

**Here is a discussion guide to go along with this week's Lent in a Bag - coins.
Lent in a Bag: handful of coins (week of April 1)**

Today's Lent in a Bag is coins. The coins represent the money that was paid to Judas (one of the 12 disciples/12 of his closest friends). Judas was given this money by the Jewish leaders – to betray Jesus into their hands.

I read Matthew 26:14-16 where Judas agrees to betray Jesus and Matthew 26:47-50 where Jesus actually betrays Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane.

I invite you and your family to read these passages and have a discussion. There is much more of the story and if you have time and want to, you may read the entire chapter 26 of Matthew.

- What does the word 'betray' mean?
- Have you ever been betrayed? How did it feel? Fun, sad, mad, happy, what?
- In the story why do you think the Jewish was angry with Jesus and wanted to arrest him and kill him? [This is a deep subject – the leaders were jealous of Jesus' popularity; they thought that Jesus was not the Son of God; they were afraid of the Roman government; Jesus was different.]
- How do you think God the Father felt about his son Jesus was betrayed by Judas? Do you think God loves/loved Judas?
- Does God love you? How do you know God loves you? How do feel knowing that God loves you?
- Is there anything you could do that would make God love you any less? [No. See Romans 8:34-39 – especially verses 38-39]

Prayer

God, you love us so very much. Thank you so very for loving us! Even though we may not understand how you can love everybody – even the nasty people in the world – people like Judas Iscariot, the disciple who betrayed Jesus. Continue to love us as you love all people. Help us to love others in a similar way that you love us – to care for them – to help them – to love them. Continue to bless me so that I may be a blessing to others. Let your waters of love and hope flow through me. In Jesus' name. Amen.