

The Lord's Supper
Mark's Interview with Peter based on Mark 14

CHARACTERS: 2 male

COSTUMES: Biblical.

PROPS: None specified

SETTINGS: None specified

RUN TIME: 4 minutes

SCRIPTURES: Based on Mk 14

MARK: Peter, tell us about the last supper you had with Jesus us.

PETER: It was the Feast of Unleavened Bread, when it was customary to sacrifice the Passover lamb and eat bitter herbs, unleavened bread and wine.

MARK: So tell us about the last supper you had with Jesus.

PETER: Jesus sent John and I into the city to meet a man carrying a jar of water.

MARK: A man carrying water?

PETER: Yes, very unusual. That was women's work so he stuck out of the crowd.

MARK: I guess it would be hard to miss such a man. Then what?

PETER: We followed and said to the owner of the house he entered that the Teacher asks: Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?'

MARK: Sounds like he was expecting you.

PETER: Yes. He showed us a large upper room, furnished and ready. We made preparations there.

MARK: What kind of preparations?

PETER: We needed a year-old male lamb without defect. Bitter herbs, unleavened bread, wine.

MARK: What were the herbs for?

PETER: To remind us of how bitter our lives as slaves in Egypt had been.

MARK: How about the unleavened bread?

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PETER: Because the Israelites departure from Egypt had been so abrupt, they had to take the bread along just as it was.

MARK: Did they seem especially significant at the time?

PETER: Not at first, while we set up. I mean, I'd celebrated Passover once a year for my entire life.

MARK: But when you were actually eating the food and participating in the Passover some thoughts came to you?

PETER: Yes. Jesus had called himself the Bread of Life one time when he was talking to the crowds.

MARK: Wasn't that when many people rejected what he said?

PETER: Yes, they thought it was far-fetched and strange. But then it all fell together for me at the last supper. When Jesus took the bread, gave thanks and broke it, saying, "Take it; this is my body, I thought about him being the bread of life.

MARK: What did he mean by bread of life?

PETER: I remember him saying that "he who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty." He said "Your forefathers ate the manna in the desert, yet they died. But here is the bread that comes down from heaven (meaning Jesus himself), which a man may eat and not die.

MARK: He was comparing himself to what happened in Egypt.

PETER: Yes. He had said "I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world." He was planning to sacrifice himself.

MARK: So when you took the bread at the last supper you thought about that time he said he was the living bread?

PETER: Yes, and during the wine too. Jesus had said "Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him.

MARK: So when you take communion you feel the connection between Jesus sacrifice and the sacrifices under the law?

PETER: Yes and no. The old law could not take away sins forever. Every year the same sacrifice was made. Jesus, on the other hand, sacrificed himself for us once and for all, because he was perfect.

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The Lord's Supper
Mark's Interview with John based on Mark 14

CHARACTERS: 2

COSTUMES: Biblical.

PROPS: None specified

SETTINGS: None specified

RUN TIME: 3 minutes

SCRIPTURES: Based on Mk 14

MARK: John, tell us about the last supper you had with Jesus.

JOHN: It was the Feast of Unleavened Bread, when it was customary to sacrifice the Passover lamb.

MARK: You referred to Jesus as the lamb in two of your books, didn't you.

JOHN: Yes. His cousin, Peter the Baptist, called him the lamb of God. That started me thinking. Then after his death some other things fell into place.

MARK: How many times do you refer to Jesus as a lamb in Revelations?

JOHN: Over 30.

MARK: Tell us about the last supper.

JOHN: Jesus sent Peter and I, telling us to go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him. Say to the owner of the house he enters: the Teacher asks, 'Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?'

MARK: Generally men don't carry water.

JOHN: That made it easy to find the man. The owner of the house showed us a large upper room, furnished and ready. We made preparations there for Passover.

MARK: What happened next?

JOHN: When evening came, Jesus arrived with the others. We were reclining at the table eating, when he said one of us would betray him – one who was eating with us.

MARK: How did you feel when he said someone would betray him?

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JOHN: Sad. We all said “Surely it isn’t I”. It wasn’t until it was over that we found out it was Judas.

MARK: So what happened when Jesus broke the bread?

JOHN: He, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to us, saying “Take it; this is my body.” Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to us.

MARK: And everyone drank?

JOHN: Yes. Then he said “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. I started thinking about him being the lamb of God, the perfect sacrifice.

MARK: According to the old law, blood was necessary for forgiveness of sin, right?

JOHN: But this time, the sacrifice would be the perfect lamb of God. I remembered back to Jesus baptism. His cousin John baptized him and announced, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

Compare & contrast

Why does Peter’s point of view differ from John’s? Consider their personalities, backgrounds and how they related to each other and Jesus. Which one are you probably more similar to? Different from? Why?

