

# Small Group Curriculum

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## *Week of 2-3-13*

1. Open your session by asking, "How does your family commemorate special occasions? How do those traditions help build your family identity?"
2. Have a volunteer read Mark 14:22-26.
3. Jesus transformed a simple meal with disciples into a commemorative meal. What was he trying to commemorate? What's the significance of Jesus establishing the traditions for the meal when the event he was commemorating hadn't happened yet?
4. What do you think was going through the disciples' minds when they heard Jesus' words? How do you think they felt in that moment?
5. It was a tradition in Jewish households that the head of the family took bread at every meal, lifted it up and said a prayer of blessing over the bread, broke it and distributed it to the family. What was the significance of Jesus saying "this is my body"?
6. Read John 6:22-40. What did bread signify to this point in Jesus' ministry?
7. Jesus didn't tell his disciples that the wine represented his blood until *after* they drank it. The Jews had an aversion to drinking blood (Genesis 9:4) since blood was central to their sacrificial system. How do you think the disciples reacted to Jesus' statement? What was Jesus communicating to them?
8. In the Old Testament, covenants were ratified through animal sacrifice (Exodus 24:3-8,11). Jesus called the wine the "blood of the covenant." Read Isaiah 53:12. What agreement between God and people was being made through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross?
9. Jesus promised his disciples that he would someday share this meal with them again. What hope would that promise give his disciples after they failed him later that night? What hope can we gain from this promise?