

➤ **Read Luke 22:1–38.**

In the last several chapters Jesus has been teaching his disciples in preparation for his departure. Beginning in chapter 22, Luke focuses on the events leading up to Jesus' impending suffering and death.

➤ **Read Luke 22:1–6.**

1. Thousands of people have gathered in Jerusalem this week for the upcoming Passover celebration, and Jesus has captured their attention. He has been spending his days teaching at the temple, and “all the people [have been hanging] on his words” (Lk. 19:48).  
What else has been going on – in secret, behind the scenes? (vv. 2–6; Lk. 19:47b–48)

2. Judas, moved by Satan to betray Jesus, takes the initiative and approaches the religious leaders, much to their delight. What does Jesus know is true of Judas that gives Satan the opportunity to enter and exert his evil influence? (Jn. 6:64, 70–71; 13:10–11)

➤ **Read Luke 22:7–30.**

3. It is now Thursday, the day of Unleavened Bread, “the day on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed” (v. 7).  
What significance does the slaughter of a lamb have to Jews celebrating the Passover? (Skim Exod. 11–12.)

*The Day of Unleavened Bread / Passover*

“Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles were the three most important feasts on the Jewish calendar (Lev. 23); and all the Jewish men were expected to go to Jerusalem each year to celebrate (Deut. 16:16). The Feast of Passover commemorated the deliverance of Israel from Egypt, and it was a time for both remembering and rejoicing (Ex. 11-12).”<sup>1</sup>

The Day of Unleavened Bread marked the beginning of the festival. The night before the Passover meal, Jews thoroughly cleaned their houses of leaven (yeast), then on this day prepared unleavened bread to commemorate the haste with which the Lord delivered the Israelites out of Egyptian bondage. “Between about 2:30 p.m. until about 6 p.m. on that day... the paschal lambs had to be slaughtered and made ready for the Passover, which commenced a little after sunset...”<sup>2</sup>

4. The sacrifice of the Passover lamb foreshadows the sacrifice of Jesus, “the Lamb of God” (Jn. 1:29). What has Jesus’ sacrifice accomplished for you? (Is. 53:4–8, 12b; Jn. 1:29)
  
5. Jesus has quietly arranged for the use of a room and sends Peter and John to find it and make preparations for the Passover that evening. Why has Jesus secured a private upper room that not even his closest friends know about? (Consider vv. 6, 15; Jn. 10:17–18)
  
6. Why do you think Jesus has so “eagerly desired” (v. 15) to share in this Passover meal with his twelve apostles?
  
7. What event in the future “kingdom of God” is Jesus looking forward to in verses 16 and 18? (Rev. 19:6–9)
  
8. In the midst of the Passover meal, Jesus gives new and very personal meaning to two of its most basic elements: bread and wine.
  - a. What does the bread now represent? (v. 19)
  
  - b. What does the wine (cup) now represent? (v. 20)
  
  - c. What is the new covenant? (Jer. 31:31–34; Heb. 10:1–18)

9. “As the Feast of Passover was a commemorative meal (see Ex. 12:14), so also the Lord’s Supper is a memorial supper, recalling and portraying Christ’s death for sinners.”<sup>3</sup> In verse 19, Jesus tells his apostles to partake of it “in remembrance of [him].” Of all the commands that Jesus could give, why the command, “remember me”? (You may wish to consider 1 Cor. 11:26.)

10. Judas is a willing participant in Jesus’ betrayal and death. But that is not the full story. What is the bigger picture behind the events in this passage? (Is. 46:10; 53:10; Acts 2:22–23)

11. Judas must have hidden his intentions well, for the apostles begin “to question among themselves” (v. 23) who the betrayer might be. As their focus shifts to themselves, what happens? (v. 24)

Jesus’ exclamation of “woe” (v. 22) is an expression of deep sorrow and grief at Judas’s turning away from him. In this we see Jesus loving his enemy. (To learn the rest of Judas’ story, read Matthew 26:47–49; 27:1–10.)

12. Perhaps it is at this point that Jesus “wrap[s] a towel around his waist,... and [begins] to wash his disciples’ feet...” (Jn. 13:4–5). What two lessons does Jesus teach his apostles in response to their dispute about who is the greatest?  
vv. 25–27

vv. 28–30

