

STATION

I

“So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness.”

John 1:14 NLT

As you begin this process, focus on what it means for the eternal God to become a man. He walked the land just as we walk the streets and roads of our own community.

Take a moment to study the maps before you that mark the places He lived and the roads He travelled. Imagine the unique journeys He took and the conversations he held.

Contemplate God incarnate.

Take time to meditate on the mystery, majesty, and humility of Jesus, the Son of God.

STATION III

“Then Mary took a twelve-ounce jar of expensive perfume made from essence of nard, and she anointed Jesus’ feet with it, wiping his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance. But Judas Iscariot, the disciple who would soon betray him, said, ‘That perfume was worth a year’s wages. It should have been sold and the money given to the poor.’ Jesus replied, ‘Leave her alone. She did this in preparation for my burial. You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me.’”

John 12:3-5, 7-8 NLT

Mary poured out expensive perfume onto Jesus’ feet as an act of worship.

Dip a piece of the cheese cloth into the liquid. Smell the fragrance.

Mary’s act of worship was pure, passionate, real, expensive, and extravagant, and it touched the heart of Jesus. Jesus knew He was headed to the cross, and Mary’s gift was a blessing to Him. Are there ways you can extravagantly pour out your love to Jesus? Think about what comes to mind.

Pause for a moment. Let the aroma be a reminder that we are called to live every moment of our lives in fragrant worship of Jesus.

STATION III

“Before the Passover celebration, Jesus knew that his hour had come to leave this world and return to his Father. He had loved his disciples during his ministry on earth, and now he loved them to the very end...Jesus knew that the Father had given him authority over everything and that he had come from God and would return to God. So he got up from the table, took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist, and poured water into a basin. Then he began to wash the disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel he had around him.”

John 13:1, 3-5 NLT

Jesus expressed deep love and affection for His disciples to the very end. He patiently led, invested in, and served them.

Turning the social structure on its head, the Rabbi knelt and lovingly began to wash His disciples’ feet.

What is it like to receive a love
that serves instead of gloats,
forgives instead of holds grudges,
and that stays true to the very end?

Spend a moment looking into the mirror. Instead of focusing on the lies you tell yourself, reflect on how the Lord sees you. When you are ready, take a Post-it note, and write one thing God says about you. Place it on the mirror.

STATION IV

“Now Jesus was deeply troubled, and he exclaimed, ‘I tell you the truth, one of you will betray me!’ The disciples looked at each other, wondering whom he could mean. The disciple Jesus loved was sitting next to Jesus at the table. Simon Peter motioned to him to ask, ‘Who’s he talking about?’ So that disciple leaned over to Jesus and asked, ‘Lord, who is it?’ Jesus responded, ‘It is the one to whom I give the bread I dip in the bowl.’ And when he had dipped it, he gave it to Judas, son of Simon Iscariot. When Judas had eaten the bread, Satan entered into him. Then Jesus told him, ‘Hurry and do what you’re going to do...’ So Judas left at once, going out into the night.”

John 13:21-27, 30 NLT

As you approach the table, notice where Christ would’ve sat. Take a moment to think of the heartbreak Jesus must have felt at the betrayal of one of His own disciples.

Place yourself in or near the position Judas would’ve sat in. Think of His sorrow for Judas and the consequences Judas would face from his own choices.

