

## WEEK 20: MARK 14 - BETRAYAL & PASSOVER MEAL; THE PASSION: GETHSEMANE; TRIALS BEFORE JEWS AND GENTILES

HIGH SCHOOL

### GOAL

To develop a better understanding of Mark 14

### LESSON

**Materials Needed:** Orthodox Study Bible

**Extended Learning Opportunities:**

*The Explanation by Blessed Theophylact of the Holy Gospel According to St. Mark* pages 117-130

*The Gospel of Mark the Suffering Servant* by Fr. Lawrence Farley pages 221-249

*Why Do Orthodox Churches Use Leaven for Holy Communion?*

<https://www.saintjohnchurch.org/why-orthodox-churches-use-leavened-bread/>

### GOSPEL OF MARK - CHAPTER 14

**Read verses 1-2 and then discuss:**

We are now transitioning from the story of Jesus' ministry to the climax of the gospel - His arrest, Crucifixion, and Resurrection.

Jesus was still a popular man amongst the people, but He was also still very much despised by the Pharisees, Sadducees, and Herodians. Therefore, the enemies of Jesus were trying to avoid arresting Him during the Passover because it was very likely the crowd would protest against Jesus' arrest. Jerusalem was swarming with pilgrims who came for the feast. Jesus' enemies wanted to get rid of Him in the most quiet way possible, but it didn't work out that way.

In these verses, the Jewish feast of Passover is mentioned. This feast is in remembrance of the Israelites longed-for freedom from Pharaoh in Egypt. It is during the tenth plague in Egypt (death of the firstborn) when the Israelites brushed the blood of a lamb above their doors and death passed by their homes, but not for the Egyptians. The Pharaoh, after having lost his firstborn son (who would have been his successor), finally tells the Israelites they are free and may leave. God guides Moses as he leads the Israelites

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out of Egypt, even enabling Moses to part the Red Sea when Pharaoh has a change of heart and goes after them in the wilderness.

The Feast of Unleavened Bread is also mentioned here. It is in remembrance of the Israelites having to leave Egypt so quickly that they didn't have time to wait for their bread to rise. Leaven is another name for yeast and it is what allows the dough to expand. It is only since WWII that we have had dried yeast that allows bread to rise quickly. Before then, you had to use a type of bread starter that involved collecting yeast (fungi) from the air using flour and water. After you had your starter and used it in your dough, you would save a little bit of that dough, which contained the yeast, for the next time you made a new loaf of bread. This method is slower than using our store bought yeast we get today, often taking at least 24 hours to rise. Therefore, they only had flat bread to bring with them which only takes minutes to make. We can find these stories in the Old Testament in Exodus 12-14.

We use leavened bread for Holy Communion because unleaven bread is associated with mourning and fasting. Leaven bread is associated with joy and the Resurrection of Christ. As a recap, unleaven bread is a flat bread and leaven bread has risen giving it a fluffiness.

### **Verses 3-12:**

We read about Jesus' being anointed with an expensive oil called spikenard. It was so costly that it was stored in an alabaster flask. This is a bottle with a long neck that requires you to break the neck of the bottle itself and all of the oil has to be used at once. It's very likely this bottle of perfumed oil was a family heirloom - and Mary decides to use it on Jesus.

It's important to understand that at this time, anointing the heads of your guests was commonplace. This particular instance is a big deal because of the enormous amount of money this specific oil costs. The disciples, especially Judas Iscariot, are shocked at the actions of Mary. This perfume cost about a year's worth of wages and they believed the oil should have been sold and the money given to the poor instead.

Jesus instantly comes to Mary's defense. The poor would always be with the disciples, but Jesus would not. Mary's deed was a good one. It was customary to anoint the dead with oil before their burial. This moment would be Mary's memorial before God, as it is still remembered and preached even today!



*Alabaster Flask*

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Jesus' enemies needed to capture Him when there was not a crowd around Him. They knew He needed to be around as few people as possible in order to arrest Him. Who betrays Jesus to the chief priests and scribes - telling them where and when to find Him away from a crowd of followers? One of His very own disciples, Judas Iscariot.

**Verses 12-21:**

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We learn about the first Holy Communion within these verses, which took place within the home of St. Mark.

