

**Title:** ENCOUNTERING THE TRUE PASSOVER LAMB  
**Text:** Mark 14:12-31

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**Mark 14:12-31 (ESV)**

And on the first day of Unleavened Bread, when they sacrificed the Passover lamb, his disciples said to him, "Where will you have us go and prepare for you to eat the Passover?" And he sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him, and wherever he enters, say to the master of the house, 'The Teacher says, Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' And he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready; there prepare for us." And the disciples set out and went to the city and found it just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover. And when it was evening, he came with the twelve. And as they were reclining at table and eating, Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me." They began to be sorrowful and to say to him one after another, "Is it I?" He said to them, "It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the dish with me. For 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." And as they were eating, he took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body." And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, and they all drank of it. And he said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly, I say to you, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God." And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. And Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away, for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.' But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee." Peter said to him, "Even though they all fall away, I will not." And Jesus said to him, "Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times." But he said emphatically, "If I must die with you, I will not deny you." And they all said the same.

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## CONVERSATION STARTER

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- Describe an annual tradition in your family. In what ways has that shared experience bonded your family together?
- Read Exodus 12:1-17. In verse 13, what do you think it means that the blood “is a sign” for Israel? Why is it significant that God “judges” (v. 12) Egypt through the Passover? Ultimately, what in God’s instruction to Israel saves them from this same judgment?
- Read Mark 14:12-31. Why do you think Mark points out all the details of Jesus’ commands of Passover preparation to his disciples? What is the significance of the Lord’s Supper being instituted during the Feast of Unleavened Bread/The Passover? What is the significance of Jesus knowing beforehand that His disciples would soon betray Him and yet He still promises to give Himself up for them?
- Read the excerpt below. What role does the Christian community play in our experience of God’s forgiveness at the Lord’s Supper? In what sense, according to Bonhoeffer, is the Lord’s Supper the fulfillment of Christian community?
- Take a moment to think about how you normally approach taking the Lord’s Supper. Is it something you look forward to, or is it just a ritual? Are you generally distracted? Does it carry special meaning for you? Discuss this as a group. How might we in the church community better foster a greater spirit of anticipation for communing together at the Lord’s Supper?

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**EXCERPT FROM:** *Life Together*

**BY:** Dietrich Bonhoeffer

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The day of the Lord’s Supper is an occasion of joy for the Christian community. Reconciled in their hearts with God and the brethren, the congregation receives the gift of the body and blood of Jesus Christ, and, receiving that, it receives forgiveness, new life, and salvation. It is given new fellowship with God and men. The fellowship of the Lord’s Supper is the superlative fulfillment of Christian fellowship. As the members of the congregation are united in body and blood at the table of the Lord so will they be together in eternity. Here the community has reached its goal. Here joy in Christ and his community is complete. The life of Christians together under the Word has reached its perfection in the sacrament.