

### Discussion Guide

*Use this guide by yourself, with a friend, or in a group to help you pursue a deeper relationship with Jesus this week!*

#### Open

This week Brandon Yopp, Gateway's Student Pastor, continues in our *Unexpected Messiah* series by walking us through John chapters 18 and 19 as Jesus is arrested, convicted, and ultimately crucified by the Roman authorities. It's a tragic course of events, yet even here the gospel writer John (one of Jesus' disciples) wants to make sure we understand that everything is happening in accord with God's divine plan for our redemption. So to get your group started, let everyone share about a time when difficult and confusing circumstances ended up leading to something great - what happened, and when did you first start to realize that it was going to end up being okay?

#### BIG THOUGHT

Jesus intentionally laid down His life in order to save us from separation from God by offering Himself as a sacrifice in our place.

1. To understand one of the main threads of chapter 18, see John 13:2, 21-30. What have you heard about Judas before? What potential motivations can you think of for him arranging to hand over Jesus?
2. Now read John 18:1-3. Why do you think Jesus would go to a place where He knew Judas could find them? The number of Roman soldiers who went with Judas could have been as many as 600 - what do you think the disciples were feeling as they saw and heard them making their way toward them in the garden? What would you have felt?

3. Read v. 4. How does the way Jesus steps forward immediately to meet the soldiers tell us of His love for those in His care (which would also include us today)? And what does John want to make sure we understand about Jesus' command of the situation even in this moment? Why is that important to know?
4. Read v. 5 - 9. Although most translations add the pronoun "He" to Jesus' statements in v. 5, 6, and 8, His statement in the original language is simply "I am." To understand why the Jews in the arresting party responded the way they did (v. 6), read Exodus 3:14. What was Jesus claiming at that moment? What would you have thought if you had been in the garden and heard Him make that declaration?
5. Now read v. 10-11. How is Peter's action both understandable and completely ridiculous at the same time? If you're able, tell about a time when you completely overreacted when God was doing something in your life that you didn't understand...

#### Take it Further

Thank Jesus for His willingness to be our "good shepherd" and die to save us (John 10:11), then talk with Him about the tough things in your life that you don't understand - and ask for His help to faithfully walk through them.

#### Daily Verse Readings

Day 1: John 3:16-17

Day 2: Hebrews 9:12

Day 3: Philippians 2:6-8

Day 4: Romans 5:8

Day 5: John 14:6

Day 6: Mark 10:45

Memory Verses: John 18:4-5



1651 Dutch Fork Rd. Irmo, SC  
www.gatewaybc.com