In the Presence of My Enemies

MARK 14:17-26 (BSB) · TEACHER GUIDE · DIGDEEPER.AI

THE BIG IDEA · SAY IT AT LEAST FIVE TIMES

Jesus set his table with his enemy beside him, and gave himself anyway.

Open with it, bring it back after every section, close with it. By the end they should be able to finish the sentence for you.

- Before this passage (day 10): Mark 6:14-29, Herod's Table. Its big idea: Herod set his table for himself; the LORD prepares his table for you.
- After this passage (day 12): Mark 14:27-50, Strike the Shepherd. Its big idea: The Shepherd walked the right path himself, and leads scattered sheep back.

Open

Recall last time (Mark 6:14-29): Herod set his table for himself; the LORD prepares his table for his guest. Today: the next words of Psalm 23:5, “in the presence of my enemies.” Ask: Who would be the hardest person to share a meal with? Read Mark 14:18. Big idea: Jesus set his table with his enemy beside him, and gave himself anyway. Ask one person what stuck from last time.

Run Sheet

1. Enemies Watching (Psalm 23:5, about 8 min)

The one thing: Psalm 23:5 promises safety at the table while enemies are still present.

Ask: Why might it matter that the psalm does not say the enemies go away first?

2. One of You (Mark 14:17-21, about 10 min)

The one thing: The enemy was a friend who shared his bread, and Jesus knew it.

Ask: Why do you think each disciple asked about himself instead of pointing at someone else?

3. Bread and Cup (Mark 14:22-26, about 12 min)

The one thing: The Host gave his body and blood in the presence of his enemies, and that is what keeps his guests safe.

Ask: What does it show about Jesus that he gave the bread and the cup to men who would all desert him that night?

Close (never cut it)

Read Mark 14:22-24, then Psalm 23:5. The Host gave his body and blood with his enemy at the table. Say together: “You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.”

PROTECT THE ENDING

If the last section starts late, read v22-24 and go to the close.

KIDS SIDE ANSWERS

Story order: 5, 1, 2, 4, 3 (top to bottom) · Feelings: The disciples hearing one would betray Jesus sad, The disciples asking, “Surely not I?” worried, The disciples sharing bread with Jesus happy, The disciples singing together happy · Code: SAFE AT HIS TABLE

Act it out: The children sit around a table or blanket as the disciples. One child is Jesus and says, “One of you will turn against Me,” and each child asks, “Surely not I?” Then Jesus thanks God and shares a snack with every child, one by one.

1. Enemies Watching

PSALM 23:5 · ABOUT 8 MIN · SECTION 1 OF 3

THEIR PAGE, WORD FOR WORD (ANSWERS FILLED IN)

- The enemies in the psalm do not leave before the meal.
- “In the presence of” is neged: in front of, facing, in full view.
- The first Passover was a table in Pharaoh’s land, kept safe by the blood of the lamb (Exodus 12:13).

“Truly I tell you, one of you who is EATING with Me will betray Me.” In Psalm 23:5 the enemies watch; here one sits at the table.

“The one who is dipping his hand into the BOWL with Me.” The enemy was that close.

Discuss: Why might it matter that the psalm does not say the enemies go away first?

Psalm 23:5 promises safety at the table while enemies are still present.

MUST COVER

- Psalm 23:5: “You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.”
- Exodus 12:11-13: Israel ate dressed for travel, and the blood was the sign of safety.

IF THERE'S TIME

- Mark 14:1: the chief priests and scribes were already looking for a way to kill Jesus.

Illustration idea: A family keeping its evening meal together in a house during a storm, the wind loud outside and the table still set.

RUNNING THE DISCUSSION

- Listen for: The enemies are still there.
- Listen for: The guest is safe because of the host.

If it drifts: If people start naming their own enemies in detail, bring it back to the psalm: the point is who keeps the guest safe.

TRY SAYING SOMETHING LIKE

The table is set while the enemies watch, and the guest is safe.

Short on time? Drop Mark 14:1. Keep Exodus 12:13.

Bridge → At the Last Supper the enemy was not across the room. He was at the table.

2. One of You

MARK 14:17-21 · ABOUT 10 MIN · SECTION 2 OF 3

THEIR PAGE, WORD FOR WORD (ANSWERS FILLED IN)

- Jesus says one of the Twelve, eating with him, will betray him.
- Each disciple asks, “Surely not I?”
- It is the one dipping his hand into the bowl with Jesus.

“One of you who is eating with Me will BETRAY Me.”

They began to be grieved and to ask Him one after another, “Surely not I?”

Discuss: Why do you think each disciple asked about himself instead of pointing at someone else?

The enemy was a friend who shared his bread, and Jesus knew it.

MUST COVER

- v18-20: sharing the bowl was a bond of trust; the betrayal comes from inside it.
- Psalm 41:9: “the one who shared my bread, has lifted up his heel against me,” applied to Judas in John 13:18.

IF THERE'S TIME

- Psalm 55:12-13: “it is not an enemy who insults me... But it is you.”
- v21: “just as it is written” — the betrayal does not take God by surprise.

