



Family Conversation Guide

(August 15, 2021)

In this week's passage from the **Book of John**, after Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, many believed in Him. But some went to report Him to the Pharisees. What follows is a **moment of truth as the Pharisees decide what to do about Jesus**.

READ AND DISCUSS

Ask family members to find [John 11:45-57](#) in their Bibles. Give them pens and paper so that they can take notes as they listen to the sermon.

1. **In the Book of John, Jesus performed seven miracles to show who He was. Can you remember them?** (*Turning water into wine, healing the royal official's son, the healing of the lame man, the feeding of the 5,000, walking on water, and the healing of the blind man. Finally, raising Lazarus from the dead.*) **Why was this last miracle the one that bothered them most?**
2. There were 3 kinds of people present: Those who believed in and trusted Jesus (**verse 45**), those who came to believe in Him because of what they had seen, and those who did not believe the truth. Read **verses 46, 47**. **What did these last people do?** (*They went and reported what Jesus had done to the chief priests and Pharisees.*)
3. The Pharisees then called a meeting of the Sanhedrin to decide what to do about Jesus. Read out loud what they said to each other. **What were they worried about?** (*That if things continued like this, everyone would believe in Jesus and the Romans would punish them by taking away their temple and the land- meaning they would lose their power*)

4. **What did the Sanhedrin think was missing in Jesus?** *(They expected that the Messiah would come as a powerful leader, with an army, and that He would be king.)*
5. In Matthew, Jesus tells His disciples how powerful He really is. Read **Matthew 26:53**. **If Jesus wanted to, what could he choose to do?** *(He could ask God to call forth 12 legions of angels, 6286 men, 6100 foot soldiers, and 726 horse men.)*
6. Read **verses 49-50**. **What did the high priest, Caiaphas, say?** *(That it was better for one man to die than for the whole nation to perish)* Caiaphas was saying that the most expedient thing to do would be to kill Jesus, so that things could stay as they were with the Romans.
7. Read **Isaiah 53:8** and **Isaiah 49:6**. These were prophecies about the Messiah that were written long before Jesus was born- in fact, about 700 years before He was born. **How did what was happening here fulfill these prophecies?** *(Jesus was condemned to death without a fair trial, Jesus was a light for the gentiles, and Jesus would bring salvation to the people)*
8. **How can we be children of God?** Read **John 1:12**.
9. The **Pharisees had no answer for all that had been witnessed about Jesus**, and the clear fulfillment of the prophecies about Him being the Messiah who came to save the Jews and the gentiles. Jesus offered plenty of proof with these miracles and with His words, but they CHOSE not to believe. It was not convenient for them to believe, and it would cause problems for them. **So what did they decide to do?** *(Read **verse 53**.)*
10. Read **Luke 22:1-2**, where it says that the chief priests and Pharisees were **afraid of the people. Why?**

11. Read **Matthew 26:3-5**. **What were they afraid of in this passage?** (*That the people would riot*)
12. Read **Matthew 11:55-57**. **Why were they going to arrest Jesus?**
13. Read **John 18:28-30**. **Pilate asked what their accusation was against Jesus.** (*They said He was evil, a criminal*) Read **Isaiah 5:20**. **What does this say about people who call good, evil- and light, darkness?** (*Woe to them- for this is what the Pharisees were doing*)
14. John Kasay gives us this takeaway from this passage: **Some people just don't want to know the truth. Why?** (*It shows them their need for Jesus. It shows them how powerless they are. It is too inconvenient. It would change their lives too much.*)
15. The **Pharisees had a moment of truth**. They could have chosen to believe in Jesus- He gave them plenty of proof that He was the Son of God. But believing in Him would change their lives more than they were willing to risk. **What about you? Do you believe Jesus was who He said He was?** We all need to make this decision. This was a moment of truth for them, and it is a moment of truth for all of us.

FAMILY CHALLENGE

Ask your family members if they have ever had to choose between telling the truth and telling a lie. Let everyone share. Now, **ask if they believe Jesus was telling the truth. How did He prove it?** (*With His words and His actions- the miracles He performed*) **Would you rather follow someone who is truthful, even if it meant changing your life? Or would you rather keep living your life the same way because it is more comfortable?**

Look at these scenarios together. Discuss which would be hard for you:

- You have a group of friends that you like, but they start making fun of someone outside your group, and telling lies about him. **What would you do?**
- You accidentally break something your mom treasures. You could hide the pieces in the trash and hope she doesn't realize what happened. **Do you tell her, or hide the evidence, or even hope someone else will be blamed?**
- Your neighbor doesn't believe in God. She makes fun of Christians and thinks they are causing trouble with their beliefs. **Do you stand up for your beliefs, or stay quiet?**

Watch the music video "Speak the Truth" together.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Kfyj7H8CZA>

PRAYER

"Dear Jesus, We trust You and need You to be Lord of our lives, even when we have to make hard decisions. Help us to do the right thing when we have moments of truth. Help us to make the right choice, trust in You every day, and to tell the truth about You. In Jesus' name, Amen."