

Session 5 Study Guide - Risking the Loss of Friends

The Last Supper is a well-known part of the passion narrative. It is the basis of the church's most sacred ritual, 'Holy Communion'. There are however other less familiar parts to explore that may challenge our faith. Read Luke 22:7-34 and John 13:1-30. Make some notes on the differences in the two narratives.

- What are the most dramatic differences between the two gospels?
- The foot washing is only portrayed in John. In what does it dramatically overshadow the sharing of bread and wine?

Foot washing is not practiced in most churches. (Ref: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k_Y5fM9lyBo)

- Why did Jesus choose to perform this act?
- Should become part of modern church practice? Why or why not?

When Jesus again reveals his ultimate fate, the disciples react poorly and argue about who is 'greatest'.

- How is the dispute between the disciples in Luke reflected in the modern church?

In each of the gospels, Jesus is fully aware that he is about to be betrayed by his closest followers.

- What differences are there in his reaction to Judas' and Peter's betrayals?
- How does Jesus offer grace to each? What are their ultimate decisions? What does it say about the nature of grace?

Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-26. This is the earliest recorded description of the institution of communion in the Bible.

- Reflect on the meaning of the words. What is most important to remember about the risks of discipleship?
- How would you explain the importance of 'Holy Communion' to a new faith seeker?