

# Small Group Discussion



**Week #2**

## **Passover – Lord's Supper**

**Discussion Starter:** Have the group do a Relationship Inventory. What percentage of our friendships fall under the following categories:

- 1) **All-Access Pass** – These people can ask you the hard questions, they are the ones you process difficult ideas, circumstances and relationship issues. These are your 2 a.m. friends (you can call them any time)
- 2) **Common Interests** – These are the friends you have common interests that you share together. When you get together you don't get into feelings or the hard things in your life.
- 3) **Acquaintances** – These friends you have conversations with, you "know of them," but you don't really know about their lives.

How does conflict impact each of these friendships in your life? Do you have conflict in any of these friendship categories today?

### **FAILURE OF FRIENDS**

There are two kinds of relationships that when conflict hits the results are very different on both people in the relationship. We are going to look at Judas and Peter and how their relationship changed through conflict.

#### **Judas: Unchangeable Expectations**

Judas' relationship with Jesus came with expectations that when exposed and confronted, Judas would not change.

**Read John 12:1-8** Mark 14 tells us that after this Judas went to the religious leaders to arrange his betrayal of Jesus. **Based on what you learn about Judas, what was his expectation of his relationship with Jesus?** *Apparently Judas expected to make Jesus a wealthy Messiah who could become influential and result in making Judas wealthy as well.*

**What choice did Judas have to make and how did he decide?** *Would He acknowledge Jesus as his God, worship of extravagant worship, or continue to pursue a comfortable life? When Jesus let people "throw away" money in extravagant worship, then confronted Judas for his focus on money, his relationship with Jesus turned to hatred. Judas decided to not only leave Jesus, but to destroy Him!*

**Read John 13:21, 26-27** How did Jesus handle Judas, whom He knew was trying to



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**destroy Him?** *Jesus let Judas know that He knew of his betrayal, affirmed His love, then sent him away.*

**When does a friendship move into this category when you must send them away?** *When a friendship moves to a point where rather than changing they move toward manipulation and even destructive behavior in a relationship.*

**Peter: Controlling Leader**

**Read Matthew 16:15-24 How could Peter be so on-target in His belief in Jesus and so off when Jesus started talking about His death?** *Peter was interested in Jesus' life, but still believed that he could make Jesus into the Messiah they all wanted Him to be.*

**What part of Jesus did Peter get from his affirmation, and what part of Jesus did Peter NOT like based on his confrontation of Jesus?** *Peter understood that Jesus was God in the flesh, but he did not like the idea of suffering and death.*

**READ Luke 22:31-34 How did Jesus expose Peter's motive and weakness, and what was the risk of this exposure?** *Peter was VERY confident of his value to Jesus' organization, but Jesus let him fail in a dramatic way (not 1 denial, but three-in-a-row). The risk is that Peter would get angry or frustrated and give up, or go back to an area he still felt confident in.*

If you want to follow how Jesus followed up with Peter after his failure, read John 21.

**Based on Jesus' treatment of Peter's confidence and pride, how do you handle a manipulative friend?** *Patience, truth, firmness. Friendships must be a relationship of two who enjoy one another rather than one controlling the other. God can't be manipulated, so sometimes our motives have to be exposed.*

**How do these two relationships that Jesus addressed at His Last Supper help you in a relationship you are facing today?**

**Is there someone you are in relational crisis that is due to your agenda or attempt to control?**

**Read 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 11:17-34** Relationships and conflict resolution is an important message in our celebration of the Lord's Supper. **How does your this passage help you understand the message of the Lord's Supper?**

**How could your Small Group celebrate the Lord's Supper in a way that celebrates the unity that Christ brings?**