Then Jesus went to the Mount of Olives again with His disciples. It is here that Judas Iscariot will betray Him and Jesus will be arrested.

Jesus knows that He is about to be betrayed and arrested. He knows He is facing His own death and He spends this time in prayer to His Father in the Garden of Gethsemane. We learned when we were little that Jesus is fully God and fully man. It is here that we see Him struggling as a man, knowing He is about to be beaten and tortured unto death. "He went a little farther, and fell on the ground, and prayed that if it were possible, the hour might pass from Him." Jesus endured a painful death for the salvation of each and every one of us. He did it to save us! He died on the Cross and rose again - in order for us to have the opportunity to live eternally with God! This is HUGE!

"And He said, 'Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will.'" "This is what we strive to do in our daily life - the will of God, instead of only what we want to do. Can you give me some examples of how this would look in your daily life?"

**Verses 53-72:**

For the rest of chapter 14 of Mark, Jesus faces the Sanhedrin, which is the great council in Jerusalem.

As we enter into Holy Week tomorrow, we reflect on the fact that Jesus faces His trial and is ultimately convicted and put to death on the Cross. It's significant to understand that during this time there were different ways of putting people to death based on their social standing. If you were part of the upper class (king, part of the council, etc) or well admired by a large number of people (St. John the Baptist) then you were typically beheaded when sent to death. It was seen as merciful because it was a quick death. Those of the lower class or especially bad criminals were sentenced to death by crucifixion because it was a particularly painful and slow death.

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## REVIEW:

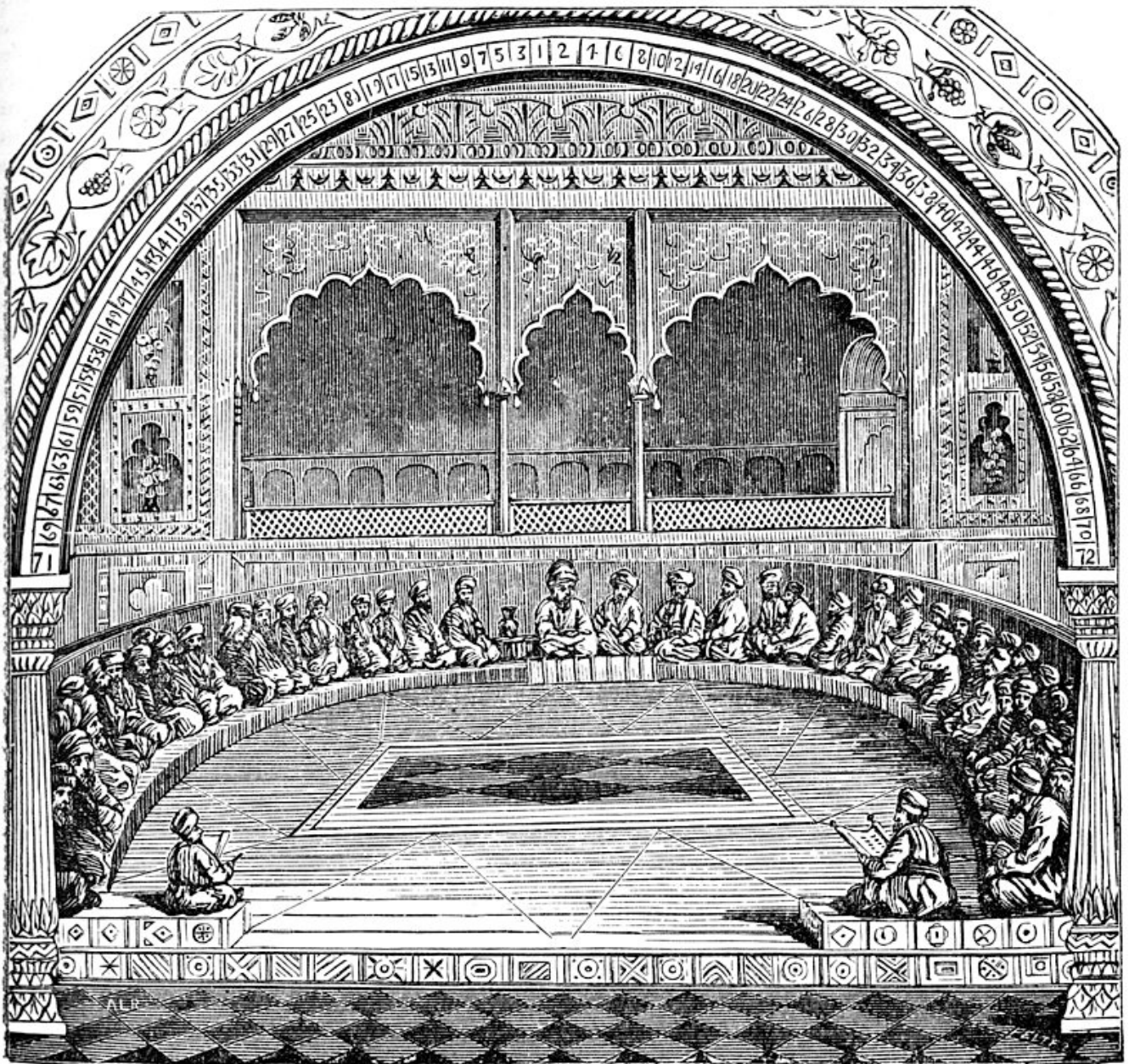
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- Who's house does Jesus eat the Passover meal at and celebrates the first Holy Communion?





