

Leaders Guide 7: In Remembrance of Me

1. **Suggested Ice breaker: Share a story during Covid that brought you joy.**
2. **Prayer time:** The promise of the Spirit is a matter little thought of; and the result is only what might be expected—spiritual drought, spiritual darkness, spiritual declension and death. Minor matters occupy the attention, and the divine power which is necessary for the growth and prosperity of the church, and which would bring all other blessings in its train, is lacking, though offered in its infinite plenitude. 8T 21
3. **Sharing from the week**
4. **Read for This week: Matthew 26: 20-29, John 13: 1-30; Study the Background**
5. **Questions for Discussion**

- a. Share a special memory from a communion service.
- b. When the disciples entered the supper room, their hearts were full of resentful feelings. Judas pressed next to Christ on the left side; John was on the right. If there was a highest place, Judas was determined to have it, and that place was thought to be next to Christ. And Judas was a traitor. DA 644 How could such attitudes be found in the group where Jesus was the leader? Is the church similarly affected at times?

Explain _____

- c. Explain why you think Peter didn't want Jesus to wash His feet. How would you have felt about Jesus washing your feet if you were at that table in the upper room. _____
- d. The original footwashing with the disciples was after the Passover Meal. Why do you think currently the Adventist church does this before partaking of the communion. _____

Are these words pertinent? This ordinance is Christ's appointed preparation for the sacramental service. While pride, variance, and strife for supremacy are cherished, the heart cannot enter into fellowship with Christ. We are not prepared to receive the communion of His body and His blood. Therefore it was that Jesus appointed the memorial of His humiliation to be first observed. DA 650.

- e. Jesus told the disciples He would not be partaking of the communion again with them until they partake of it new in His kingdom. What do you imagine a communion service would be like in heaven? _____
- f. Why do you think we have open communion in our church to anyone who wishes to celebrate with us the sacrifice of Christ? Do we take a risk? _____
- g. Consider these words Christ's example forbids exclusiveness at the Lord's Supper. It is true that open sin excludes the guilty. This the Holy Spirit plainly teaches. [1 Corinthians 5:11](#). But beyond this none are to pass judgment. God has not left it with men to say who shall present themselves on these occasions. For who can read the heart? DA. 656
- h. How do you think communion helps prepare us for heaven? _____

Are these words helpful: "As we receive the bread and wine symbolizing Christ's broken body and spilled blood, we in imagination join in the scene of Communion in the upper chamber. We seem to be passing through the garden consecrated by the agony of Him who bore the sins of the world. We witness the struggle by which our reconciliation with God was obtained. Christ is set forth crucified among us." DA 661

Background

Thursday— From the Last supper to His trials (Starts the day in the Mount of Olives and ends with a night of trials mostly at Caiaphas' palace)

As I embark on this part of the story in the countdown toward Calvary, it seems appropriate to pause and thank Jesus for all He has done to provide for our salvation. "Thank You Jesus for your pain and death on our behalf!"

I will first give a chronology of the events of the day (Times are suggestion, not known exactly)—then have some devotional comments.

Chronology of Thursday's events--Mid-afternoon: Preparation for Last Supper. 6 pm: Last Supper: Preceded by Jesus washing their feet, they sang Psalms 113-118 at this event; Following the supper on the way to Gethsemane He gave the passionate messages and prayer recorded in John's gospel (John 14-17)—Judas left after the supper to betray Jesus); Perhaps around 10 am they arrive in Gethsemane and Jesus prays His most agonizing prayer asking His disciples to pray with Him. Around 12 midnight: Judas and the mob capture Jesus and take him to trial—the disciples flee; around 1-2 am the appearance before Annas occurs where Jesus' face is slapped; Trial before Annas and Caiaphas and other Sanhedrin members 2-3 am; (During the night Peter denies Jesus three times outside Caiapha's palace. Today a bronze statue is there picturing Peter in denial); a night appearance before the Sanhedrin where religious leaders seek to form a basis for condemnation 3-4 am; then just after the break of dawn 5-5:30 am, another meeting with the Sanhedrin—they condemn Him for blasphemy (Saying He claimed to be the Son of God). The reason for this second meeting is that no trials were to be allowed at night where death might be a penalty.

Judas left three meetings to negotiate with religious leaders on the betrayal—Saturday night, Tuesday night and Thursday night. How could he have been in fellowship with Jesus and the other disciples during the day while planning betrayal at night?—sin leads to strange behavior.

In the garden of Gethsemane, the disciples (Peter, James and John) fell asleep during Jesus greatest moments of agony in prayer. Jesus said, "Could you not watch with me one hour?" Perhaps during this unusual time of Covid 19 when we have more time than usual at Easter, we could spend time reading and praying through the accounts surrounding Calvary in the gospels and even the book *Desire of Ages*: Matthew 26-28; Mark 14-16; Luke 22-24; John 19-21; DA 685-795 (Free Online).