



**Read:** Of all the ways Judas might have betrayed Jesus, he chose a kiss. Even in the Middle Eastern culture, such a greeting is rife with meaning. Read [Matthew 26:47-49](#) and [Luke 22:48](#). What must Jesus have felt? How did he respond? Imagine that moment and hold it as you continue.

Even until the end, Jesus' followers struggled to understand his divine identity. He finally spelled it out in the simplest terms possible. Read [John 16:25-28](#) slowly aloud. Then, read it a second time, choosing one word or one phrase to focus on.

**Think:** Review the passage again and ponder the word or phrase that stands out to you. What do you see of Jesus' heart in it? What truth is captured here? What has made him say this? Turn this word or phrase over and over in your mind—gently, like a fragile treasure.

**Pray:** Ask the Holy Spirit to impart Jesus' message for you from this passage. What is he inviting you to consider? To do? To know? Open your heart and ask him to write his love deeply within you.

**Rest:** Sit quietly with what you have heard or sensed or experienced. Let all other thoughts go, except the reality of God's presence here and now, with you. Let him love you. If it helps, play worship music in the background. If your mind gets distracted, gently whisper "I receive your love" or "I love you, Lord."

*And even so, with the meekest of gestures, has the war for the world been engaged. With a kiss. And the kiss has a tooth. And the snake that struck the Lord has a back of fire and a body of human opinion.*

Walt Wangerin