*The Exodus from Egypt*





The Sanhedrin.

*The Sanhedrin*  
From an 1883 Encyclopedia

The **Sanhedrin** (Hebrew and Aramaic: סנהדרין; Greek: Συνέδριον,<sup>[1]</sup> *synedrion*, 'sitting together,' hence 'assembly' or 'council') were assemblies of either twenty-three or seventy-one elders (known as "rabbis" after the destruction of the Second Temple), who were appointed to sit as a tribunal in every city in the ancient Land of Israel. - Wikipedia

## WEEK 20: MARK 14 - BETRAYAL & PASSOVER MEAL; THE PASSION: GETHSEMANE; TRIALS BEFORE JEWS AND GENTILES

MIDDLE SCHOOL

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### GOSPEL OF MARK - CHAPTER 14

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In the beginning of this chapter, we hear the Jewish feast of Passover mentioned. This feast is in remembrance of the Israelites longed-for freedom from the Pharaoh in Egypt. It is during the tenth plague in Egypt (death of the firstborn) when the Israelites brushed the blood of a lamb above their doors and death passed by the Israelites' homes, but not for the Egyptians. The Pharaoh, after having lost his firstborn son (who would have been his successor), finally tells the Israelites they are free and may leave. God guides Moses



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as he leads the Israelites out of Egypt, even enabling Moses to part the Red Sea when Pharaoh has a change of heart and goes after them in the wilderness.

The Feast of Unleavened Bread is also mentioned here. It is in remembrance of the Israelites having to leave Egypt so quickly that they didn't have time to wait for their bread to rise. Leaven is another name for yeast and it is what allows the dough to expand. It is only since WWII that we have had dried yeast that allows bread to rise quickly. Before then, you had to use a type of bread starter that involved collecting yeast (fungi) from the air using flour and water. After you had your starter and used it in your dough, you would save a little bit of that dough, which contained the yeast, for the next time you made a new loaf of bread. This method is slower than using our store bought yeast we get today, often taking at least 24 hours to rise. Therefore, they only had flat bread to bring with them which only takes minutes to make. We can find these stories in the Old Testament in Exodus 12-14.

We use leavened bread for Holy Communion because unleaven bread is associated with mourning and fasting. Leaven bread is associated with joy and the Resurrection of Christ. As a recap, unleaven bread is a flat bread and leaven bread has risen giving it a fluffiness.

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It's important to understand that at this time, anointing the heads of your guests was commonplace. This particular instance is a big deal because of the enormous amount of money this specific oil costs. The disciples, especially Judas Iscariot, are shocked at the actions of Mary. This perfume cost about a year's worth of wages and they believed the oil should have been sold and the money given to the poor instead.

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This was the last straw for Judas though. He didn't appreciate being reprimanded by Jesus.

Jesus' enemies needed to capture Him when there was not a crowd around Him. They knew He needed to be around as few people as possible in order to arrest Him. Who betrays Jesus to the chief priests and scribes - telling them where and when to find Him away from a crowd of followers? One of His very own disciples, Judas Iscariot.

