

SERMON SERIES: Clear Purpose: Sacrifice
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Key Line

The closer I get to Jesus, the more my life will change.

Jesus **sacrificed** his life by willingly **submitting** to God and **surrendering** his life so that we could have **salvation**.

Introduction

Sometimes we participate in things in church without really knowing what we do and what those things mean.

- Name something you have done at church without understanding the meaning of it.
- Why did you participate in that if you did not really understand it?

Seek the Word

Read Mark 14:12-26. This is the story of how Jesus began the practice of what we now call communion, or the Lord's Supper.

- What was the Passover? If you need a hint, read Exodus 11 for the background story of the Passover. *(It was a holiday started when God freed his people from slavery and brought them out of Egypt)*
- Why did people celebrate the Passover during Jesus's time? *(To remember how God saved them from slavery in Egypt)*
- God told his people in Exodus to paint the blood of a lamb on their doors to protect them when the angel of death passed through Egypt. Passover became a holiday to celebrate God's salvation of his people. How do the following relate to the story of Jesus we find in Mark:
 - The lamb *(Jesus was a pure lamb sacrificed for our sins.)*
 - The blood *(Jesus died for us.)*
 - The angel of death *(death passes us by because of Jesus's sacrifice.)*
- Who did Jesus say would betray him? *(Judas)*
- What did Jesus use to represent his body? *(The unleavened bread)* What did he use to represent his blood? *(The cup of wine)*
- In instituting the Lord's Supper before his death, Jesus promised to set us free. What is he freeing us from? *(Our sins and our bondage to sin)*
- What did Jesus and his disciples do after the Passover dinner? *(Sang a hymn and went to the Mount of Olives)*

Talk About It

Two thousand years later, we still practice the Lord's Supper.

- Why do we still celebrate this?

- What can we do to make communion a more meaningful celebration?
- What does Jesus's sacrifice mean to you?