

Ice breaker – what do you remember using when you were younger that people would now consider to be very old fashioned or even obsolete?

**READ Mark 14:17-31**

1. At the last supper Jesus announced that one of His disciples who was eating the meal would betray him and each of them said “*surely you don’t mean me*” (v18-19). Jesus declared a woe upon the man who betrays the ‘Son of man’ saying that it would “*be better for him if he had not been born*”. (v21) Could any of the disciples have been the one who betrayed Jesus or was it always “destined” that Judas Iscariot would be the betrayer? Did Judas have a choice?
2. Jesus indicates in verse 21 that His betrayal had already be written about by the Old Testament prophets and in verse 27 He quotes from Zechariah 13:7 that the Shepherd will be struck, and the sheep will be scattered. Why did God give such prophecies hundreds of years before they took place?
3. Whilst Jesus says His disciples will all fall away Peter says that he won’t.(v29). When Jesus prophesies that Peter would deny knowing Him 3 times (v 29-30), Peter wouldn’t accept it (v31). What was causing Peter to respond to Jesus in this contradictory way?
4. Peter and the other disciples focused on the ‘striking of the shepherd” and the betrayal of the sheep aspect of what Jesus had said to them but in doing so they all missed what Jesus said in verse 28 that He would go ahead of them to Galilee “*after I have risen*”. What can cause the Christian Church today to take its eyes off the resurrection of Jesus?

**READ Mark 14:32-50**

5. Three times Jesus came back to Peter, James and John and found them sleeping (v37, v40 & v41).
  - i. Knowing that Jesus was so distressed (v33-34) why did the disciples fall asleep rather than “keep watch” as Jesus had instructed them to?
  - ii. Jesus told them to “*watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak*” (v38). In what ways can today’s church be “sleepy” rather than “watchful”? In what ways is the church at risk of falling into temptation?
6. If Jesus knew it had been prophesied that He was going to be betrayed, arrested, killed and rise again then why does He pray that “*this hour might pass from him*” (v35) and for the Heavenly Father to “*take this cup from me*”? (V36)
7. Jesus announced “*Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!*” (v42). Judas betrayed Jesus by leading an armed rabble to where He and the disciples were privately meeting in the dark (v43). Jesus questioned them in verses 48-49 as to why they hadn’t come publicly to do this in the light when He was teaching in the temple courts. Why hadn’t they arrested Him in a public place?
8. Judas used a kiss to betray Jesus (v44-45) – what does that say to you?
9. In verse 49 Jesus once again points out that the events that are happening to Him were because “*the Scriptures must be fulfilled*”. In verse 50 the prophecy quoted in verse 27 is then fulfilled as everyone deserted Him and fled. This shows us that what God has prophesied in the Old Testament will come about.
  - i. Can you think of any Old Testament prophecies that are still yet to be fulfilled?
  - ii. Do you think God still brings prophetic words today for the Church? What influences your view?