

## **The Story: The Bible as One Continuing Story of God and God's People**

### **Chapter 26: The Hour of Darkness**

As you read, take note of the cast of characters. Write a short descriptive to help you remember. Who are the main characters?

Peter:

Judas:

Pilate:

Write any notes or questions you have.

Review the questions on page 485 in your book to prepare for discussion in class.

What did Jesus predict at the last supper with his disciples?

One tradition when worshiping on Maundy Thursday is to reenact the washing of feet. Many people are uncomfortable with this. Beyond that, what is the impact of Jesus and us washing each others feet?

Why did Jesus have to die?

How did Jesus' followers respond to his tragic death? How would you imagine responding; then, and now?

In what ways has Jesus' life and death affected the way you live your life day by day?

Crucifixion originated in the Persian practice of impaling enemies on single stakes and this practice moved westward. The punishment was meant to maximize humiliation and to deter other lawbreakers. Crucifixion balanced excruciating agony with longevity. For most victims, death did not come much sooner than 36 hours. Sometimes, "in mercy" they were break the legs of the victim, hastening death by suffocation.

What does the cross tell us about God's view of sin?

Was Jesus as helpless victim or a determined hero?