

## Getting the Painting Right

Leonardo da Vinci is the artist who painted the “The Last Supper,” the famous painting that depicts the upper room gathering of Jesus and His disciples on the night He was betrayed. Da Vinci had no photo to work with so the rendering had to be da Vinci’s best interpretation of what it actually looked like. Scripture doesn’t describe in detail what each person looked like.

It took da Vinci four years to complete the painting. He struggled to complete it to his satisfaction. Artists may be very particular in their work but there is one key reason why it took a full four years. What is not widely known is that da Vinci had a fierce enemy at the time he created the painting. His enemy was a fellow painter. In anger da Vinci painted the face of his enemy as his depiction of Judas Iscariot’s face. Da Vinci took great pleasure in the thought that his hated enemy would forever be associated with the man who betrayed Jesus.



Then da Vinci worked on the faces of the other disciples and he tried, time after time, to paint the face of Jesus. He was never satisfied with his rendition of Jesus. After years of trying he was frustrated and confused. In time he realized what was wrong. Da Vinci’s hatred for his fellow painter was holding him back from finishing the face of Jesus. Only after making peace with his fellow painter and painting over his former enemy’s face on Judas was he able to paint the face of Jesus and complete the masterpiece.

We must forgive others if we want to build a relationship with Jesus. *For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins (Matthew 6:14-15).* To not forgive someone actually robs us of the fullness of life that Jesus died for on the cross. Like the Last Supper painting, a life of forgiveness is a masterpiece.

**Questions:** Do you think Jesus forgave Judas Iscariot? Then, do you think you should forgive Judas and others who sin against you?

**Closing Prayer:** Dear Lord. We pray that we will completely forgive all who sin against us or do things we feel are wrong in our eyes. We know that if we forgive, You will forgive us for the times we sin against you. Amen.

This devotion is based on a story from [Hot Illustrations for Youth Talks](#), by Wayne Rice. The book has 100 attention-getting stories, parables and anecdotes.