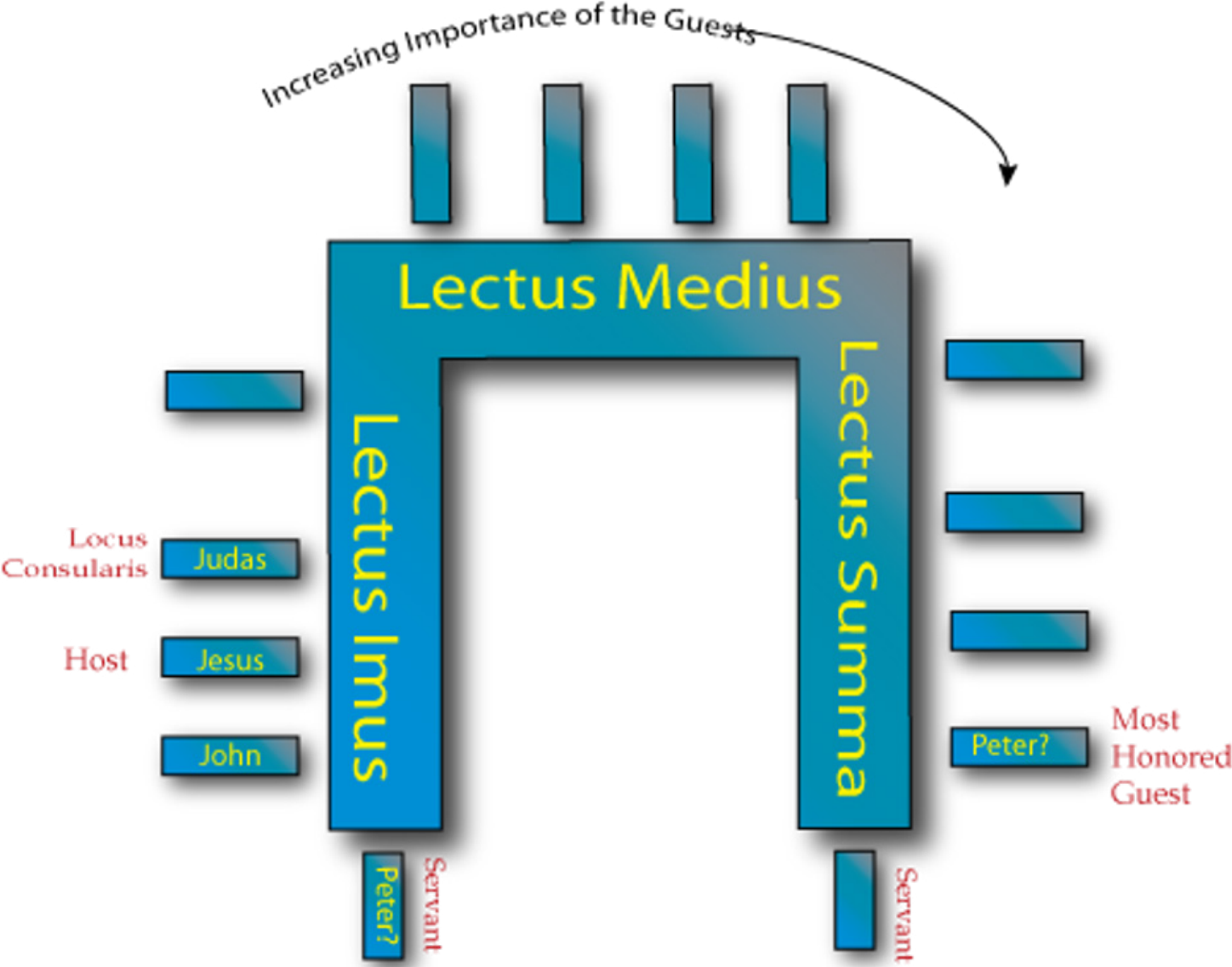
Take a moment and ask the Holy Spirit to help you heed the warnings in your life that threaten to lead you astray.

For display only

What you see in front of you is our attempt to recreate a Jewish tricillium table. This table would have been very low to the ground, and guests would recline on pillows and blankets with their legs kicked out behind. Facing mainly to the right (to keep their “unclean” hand below themselves), people would eat with their right hand. According to the biblical text that indicates Judas and Jesus were able to “put their hands into the bowl together”, we can decipher that Judas would have been sitting very close, or next to Jesus, as they ate. John would have been on the other side, with Peter either in the “guest of honor” position, or actually in the servant’s place.



Triclinium Seating Arrangements



STATION V

“The leading priests and Pharisees had given Judas a contingent of Roman soldiers and Temple guards to accompany him. Now with blazing torches, lanterns, and weapons, they arrived at the olive grove. Jesus fully realized all that was going to happen to him, so he stepped forward to meet them. ‘Who are you looking for?’ he asked. ‘Jesus the Nazarene,’ they replied. ‘I Am He,’ Jesus said. (Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them.) As Jesus said ‘I Am He,’ they all drew back and fell to the ground! Once more he asked them, ‘Who are you looking for?’ And again they replied, ‘Jesus the Nazarene.’ ‘I told you that I Am He,’” Jesus said. ‘And since I am the one you want, let these others go.’ So the soldiers, their commanding officer, and the Temple guards arrested Jesus and tied him up.”

John 18:1-8, 12 NLT

Even though Jesus could have given the word and overpowered all the guards, He let himself be bound and led away.

Pick up the rope and hold it in your hands. Remember that Jesus was tied with a rope similar to this one. He chose to submit to the difficult way of the cross with every step He took. He was bound so that we could be free.

Take a moment to thank Him for one freedom you are currently experiencing because of what He has done in your life.

STATION VI

“Meanwhile, Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant girl came over and said to him, ‘You were one of those with Jesus the Galilean.’ But Peter denied it in front of everyone. ‘I don’t know what you’re talking about,’ he said. Later, out by the gate, another servant girl noticed him and said to those standing around, ‘This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.’ Again Peter denied it, this time with an oath. ‘I don’t even know the man,’ he said. A little later some of the other bystanders came over to Peter and said, ‘You must be one of them; we can tell by your Galilean accent.’ Peter swore, ‘A curse on me if I’m lying—I don’t know the man!’ And immediately the rooster crowed. Suddenly, Jesus’ words flashed through Peter’s mind: ‘Before the rooster crows, you will deny three times that you even know me.’ And he went away, weeping bitterly.

