SERMON NOTES:

Title: The Hour of Darkness
Big Idea: God is our light even in the darkest of times.

18:1 After Jesus had said these things, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron Valley, where there was a garden, and he and his disciples went into it. **2** Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples. **3** So Judas took a company of soldiers and some officials from the chief priests and the Pharisees and came there with lanterns, torches, and weapons.

1. Sin is a liar.

4 Then Jesus, knowing everything that was about to happen to him, went out and said to them, "Who is it that you're seeking?"

5 "Jesus of Nazareth," they answered. "I am he," Jesus told them.
Judas, who betrayed him, was also standing with them. **6** When Jesus told them, "I am he," they stepped back and fell to the ground.

7 Then he asked them again, "Who is it that you're seeking?" "Jesus of Nazareth," they said. **8** "I told you I am he," Jesus replied. "So if you're looking for me, let these men go." **9** This was to fulfill the words he had said: "I have not lost one of those you have given me."

2. Jesus is faithful.

Phil 1:6 I am sure of this, that he who started a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

10 Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.) **11** At that, Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword away! Am I not to drink the cup the Father has given me?"

3. This world is not all there is.

12 Then the company of soldiers, the commander, and the Jewish officials arrested Jesus and tied him up. **13** First they led him to Annas, since he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. **14** Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it would be better for one man to die for the people.

Skip down to verse 19:
19 The high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching. **20** "I have spoken openly to the world," Jesus answered him. "I have always taught in the synagogue and in the temple, where all the Jews gather, and I haven't spoken anything in secret. **21** Why do you question me? Question those who heard what I told them. Look, they know what I said." **22** When he had said these things, one of the officials standing by slapped Jesus, saying, "Is this the way you answer the high priest?" **23** "If I have spoken wrongly," Jesus answered him, "give evidence about the wrong; but if rightly, why do you hit me?" **24** Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

Skip down to verse 28:
28 Then they led Jesus from Caiaphas to the governor's headquarters. It was early morning. They did not enter the headquarters themselves; otherwise they would be defiled and unable to eat the Passover.

Psalm 89:14 Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; faithful love and truth go before you.

Group Discussion Leader Guide

LIFE Group Guide:

General Timeline Guide: (Adjust as appropriate for your group's needs.)
5-10 minutes connecting personally with how everyone is doing.
45 minutes going over message with discussion questions and life applications.
5-10 minutes praying for each other

Discussion Questions
Look over these questions before your group time. Write down your answers or ideas for at least a few questions if not all. You may not get to every question during your time but speak up if you want to talk about one of them in particular. Always try to start with question #1.

1. What stood out to you and/or what do you think God might be speaking about from this message?
2. When does the darkness feel especially scary or even hopeless? How can the presence of Christ help us?
3. What have you seen or found to be most deceptive and dangerous about sin?
4. Can you share a time in your life or in the Bible that shows you that God is faithful?
5. How do you think people get to the place where they are willing to kill God's Son but they still worry about being religiously defiled? How can we learn from that?
6. Peter didn't understand Jesus being willing to lay down His life to obey the Father. Have you had people in your life that don't understand your sacrifice for the Lord?