

## Connection Group Discussion Questions

For the week of July 12, 2015

Mark 14:17-21

### **New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)**

<sup>17</sup> When it was evening, he came with the twelve. <sup>18</sup> And when they had taken their places and were eating, Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me.” <sup>19</sup> They began to be distressed and to say to him one after another, “Surely, not I?” <sup>20</sup> He said to them, “It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the bowl with me. <sup>21</sup> For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born.”

### **Common English Bible (CEB)**

<sup>17</sup> *That evening, Jesus arrived with the Twelve. <sup>18</sup> During the meal, Jesus said, “I assure you that one of you will betray me—someone eating with me.”*

<sup>19</sup> *Deeply saddened, they asked him, one by one, “It’s not me, is it?”*

<sup>20</sup> *Jesus answered, “It’s one of the Twelve, one who is dipping bread with me into this bowl. <sup>21</sup> The Human One goes to his death just as it is written about him. But how terrible it is for that person who betrays the Human One! It would have been better for him if he had never been born.”*

### **Connection Questions:**

1. What images do picnics conjure up in your mind? Share a memory of a special picnic that you have participated in and why it was special to you.

2. Growing up I was always encouraged to attend annual family reunion picnics on both sides of my family. Do you think family reunions are important? Why or why not?
  
3. The idea of getting together for a meal was something important for people in the biblical drama. Why was getting together over meals emphasized?
  
4. Discuss why in the Jewish faith the Seder meal continues to be a vital ritual celebrated on a regular basis.
  
5. In the same light, share why you think in the Christian faith we celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper on a regular basis? And why during the Protestant Reformation, most of the churches celebrated the Eucharist every week?
  
6. Why do you think most Protestant churches today generally celebrate the Eucharist monthly instead of weekly? Why do you think this change took place?

7. In our text in Mark, Jesus, in the institution of his new meal, mentions that one of his disciples would betray him. He was angry. Discuss the reasons why you think he was angry.
  
8. Jesus often talks about the value of being a part of a community of believers. He said, "Where two or more are gathered I am there." Why was the concept of a community of faith important?
  
9. What does the concept of a picnic and forming a community of faith have in common or do they?
  
10. The early church formed and grew through the gathering of small groups in homes over meals. Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?