Illustration idea: A betrayal by a close friend hurts more than an attack by a stranger.

RUNNING THE DISCUSSION

- Listen for: It was someone close.
- Listen for: Each one looked at himself.

If it drifts: If the talk becomes a debate about Judas’ fate, return to v19: every disciple asked, “Surely not I?”

TRY SAYING SOMETHING LIKE

The enemy was dipping bread in the same bowl, and Jesus stayed at the table.

Short on time? Drop Psalm 55. Keep Psalm 41:9.

Bridge → Then, with the betrayer still at the table, Jesus took bread.

3. Bread and Cup

MARK 14:22-26 · ABOUT 12 MIN · SECTION 3 OF 3

THEIR PAGE, WORD FOR WORD (ANSWERS FILLED IN)

- Jesus takes bread, blesses it, breaks it and says, “This is My body.”
- He gives the cup: “My blood of the covenant, poured out for many.”
- They sing a hymn and go out to the Mount of Olives.

“Take it; this is My BODY.”

“This is My blood of the COVENANT, which is poured out for many.”

Discuss: What does it show about Jesus that he gave the bread and the cup to men who would all desert him that night?

The Host gave his body and blood in the presence of his enemies, and that is what keeps his guests safe.

MUST COVER

- v22-24: the gift is given while the betrayer is within reach (Luke 22:21).
- Romans 5:10: “when we were enemies of God, we were reconciled to Him through the death of His Son.”

IF THERE'S TIME

- “Blood of the covenant” echoes Exodus 24:8.
- The hymn was probably from Psalms 113-118, which include “The LORD is on my side; I will not be afraid” (Psalm 118:6).

Illustration idea: A host who sets a place for someone who has wronged him, and serves him first.

RUNNING THE DISCUSSION

- Listen for: He gave it anyway.
- Listen for: Enemies can become guests.

If it drifts: If the discussion turns to how different churches celebrate communion, return to v22-24: what Jesus gave, and to whom.

TRY SAYING SOMETHING LIKE

Jesus set his table with his enemy beside him, and gave himself anyway.

Short on time? Drop the hymn note. Keep v24 and Romans 5:10.

Bridge → So hear the psalm line again beside the supper.

With One Friend, Over Coffee

ABOUT 30 MINUTES · FOR A FRIEND WHO IS CURIOUS, OR NOT SURE

1. Start with a hard table. Ask: Who would be the hardest person to share a meal with?

2. Read the psalm. Read Psalm 23:5: “in the presence of my enemies.”

3. Read Mark. Read Mark 14:17-26 together.

4. The enemy at the table. Judas dipped in the same bowl, and Jesus still gave the bread and the cup.

5. Leave the question. Ask: What does it mean that former enemies can be guests at his table? Leave it with them.

QUESTIONS YOU MAY HEAR

“Did Judas take the bread and cup?”

Mark does not say he left. Luke places Jesus’ words about the betrayer’s hand on the table right after the cup (Luke 22:21). John says Judas went out after Jesus gave him a morsel.

“Why “in the presence of my enemies”?”

The Hebrew neged means in front of, in full view. The psalm promises safety at the table while enemies still look on.

“What is the covenant?”

A binding promise sealed with blood. Jesus echoes Exodus 24:8 and the new covenant of Jeremiah 31:31-34.

“What does this mean for me?”

Paul says we were once God’s enemies, reconciled through Christ’s death (Romans 5:10). The table is open to all who come to him.

Evergreen Principles

Four standards every week. The rest rotate: each lesson brings the few that fit its passage best.

EVERY LESSON

1. Pray before you prepare

Teaching the Bible is spiritual work first (John 15:5).
If you're new: Pray for your class by name during the week.
If you've taught for years: Pray for the one person you find hardest to reach.

2. Study the text first

Understand the passage yourself before any help.
If you're new: Read it in two translations; write your own questions first.
If you've taught for years: Don’t lean on old notes. What did you miss last time?

3. Teach one big idea

People remember one sentence, not four points.
If you're new: Write it in 12 words or fewer before anything else.
If you've taught for years: Test every story against it. If it doesn’t serve it, cut it.

4. Point to Christ

All of Scripture points to him (Luke 24:27).
If you're new: Ask: what does this show about Jesus?
If you've taught for years: Show grace as the reason for obedience, not just the rule.

FOR THIS LESSON

1. Make it concrete

Mark gives the posture and the shared bowl.
If you're new: Show a shallow bowl and describe several people dipping bread into it together.
If you've taught for years: Use v18 and v20.

2. Let the Bible do the talking

Jesus’ words at the table carry the passage.
If you're new: Read v22 and v24 slowly, twice.
If you've taught for years: Let the class hear “My body” and “poured out for many.”

3. Let the passage land the way it lands

It shows who Jesus is on the night of his betrayal.
If you're new: End on what he gave, not on a task.
If you've taught for years: Leave a moment of silence after v24.