Matthew 26:69-75 NLT

Imagine yourself in Peter’s shoes.

You are looking out over the courtyard where Jesus is being tried and mocked. You know that He is being unjustly accused. As you stand there, you see people telling lies about Him. Here is the man you have followed for three years, the man in whom you put all your hope, being sentenced to death. In your heart you have believed He is God, the promised Messiah. Your whole world is crashing around you, and worst of all, you have denied that you even know Him.

***Take a moment and color the picture provided.
While coloring, ask Him to help you have courage and
quick obedience when facing the challenges of this life.***

STATION VIII

“They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him. They wove thorn branches into a crown and put it on his head, and they placed a reed stick in his right hand as a scepter. Then they knelt before him in mockery and taunted, ‘Hail! King of the Jews!’ And they spit on him and grabbed the stick and struck him on the head with it. When they were finally tired of mocking him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him again. Then they led him away to be crucified.”

“When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they divided his clothes among the four of them. They also took his robe, but it was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom.”

Matthew 27:28-31, John 19:23 NLT

Death by crucifixion was one of the most painful, humiliating, and shameful ways for a person to die in the 1st century world.

Often stripped naked, people were left to the staring and judgmental eyes of others.

Jesus faced ultimate humiliation, while right beneath Him, soldiers were gambling for His clothing.

Often the cruelty of this world can leave us feeling exposed, naked.

Pick up the crown of thorns. Take a moment to ponder the fact that Christ not only died for us, but He also understands how we feel in our moments of greatest vulnerability.

STATION VIII

“At noon, darkness fell across the whole land until three o’clock. At about three o’clock, Jesus called out with a loud voice, ‘Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?’ which means ‘My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?’ Some of the bystanders misunderstood and thought he was calling for the prophet Elijah. One of them ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, holding it up to him on a reed stick so he could drink. But the rest said, ‘Wait! Let’s see whether Elijah comes to save him.’”

Matthew 27:45-49 NLT

When Jesus died that day, there would have been some watching who must have thought their hopes had died as well.

Yet, all was not lost. Jesus became thirsty as a human being so that we could be satisfied by Him, the Living Water. He came to bring us from darkness to light.

Spend a moment in the quiet darkness, smell the vinegar-soaked sponge, and remember the darkness and bitterness that the whole world, and heaven itself, must have felt that day.

Take a moment to thank Him for the Living Water and the Light He came to provide.

STATION IX

“Then Jesus shouted out again, and he released his spirit. At that moment the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, rocks split apart, and tombs opened. The bodies of many godly men and women who had died were raised from the dead. They left the cemetery after Jesus’ resurrection, went into the holy city of Jerusalem, and appeared to many people. The Roman officer and the other soldiers at the crucifixion were terrified by the earthquake and all that had happened. They said, ‘This man truly was the Son of God!’”

Matthew 27:50-54 NLT

The sins of all humanity took Jesus to the cross, not the Roman soldiers who arrested and beat him. And it was His love for sinful people that held Him there. He could have answered the taunts by calling the angels of heaven to rescue him. But He didn't. He chose to stay.

He decided when He would die. No one took His life from Him. When Jesus knew that everything on earth was completed which was necessary for our salvation, He willingly gave His Spirit. His blood poured out for you and me.

Take a moment to listen to the sounds of the earthquake. Imagine what it would have been like to witness that moment in history.

STATION X

“You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross.”

Colossians 2:13-14 NLT

Think of the sin in your life...

things you have done in the past that have kept you bound in guilt and shame. Are there things trapping you in sin and shame now? Write them on the paper provided.

Pick up a hammer and a nail.

Nail your sin to the board provided.

As you do, think about how your sins were nailed to His cross that day in history. With each stroke, remember Jesus' words: “It is finished.” He bore the pain of the cross so you could be forgiven and set free from slavery to your sin.

STATION XII

“He took some bread and gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, ‘This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.’ After supper he took another cup of wine and said, ‘This cup is the new covenant between God and his people—an agreement confirmed with my blood, which is poured out as a sacrifice for you.’”

Luke 22:19-20 NLT

If you claim Jesus as your Lord and Savior,
take a piece of bread, dip it into the cup,
and remember through these symbols the
sacrifice He made for you.

***Spend a few moments in reflection, loving Him
and what He did for each one of us. In closing, give
yourself space to let Him love you back.***