how to pray for yourself, others, the church, and the world. Keep a journal of your prayers and any insights you receive from your time alone with God.