Interactive review games at

Mark 13 & 14 challenge board <http://www.quia.com/cb/655222.html>

Mark 15 & 16 challenge board <http://www.quia.com/cb/656482.html>

Name that Apostle! <http://www.quia.com/jw/238913.html>

The Twelve Apostles <http://www.quia.com/hm/423855.html>

New Testament book order <http://www.quia.com/pp/169542.html>

Occupations <http://www.quia.com/cb/364724.html>

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Jesus Last Supper, Arrest and Trials

Readers' Theater version

CHARACTERS: 23 roles with doubling and tripling possible

SETTINGS: Various places at and near Jerusalem

RUN TIME: 10 minutes

SCRIPTURES: Mark 14

The Lord's Supper

NARR 1: On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, when it was customary to sacrifice the Passover lamb, Jesus' disciples asked him

PETER: Where do you want us to go and make preparations for you to eat the Passover?

NARR 2: So he sent two of his disciples, telling them

JESUS: Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him. Say to the owner of the house he enters, "The Teacher asks: Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?" He will show you a large upper room, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there.

NARR 4: The disciples left, went into the city and found things just as Jesus had told them.

NARR 3: So they prepared the Passover.

NARR 1: When evening came, Jesus arrived with the Twelve.

NARR 2: While they were reclining at the table eating, he said

JESUS: I tell you the truth, one of you will betray me—one who is eating with me.

NARR 4: They were saddened, and one by one they said to him

PETER: Surely not I?

JESUS: It is one of the Twelve, one who dips bread into the bowl with me. The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born.

NARR 2: While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying

JESUS: Take it; this is my body.

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NARR 1: Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, and they all drank from it.

JESUS: This is my blood of the¹ covenant, which is poured out for many. I tell you the truth; I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it anew in the kingdom of God.

NARR 4: When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Jesus Predicts Peter's Denial

Before you begin: Think about Peter's personality and the fact the write says Peter spoke emphatically. How will Peter sound different in this segment compared to the other segments?

JESUS: You will all fall away, for it is written:

VOICE OF ZECHARIAH: I will strike the shepherd,
and the sheep will be scattered

JESUS: But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee.

PETER: Even if all fall away, I will not.

JESUS: I tell you the truth, today—yes, tonight—before the rooster crows twice you yourself will disown me three times

NARR 5: But Peter insisted emphatically

PETER: Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you.

NARR 5: And all the others said the same.

Gethsemane

Before you begin: Jesus describes himself as “overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death”. Have you ever been so sad you wanted to die? What were the circumstances? How did you act or speak? If you have not felt like that: What might cause you to feel overwhelmed with sadness in your life? Under what circumstances would you be that sad?

NARR 6: They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples

JESUS: Sit here while I pray.

NARR 7: He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled.

JESUS: My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch.

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NARR 6: Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him.

JESUS: Abba, Father, everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.

NARR 7: Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping.

JESUS: Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep watch for one hour? Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak.

NARR 6: Once more he went away and prayed the same thing.

NARR 7: When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy.

NARR 6: They did not know what to say to him.

NARR 7: Returning the third time, he said to them

JESUS: Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The hour has come. Look, the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!

Jesus Arrested

Before you begin: What do you think Judas was thinking as they approached Jesus and the disciples? Was he afraid, nervous? Was he wanting to just get it over with? Was he expecting a miracle? How will what Judas is thinking influence how you play his part? When Peter (we know this from another gospel) uses his sword, what might Judas be thinking? The scripture says a crowd came. Will they be silent? Noisy? Joking around? Serious?

NARR 9: Just as he was speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, appeared.

NARR 10: With him was a crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests, the teachers of the law, and the elders.

NARR 9: Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them:

JUDAS: The one I kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard.

NARR 3: Going at once to Jesus, Judas said

JUDAS: Rabbi!

NARR 8: Judas kissed Jesus

NARR10: The men seized Jesus and arrested him.

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NARR 9: Then one of those standing near drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear.

JESUS: Am I leading a rebellion that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? Every day I was with you, teaching in the temple courts, and you did not arrest me. But the Scriptures must be fulfilled.

NARR 8: Then everyone deserted him and fled.

NARR 10: A young man, wearing nothing but a linen garment, was following Jesus.

NARR 9: When they seized him, he fled naked, leaving his garment behind.

Before the Sanhedrin

NARR 11: They took Jesus to the high priest, and all the chief priests, elders and teachers of the law came together.

NARR 12: Peter followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest.

NARR 11: There he sat with the guards and warmed himself at the fire.

NARR 12: The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death, but they did not find any.

NARR 11: Many testified falsely against him, but their statements did not agree.

NARR 12: Then some stood up and gave this false testimony against him:

WITNESS: We heard him say, 'I will destroy this man-made temple and in three days will build another, not made by man.'

NARR 11: Yet even then their testimony did not agree.