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For the rest of chapter 14 of Mark, Jesus faces the Sanhedrin, which is the great council in Jerusalem.

As we enter into Holy Week tomorrow, we reflect on the fact that Jesus faces His trial and is ultimately convicted and put to death on the Cross. It's significant to understand that during this time there were different ways of putting people to death based on their social standing. If you were part of the upper class (king, part of the council, etc) or well admired by a large number of people (St. John the Baptist) then you were typically beheaded when sent to death. It was seen as merciful because it was a quick death. Those of the lower class or especially bad criminals were sentenced to death by crucifixion because it was a particularly painful and slow death.

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- What is Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread?
- What is unleaven bread? What is leaven bread?
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WHO ARE THESE GROUPS OF PEOPLE?

PHARISEES

SADDUCEES

Jews -  
different groups

HERODIANS

Supporters of  
King Herod

SANHEDRIN

A large council in  
Jerusalem



*Alabaster Flask*

You would have to break the neck of this bottle in order to use the expensive perfumed oil contained in it. Once you opened the bottle, you had to use all of the oil at once or it would go bad. Mary pours the spikenard oil on Jesus, anointing Him. He tells the disciples that she has done a good thing and she will be remembered for this act. Was He right? Absolutely! It's been 2,000 years since she anointed Jesus and we are learning about it in our lesson right now!





*The 10th Plague of Egypt  
Death of the Firstborn*

The Jewish feast of Passover is in remembrance of the 10th plague of Egypt when all the firstborn sons died. The only sons that were spared were those of the Israelites who brushed the blood of a lamb over their doors.

After Pharaoh's son died that night, he finally agreed to let the Israelites leave Egypt.





