

Waging Peace (4 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 10th, 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: Two Roads: Which Way Will I Go?

Scripture Reading: Matthew 26:1-16; Mark 14:1-11; Luke 22:1-6; John 11:45-12:8

Sermon Focus: On Wednesday, in the middle of Holy Week, we encounter the quietness of three private scenes. And each of these scenes reveal different ways of responding to Jesus and his approach to pursuing peace. We’ll find that two roads emerge: a path toward Jesus and a path away from him. In the fourth message of our series, Pastor Melissa encourages us to consider what is underlying our responses to Jesus and challenges us to follow in his way of peacemaking.

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

1. Read Mark 14:1-11 together. These events take place on Wednesday, in the middle of Holy Week. How are they different from the events that have taken place so far during Holy Week?

The three scenes on Holy Wednesday show us different responses to Jesus and his way of peace. There are two roads: one that leads away from Jesus and one that leads toward him. We'll start by looking at the path away from Jesus in the first and third scene, then look at the path toward him in the second scene.

2. In the first scene (vv. 1-2), the religious leaders are gathering to plan their approach to arresting Jesus. Read John 11:45-53, which helps to fill out the narrative. These verses indicate that fear is driving their decision to kill Jesus.
 - Where in our society do you see how fear drives people to violence?
 - Where can you identify fear in your own life? What are the "what if's" you think about? How can these fears cause us to pursue an uncertain end by means that don't contribute to shalom?
3. In the third scene (Mk 14:10-11), Judas acts on his decision to betray Jesus. Pastor Melissa suggested his motivation for betrayal was shattered expectations.
 - Have you ever experienced someone being driven to destruction, division, or violence because of unmet expectations?
 - Are there ways Jesus hasn't met your expectations? Be honest with one another.
 - How does Jesus come into the gap between our reality and expectation?
4. In the second scene (vv. 3-9), a woman anoints Jesus with precious ointment and Jesus declares it is preparation for his burial. The woman is on the margins of society, which enables her to have the right perspective on Jesus and peace.
 - Have you ever felt marginalized? Do you have friends who have? Are there ways you can stand in solidarity with those who are marginalized?
 - In what ways are we vulnerable apart from Christ? How does recognizing our need for God help us to see the way to true peace?
5. What does Jesus show us is the way to true peace? How might God be inviting you to work toward peace in a practical way this week?
6. Pray together for God to help you live into his way of peace.