

**Waging Peace (5 of 7)**  
Small Group Discussion Questions

Join our congregation for worship in-person or online at 10:30 am each Sunday via our [Grantham Church YouTube Channel](#). If you ever miss a message, the sermons are always posted to the [recent sermons page](#) at our website and at the [Grantham Church Podcast](#) the following day, along with the sermon slides and small group discussion questions under Worship Resources. Thank you for staying connected with us!

**Sunday, March 17th, 2024**



**Series Focus:** At the beginning of Holy Week, Jesus looked out over Jerusalem and cried aloud, “If only you knew the things that make for peace.” And then Jesus spends each day confronting injustice, calling out oppressors, and contending for peace. But what if—despite our familiarity with the events of Holy Week—we have not fully understood or embraced how Jesus makes peace and calls us to do the same? Join us for Lent as we journey with Jesus through Holy Week and discover anew why he is called the Prince of Peace, and what it looks like when we are waging peace like him.

**Sermon Title:** A Towel, Basin & Two Swords

**Scripture Reading:** Matthew 26:17-56; Mark 14:12-52; Luke 22:7-53; John 13:1-18:14

**Sermon Focus:** On Thursday of Holy Week, after a day of relative calm, the forces of darkness begin to descend upon Jesus and his disciples. Everything is now moving quickly. He will wash his disciples’ feet, change the meaning of the Passover meal, give a new commandment, be betrayed with a kiss, rebuke Peter for using a sword against their enemies, and be arrested. In the fifth message of our series, Pastor David invites us to follow Jesus’ command to love as he does, even when all hell breaks loose.

Thank you for going deeper in conversation with your small group. Use the following questions to help *guide* your small group discussion:

1. This message on Maundy Thursday focused primarily on Jesus' commandment to love as he has loved (including the washing of his disciples' feet) and Jesus' rebuke of Peter's decision to use the sword during his arrest. Did you notice or learn anything new? What insights did the Lord give you about the story?
2. Read John 13:34-35. Jesus said, love each other "as I have loved you" (Jn. 13:34). How has Jesus loved you? Share that with the group. Also, where do you see ways that your love does not align with his love? Be specific.
3. Jesus said, "Put your sword back in its place, for all those who live by the sword will die by the sword" (Matt. 26:52). Clearly, this statement indicates that Jesus' advocacy of non-violence is not simply because he didn't want anything to stop him from going to the cross. Rather, this command transcends his arrest and is to be applied to our life at all times. This is the way of Jesus and his people. What are the implications of this command for Christians today? And why do you think that Christians have not taken his command more seriously?
4. We're told that Judas betrayed Jesus, but we're not told exactly why. We can easily surmise it was because Judas had lost faith in Jesus as the Messiah. Jesus was not becoming what he thought the Messiah should be (i.e., a military king who overthrows the Romans). So, he was jaded, disillusioned, and disappointed. He may have even been angry. Remember, "Satan entered him" (John 13:27). What do you make of this betrayal? And what do you make of Jesus' response to still love and include Judas up to the point of that betrayal? What does this say about the love of God in Christ? What does it say about our free will?
5. How are the words and actions of Jesus on Maundy Thursday challenging to you in your walk? Can you see yourself in any of the 12 disciples that night? Explain.
6. Jason Porterfield writes, "Christian peacemakers should strive to form communities that model on a small scale the peace they seek to cultivate on a grand scale" (pg.130). Do you agree? If so, how will this insight change the way you work for peace? What does this mean for our congregation? And how do you see your role in bringing about this sort of community at Grantham Church?
7. What is one main takeaway or "word from the Lord" you have from the message on Maundy Thursday and Pastor David's invitation to obey Jesus' commands.