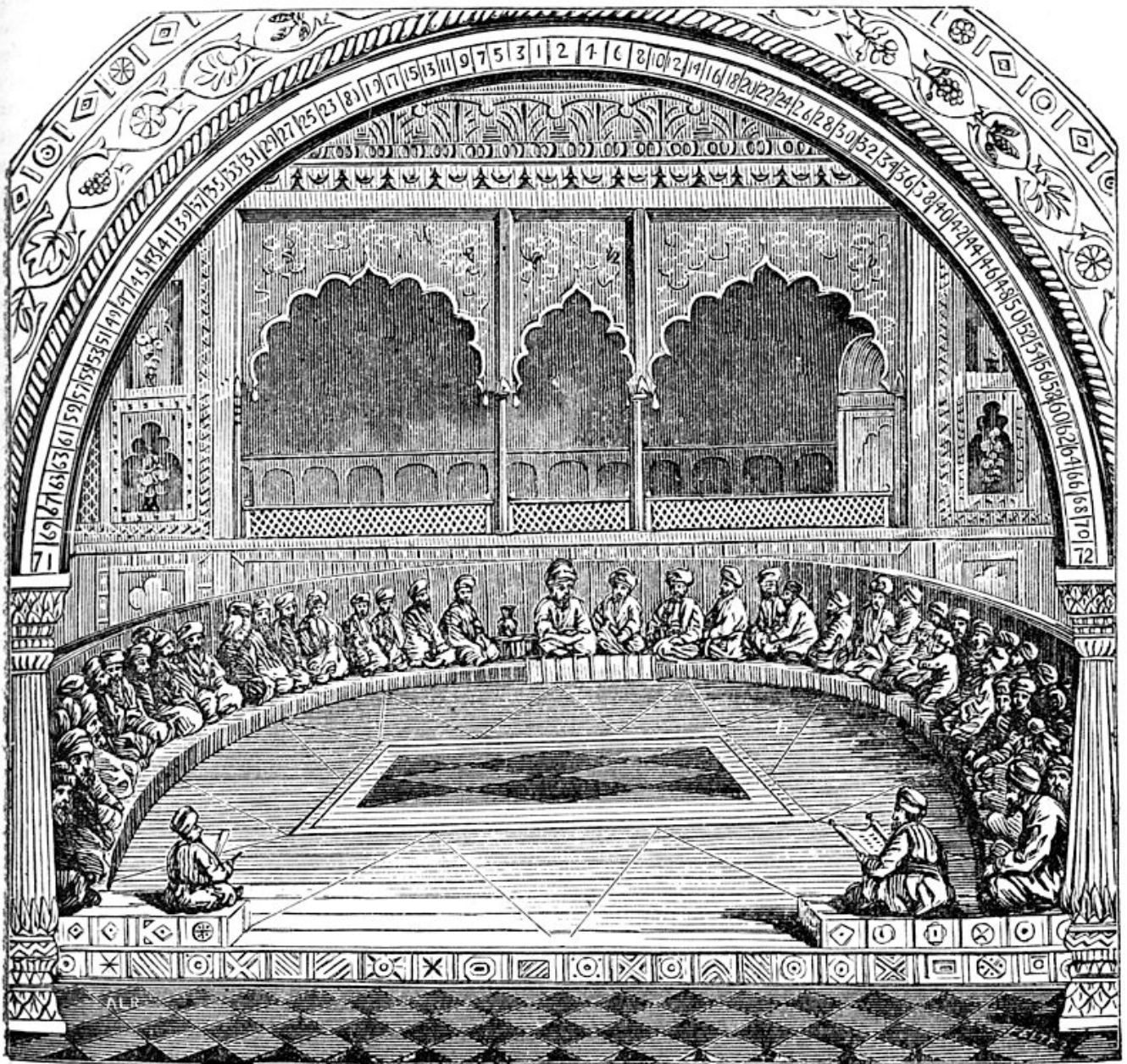
*The Exodus from Egypt*

Guided by Moses, the Israelites left Egypt quickly before Pharaoh had the chance to change his mind - which he did!

In an effort to leave quickly, they did not have time to wait for their bread to rise before baking it. There weren't any grocery stores or restaurants along the way for them. They had to bring their own food with them. They baked unleaven bread for their journey.

*(Show the leaven and unleaven bread; let the students see and smell the leaven in the jar.)*





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3RD - 4TH GRADE

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different groups

HERODIANS

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A large council in  
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*The 10th Plague of Egypt  
Death of the Firstborn*

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*The Exodus from Egypt*

Guided by Moses, the Israelites left Egypt quickly before Pharaoh had the chance to change his mind - which he did!

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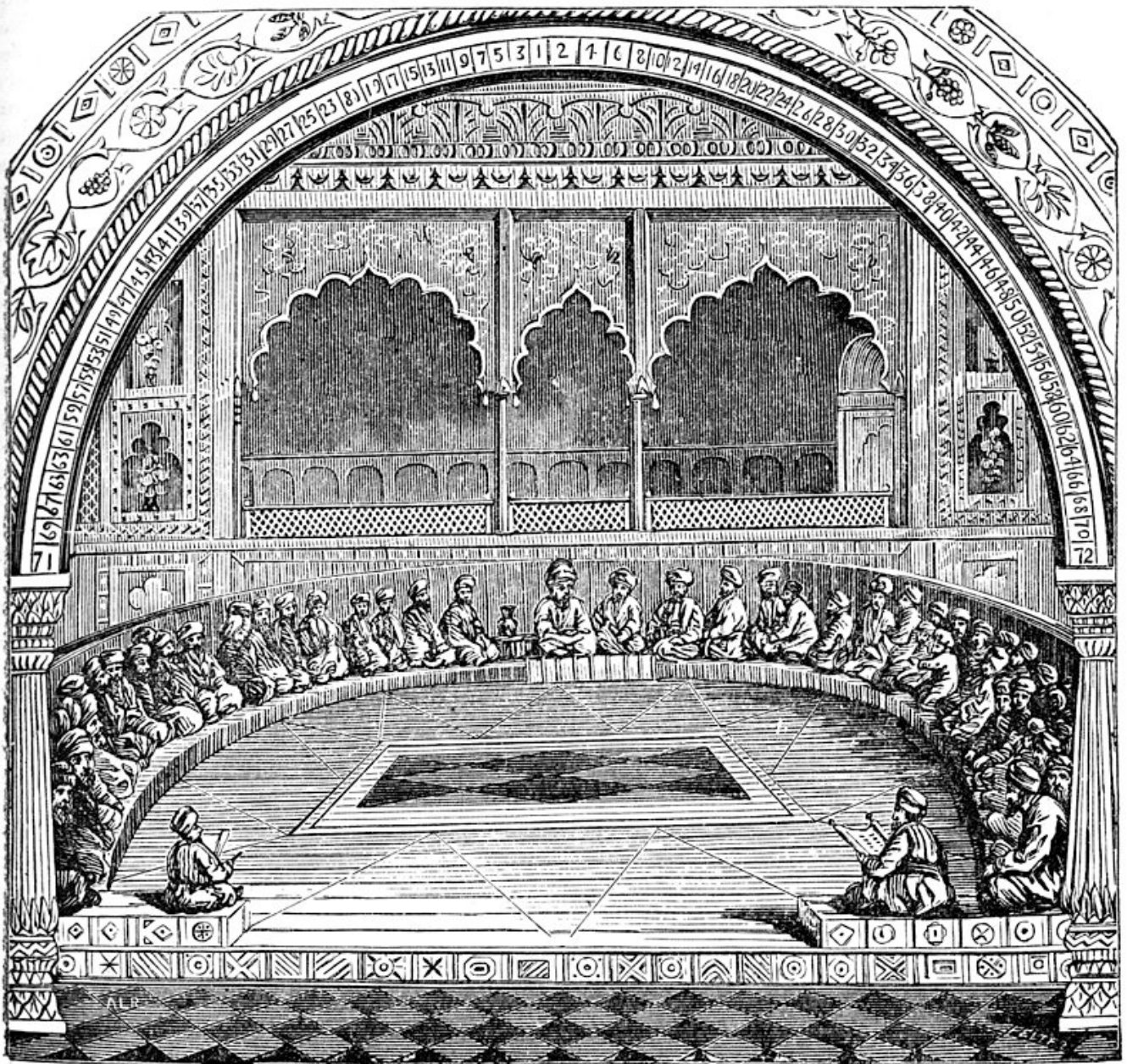
*(Show the leaven and unleaven bread; let the students see and smell the leaven in the jar.)*