BEFORE CLASS

- ☐ Read the passage three times
- ☐ Big idea in one sentence
- ☐ Opening and close chosen
- ☐ Know what you’ll cut
- ☐ Handouts, pens, extra Bibles
- ☐ Prayed for the class by name

Openings, Closings & Hard Moments

Pick one opening and one close; rotate so class doesn't get predictable.

OPENINGS

- ask a real-life question: Who would be the hardest person to share a meal with?

- use an object: Set two plates side by side and ask: what if the person at the second plate had already agreed to hand you over?
- raise a problem: How can a table be safe when an enemy is sitting at it?

CLOSINGS

- restate the big idea: Jesus set his table with his enemy beside him, and gave himself anyway.
- call back to the opening: Return to the hardest person to eat with, and read Mark 14:20 and 14:22 beside it.
- pray the text: Thank Jesus for giving his body and blood for people who were once his enemies.

WHEN CLASS GETS HARD

- Someone has been betrayed by a close friend or family member.: Do not rush them to forgive. Jesus knew that pain; Psalm 41:9 and 55:12-13 name it honestly. Point to the Host who stayed at the table.
- Someone fears they are like Judas.: Point to v19: every disciple asked “Surely not I?”, all of them deserted him, and he gave them the bread and cup anyway. Whoever comes to him is welcome.
- Silence after a question: Wait. Then rephrase simpler, or ask them to talk to a neighbor first.
- One person dominates: “Thanks. Let’s hear from someone who hasn’t spoken yet.” Talk privately if it continues.
- A question you can’t answer: Say so, write it down, bring an answer next week.
- A tangent takes over: “Great question. Let’s catch it after class so we can finish the passage.”

READ THIS WEEK

- Psalm 41
- Exodus 12:1-14
- Romans 5:6-11

Free at digdeeper.ai/devotionals/mark/14-17-26/lesson

In the Presence of My Enemies

MARK 14:17-26 (BSB) · THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD · DIGDEEPER.AI

Key verse: “You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.” Psalm 23:5

THE BIG IDEA

Jesus set his table with his enemy beside him, and gave himself anyway.

1. ENEMIES WATCHING · PSALM 23:5

- The enemies in the psalm do not leave before the meal.
- “In the presence of” is neged: in front of, facing, in full view.
- The first Passover was a table in Pharaoh’s land, kept safe by the blood of the lamb (Exodus 12:13).

“Truly I tell you, one of you who is _____ with Me will betray Me.” In Psalm 23:5 the enemies watch; here one sits at the table.

“The one who is dipping his hand into the _____ with Me.” The enemy was that close.

Discuss: Why might it matter that the psalm does not say the enemies go away first?

2. ONE OF YOU · MARK 14:17-21

- Jesus says one of the Twelve, eating with him, will betray him.
- Each disciple asks, “Surely not I?”
- It is the one dipping his hand into the bowl with Jesus.

“One of you who is eating with Me will _____ Me.”

They began to be grieved and to ask Him one after another, “Surely not _____?”

Discuss: Why do you think each disciple asked about himself instead of pointing at someone else?

3. BREAD AND CUP · MARK 14:22-26

- Jesus takes bread, blesses it, breaks it and says, “This is My body.”
- He gives the cup: “My blood of the covenant, poured out for many.”
- They sing a hymn and go out to the Mount of Olives.

“Take it; this is My _____.”

“This is My blood of the _____, which is poured out for many.”

Discuss: What does it show about Jesus that he gave the bread and the cup to men who would all desert him that night?

Read this week: Psalm 41 · Exodus 12:1-14 · Romans 5:6-11

For Kids: In the Presence of My Enemies

MARK 14:17-26 · NAME: _____

Big idea: Jesus shared his meal even with the friend who hurt him.

1. PUT THE STORY IN ORDER! NUMBER THE BOXES.

☐ They sing a song to God.

☐ Jesus eats a special meal.

☐ A friend will turn against him.

☐ He shares a cup with them.

☐ Jesus breaks the bread.

2. HOW DID THEY FEEL? CIRCLE ONE.

The disciples hearing one would betray Jesus: happy · sad · worried

The disciples asking, “Surely not I?”: happy · sad · worried

The disciples sharing bread with Jesus: happy · sad · worried

The disciples singing together: happy · sad · worried

3. WORD SEARCH

H N S J U K G C C
H N A E T B B F U
Y U F S A K O B P
M V E U B F R O F
N K Y S L R Y W P
N K R R E I V L K
N B V C G E Y K F
B R E A D N Y D P
S F F U Y D C P R

JESUS · BREAD · CUP · BOWL · TABLE · FRIEND · HYMN · SAFE

4. SECRET CODE

1=A 2=B 3=E 4=F 5=H 6=I 7=L 8=S 9=T

___	___	___	___		___	___		___	___	___		___	___	___	___	___
8	**1**	**4**	**3**		**1**	**9**		**5**	**6**	**8**		**9**	**1**	**2**	**7**	**3**

5. DRAW IT!

Draw Jesus at the table with his friends, holding bread and a cup, and one bowl in the middle.

6. MEMORY VERSE

“You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.” Psalm 23:5 Say it to a grown-up: ☐ ☐ ☐

Jesus shared his bread with _____. _____