

Small Group Questions | Deny Everything | John 18:1-27



John 18 begins a new section in the Gospel of John. This section starts the path to the cross for Jesus, his resurrection, and his reinstatement of Peter. In John 13, Judas left the Passover meal to hand Jesus over to the religious leaders. In today's text, Jesus is arrested by the religious leaders in the Garden of Gethsemane. It must have been frightening for the disciples to witness the arrest of Jesus, yet during His arrest Jesus intentionally protected the disciples to keep them safe. Then, while Jesus is in an unfair, unjust, midnight courtroom Peter denies Jesus three times. Peter leaves broken and in tears. Read the questions below and discuss them with your group.

1. In the sermon it was said that Peter was taught to deny anything the Roman Empire asked him about. What is something that your parents taught you, good or bad, that you still follow to this day?
2. **Read John 18:1-7.** Judas knew exactly where Jesus would be and choose to intentionally betray Jesus. Think about a time in your life when you were betrayed. How did it feel? What emotions did you experience? How did you get through it?
3. During His arrest Jesus stood up to protect the disciples. **Read John 18:8-9.** Using your voice to protect others can be bold and scary. Share about a time when you spoke up to protect others or when you chose to keep quiet instead.
4. Peter acts rashly and almost kills a man. **Read John 18:10-12.** What do you think made Peter act in this manner and try to behead one of the soldiers? How do you think you would act if you were in the garden that night?
5. **Read John 18:15-18.** It's late at night and Peter denies Jesus. In what situations are you tempted to hide your faith to protect yourself? Do you feel adequately prepared to share your faith when the right time presents itself? See **1 Peter 3:15-16.**
6. **Read John 18:19-24.** While Jesus was being falsely accused, He was slapped in the face for His reply to the High Priest. What does this slap say about our culture? Where in culture do you see people trying to push Jesus out of things?
7. Peter ends up denying Jesus two more times. **Read John 18:25-27.** Peter made a mistake, but it seems to be out of self-preservation. What can we learn from Peter's situation and the words that come out of our mouth?
8. Close your time in prayer. Pray for strength to speak up for Jesus when the opportunity arises.