*An alabaster flask*

The spikenard used on Jesus by the woman was stored in a container like this one.



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1ST - 2ND GRADE

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### LESSON

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### GOSPEL OF MARK - CHAPTER 14

In this chapter, we learn that Jesus is in Jerusalem for the Jewish feast of Passover and the Feast of the Unleavened Bread. What are these feasts?

*(Pages 79-88 in the Orthodox Children's Bible Reader or share the following)* - Passover is when the Jews remember being freed from slavery to the Pharaoh in Egypt a long time ago. God brought many plagues to Egypt because Pharaoh would not listen to Moses when Moses asked for the Israelites to be able to return to their homeland in the north.

Pharaoh finally decided that the Israelites could leave after the tenth and worst plague in Egypt - the death of the firstborn. During this plague, all of the first born sons died. This means that if you were the first boy to be born in your family, then you died during the night, except if you had brushed the blood of a lamb above your house's front door, but only the Israelites knew to do this. There was crying and screaming in all of the Egyptian's homes that night!

Finally, Pharaoh decided the Israelites could be free after his own son died that night. He just wanted this all to end!

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The Feast of the Unleaven Bread is also a Jewish feast that is related to the Israelites being freed from slavery in Egypt. As soon as Pharaoh agreed to free them, they all packed as quickly as they could before he had the chance to change his mind - because he later did!

The Israelites packed so quickly that they didn't have time to let their dough rise before baking their bread. Do you know what makes bread get big and fluffy? It's yeast! Yeast is a type of fungus that is always present in the air. If you leave flour and water sit long enough, the yeast will cause bubbles to form in the dough and this is what causes the bread to rise. They baked their dough quickly so they would have something to eat. (They didn't have grocery stores or restaurants like we do today.) They ate a flat bread which is called unleaven bread on their trip.

*Show the students the unleaven and leaven bread. What differences do you see?*

*Then show the students the jar of yeast starter. This is called leaven. You make the starter by mixing together flour and water. There are things we can't see in the air, one of them is a type of fungus that we use to make bread. After you have a leaven or yeast starter, you put some in with flour and water to make a loaf of bread. It is only recently that we can buy yeast at the store. They used to have to save a piece of their bread dough to use for the next time they made bread. It would take about a day for the dough to rise before they could bake it.*

There is also a story about a woman who pours a bottle of expensive oil on Jesus because she loved Jesus with all of her heart. That oil was called spikenard. *Pass around the paper with spikenard oil on it for the students to smell.* Jesus' disciples were shocked that the woman used this expensive oil on Jesus. They told her that she should have sold it and given the money to the poor, but Jesus tells the disciples that she did the right thing. The poor would always be with them, but He was going to die soon. They would pour oil that smelled really good on someone who had died as they prepared their body for burial.