NARR 12: Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus

CAIAPHAS: Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?

NARR 12: But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer.

NARR 13: Again the high priest asked him

CAIAPHAS: Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?

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JESUS: I am, and you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.

NARR 11: The high priest tore his clothes.

CAIAPHAS: Why do we need any more witnesses? You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?

NARR 12: They all condemned him as worthy of death.

NARR 13: Then some began to spit at him.

NARR 11: They blindfolded him, struck him with their fists, and said

GUARD: Prophecy!

NARR 13: And the guards took him and beat him.

Peter Disowns Jesus

Before you begin: How will Peter sound when he denies Jesus? How will his voice change from his first denial to his last?

NARR 14: While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came by.

NARR 15: When she saw Peter warming himself, she looked closely at him.

SERVANT GIRL: You also were with that Nazarene, Jesus.

NARR 16: But he denied it.

PETER: I don't know or understand what you're talking about.

NARR 16: He went out into the entryway.

NARR 15: When the servant girl saw him there, she said again to those standing around

SERVANT GIRL: This fellow is one of them.

NARR 16: Again he denied it.

NARR 14: After a little while, those standing near said to Peter

GUARD: Surely you are one of them, for you are a Galilean.

NARR 14: Peter began to call down curses on himself, and he swore to them.

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PETER: I don't know this man you're talking about.

NARR 15: Immediately the rooster crowed the second time.

NARR 14: Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken to him:

JESUS: Before the rooster crows twice you will disown me three times.

NARR 16: And he broke down and wept.

PRODUCTION NOTES

Reluctant readers can be assigned Narr 3, 8, 13 or 16

The Resurrection from Mark 16
Women's version

CHARACTERS: 3female, 1 male 1 either for angel

SETTING: Jerusalem, after Jesus resurrection

RUN TIME: 4 minutes.

Before you begin: At first no one believed the women. How would that affect the way they tell of the resurrection to Martha, who saw her brother raised from the dead? How would that be different than how they'd tell it to another woman? Would Martha believe them?

MARTHA: What has happened?

SALOME: Martha, it is almost unbelievable!

MARY MAGDALENE: When the Sabbath was over, Mary the mother of James, Salome and I bought spices so that we might go to anoint Jesus' body.

SALOME: Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, we were on our way to the tomb

MARY MAGDALENE: We asked each other who would roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb.

SALOME: But when we looked up, we saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away.

MARY MAGDALENE: As we entered the tomb, we saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side

SALOME: W we were alarmed.

MARY MAGDALENE: But the angel said

ANGEL: Don't be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where we laid him.

SALOME: We looked. There was no body!

MARY MAGDALENE: The angel told us to tell his disciples and Peter, that Jesus is going ahead of us into Galilee.

SALOME: The angel promised that we would see him.

MARY MAGDALENE: Just as he told us.

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SALOME: We were trembling.

MARY MAGDALENE: And bewildered. We went out and fled from the tomb.

SALOME: We said nothing to anyone, because we were afraid.

MARTHA: How could you keep such good news to yourself?

MARY MAGDALENE: Finally I told those who had been with him.

SALOME: They were mourning and weeping.

MARY MAGDALENE: When they heard that Jesus was alive and that I had seen him, they did not believe it.

SALOME: Afterward Jesus appeared in a different form to two of them while they were walking in the country.

MARY MAGDALENE: These returned and reported it to the rest; but they did not believe them either.

SALOME: But Jesus appeared to the Eleven as they were eating.

MARY MAGDALENE: He rebuked them for their lack of faith and their stubborn refusal to believe those who had seen him after he had risen.

SALOME: This is what he said.

JESUS: Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

MARY MAGDALENE: He said these signs will accompany those who believe: In his name we will drive out demons; we will speak in new tongues.

SALOME: We will pick up snakes with our hands; and when we drink deadly poison, it will not hurt us at all.

MARY MAGDALENE: His disciples will place hands on sick people, and they will get well.

SALOME: After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God.

MARTHA: The disciples will go out and preach everywhere.

MARY MAGDALENE: The Lord will work with us

SALOME: And confirm his word by the signs that accompanied it.

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The Resurrection from Mark 16

Text to Text and Text to World Connections

CHARACTERS: 4 narrators, Jesus, angel

SETTING: Jerusalem, after Jesus resurrection

RUN TIME: 4 minutes.

- Today we are going to learn about two strategies to activate prior knowledge. They are called making text-to-text (TTT) and text-to-world (TTW) connections. (Write this on the board, or have a pre-made poster up.)
- As some of you read Mark 16 as a Reader's theater version, I will interrupt the reading by raising my hand. Then I will model for you how I make connections while I read.

I want everyone who is not reading to simply to listen and notice the connections I'm making; then, you will have an opportunity to do the same.

NARR 1: When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body.