## REVIEW:

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- What is unleaven bread? What is leaven bread?
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*The Exodus from Egypt*

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In an effort to leave quickly, they did not have time to wait for their bread to rise before baking it. There weren't any grocery stores or restaurants along the way for them. They had to bring their own food with them. They baked unleaven bread for their journey.

*(Show the leaven and unleaven bread; let the students see and smell the leaven in the jar.)*



*An alabaster flask*

The spikenard used on Jesus by the woman was stored in a container like this one.



## WEEK 20: MARK 14 - BETRAYAL & PASSOVER MEAL; THE PASSION: GETHSEMANE; TRIALS BEFORE JEWS AND GENTILES

PRE-K - KINDERGARTEN

### GOAL

To develop a better understanding of Mark 14

### LESSON

**Materials Needed:** Children's Orthodox Bible Reader

**Extended Learning Opportunities:**

*The Explanation by Blessed Theophylact of the Holy Gospel According to St. Mark* pages 117-130

*The Gospel of Mark the Suffering Servant* by Fr. Lawrence Farley pages 221-249

*Why Do Orthodox Churches Use Leaven for Holy Communion?*

<https://www.saintjohnchurch.org/why-orthodox-churches-use-leavened-bread/>

### GOSPEL OF MARK - CHAPTER 14

In this chapter, we learn that Jesus is in Jerusalem for the Jewish feast of Passover and the Feast of the Unleavened Bread. What are these feasts?

*(Pages 79-88 in the Orthodox Children's Bible Reader or share the following)* - Passover is when the Jews remember being freed from slavery to the Pharaoh in Egypt a long time ago. God brought many plagues to Egypt because Pharaoh would not listen to Moses when Moses asked for the Israelites to be able to return to their homeland in the north.

Pharaoh finally decided that the Israelites could leave after the tenth and worst plague in Egypt - the death of the firstborn. During this plague, all of the first born sons died. This means that if you were the first boy to be born in your family, then you died during the night, except if you had brushed the blood of a lamb above your house's front door, but only the Israelites knew to do this. There was crying and screaming in all of the Egyptian's homes that night!

Finally, Pharaoh decided the Israelites could be free after his own son died that night. He just wanted this all to end!

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The Feast of the Unleaven Bread is also a Jewish feast that is related to the Israelites being freed from slavery in Egypt. As soon as Pharaoh agreed to free them, they all packed as quickly as they could before he had the chance to change his mind - because he later did!

The Israelites packed so quickly that they didn't have time to let their dough rise before baking their bread. Do you know what makes bread get big and fluffy? It's yeast! Yeast is a type of fungus that is always present in the air. If you leave flour and water sit long enough, the yeast will cause bubbles to form in the dough and this is what causes the bread to rise. They baked their dough quickly so they would have something to eat. (They didn't have grocery stores or restaurants like we do today.) They ate a flat bread which is called unleaven bread on their trip.

*Show the students the unleaven and leaven bread. What differences do you see?*

*Then show the students the jar of yeast starter. This is called leaven. You make the starter by mixing together flour and water. There are things we can't see in the air, one of them is a type of fungus that we use to make bread. After you have a leaven or yeast starter, you put some in with flour and water to make a loaf of bread. It is only recently that we can buy yeast at the store. They used to have to save a piece of their bread dough to use for the next time they made bread. It would take about a day for the dough to rise before they could bake it.*

## REVIEW:

- What is Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread?
- What is unleaven bread? What is leaven bread?



*The 10th Plague of Egypt  
Death of the Firstborn*

The Jewish feast of Passover is in remembrance of the 10th plague of Egypt when all the firstborn sons died. The only sons that were spared were those of the Israelites who brushed the blood of a lamb over their doors.

After Pharaoh's son died that night, he finally agreed to let the Israelites leave Egypt.





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