TTT – In John's gospel, Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. He and Nicodemus wrapped Jesus body' with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs. I'm wondering if after three days they expect there to be a bad odor, like Martha did with her brother Lazarus, or if they think all those spices will overpower any smell of decay?
TTW- I'm also picturing 25 five pound bags of flour – that's 75 pounds – except the bags would be filled with spices. What kind of spices do you use at home?

NARR 2: Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb and they asked each other

MARY MAGDALENE: Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?

TTW – I'm thinking about the biggest stone I have ever lifted and how much bigger the stone that sealed Jesus tomb would be.

NARR 1: But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away.

NARR 4: As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side

TTW- If I found a man in a tomb I wonder what he was doing there. What could a young man have been doing there? Would you be afraid? Upset? happy? If you were the women?

NARR 3: And they were alarmed.

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ANGEL: Don't be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go; tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.

TTW – The distance between Jerusalem and Galilee is about 65 miles. Back in those days you might walk 15 miles in a day. At 15 MPH, how many days would it take to walk to Galilee? (4.33)

NARR 2: Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb.

NARR 4: They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.

NARR 2: When Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had driven seven demons.

NARR 1: She went and told those who had been with him and who were mourning and weeping.

NARR 4: When they heard that Jesus was alive and that she had seen him, they did not believe it.

TTW – I'm wondering if they didn't believe her because of her past? Because she was female?

NARR 2: Afterward Jesus appeared in a different form to two of them while they were walking in the country.

TTT – In Luke we find out they two men were going to Emmaus and one was named Cleopas.

NARR 4: These returned and reported it to the rest; but they did not believe them either.

NARR 2: Later Jesus appeared to the Eleven as they were eating.

TTT – I'm thinking which disciple of the 12 was missing. Does anyone know? (Judas)

NARR 1: He rebuked them for their lack of faith and their stubborn refusal to believe those who had seen him after he had risen.

NARR 3: He said to them

JESUS: Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons;

TTT – Paul cast out a demon

JESUS: They will speak in new tongues

TTT- I'm remembering in Acts 2, the disciples spoke in several different languages on Pentecost.

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JESUS: They will pick up snakes with their hands;

TTT -I remember Paul was bitten by a snake and when nothing happened to him people believed he was from God

JESUS: When they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.

TTT- I remember Peter and John healed a crippled man and that people used to bring sick people so that Peter's shadow might fall on them and they would be healed.

NARR 1: After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God.

NARR 3: Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere.

TTW – What places do you think of when you think of missionaries preaching everywhere?

NARR 2: The Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it.

The Resurrection from Mark 16

Teacher's of the Law version

CHARACTERS: 3 men, Jesus, angel
 SETTING: Jerusalem, after Jesus resurrection
 RUN TIME: 4 minutes.

Before you begin: Are Nicodemus and Joseph convinced Jesus did rise from the dead or are they questioning what they heard? Read John 19:38 Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jews. Caiaphas pays the Roman soldiers to lie and say the disciples stole the body. (Mt. 28:11-13). What does that tell you about how Caiaphas feels about this situation? Read this first as if only Joseph believes and then as if both do. How does that change your delivery?

CAIAPHAS: Nicodemus, you and Joseph were sure that Jesus of Nazareth was dead when you put him in the tomb?

NICODEMUS: Absolutely. He was dead.

CAIAPHAS: So what is this new rumor you two have heard?

JOSEPH: When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body.

NICODEMUS: They went very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise.

JOSEPH: On their way to the tomb and they asked each other who would roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb.

NICODEMUS: But when they arrived, they said they looked up and saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away.

CAIAPHAS: The Roman soldiers should have been more careful.

NICODEMUS: As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side.

JOSEPH: They were alarmed.

NICODEMUS: They said an angel spoke to them.

CAIAPHAS: And what did this angel say?

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ANGEL: Don't be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go; tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.

JOSEPH: Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb.

NICODEMUS: They said nothing to anyone at first, because they were afraid.

CAIAPHAS: So, according to these unreliable women, Jesus rose early on the first day of the week and he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had driven seven demons.

NICODEMUS: Yes. She went and told those who had been with him and who were mourning and weeping.

CAIAPHAS: When they heard that Jesus was alive and that she had seen him, did they believe it?

JOSEPH: Not at first But afterward Jesus appeared in a different form to two of them while they were walking in the country.

NICODEMUS: These returned and reported it to the rest; but they did not believe them either.

JOSEPH: Later Jesus appeared to the Eleven as they were eating.

NICODEMUS: He rebuked them for their lack of faith and their stubborn refusal to believe those who had seen him after he had risen.

JOSEPH: They say Jesus said to them

JESUS: Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.

JOSEPH: After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God.

CAIAPHAS: Impossible!

JOSEPH: The disciples have gone out and are preaching everywhere.

NICODEMUS: The Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it.

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