

Small Group Guide: Day 3 - The King Betrayed

Scripture Focus: John 18

Opening Prayer

Begin your time together by asking God to open your hearts to understand His word and to give you courage to examine your own lives in light of Jesus' betrayal and Peter's denial.

Icebreaker Question

Have you ever experienced a moment when someone you trusted let you down, or when you let someone else down? How did that feel?

Key Takeaways

1. **Jesus' Willing Submission** - Jesus was not taken by force but willingly submitted to arrest in obedience to the Father's will.
2. **The Power of "I Am"** - When Jesus spoke the words "I am," 600 armed soldiers fell to the ground, demonstrating His divine authority.
3. **Two Types of Failures** - Judas betrayed Jesus (removal from the vine), while Peter denied Jesus (needing pruning and restoration).
4. **The Promise of Restoration** - Peter's denial was not the end of his story; Jesus would later restore him by the fire.
5. **Resurrection Changes Everything** - Peter's fear showed he didn't yet understand the power of resurrection, which would transform him from denier to bold witness.

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Text

1. What strikes you most about the image of 600 armed soldiers falling to the ground at Jesus' words "I am"? What does this reveal about Jesus' power and His choice to go willingly?
2. How does the vine and branches metaphor from Day 2 help us understand what happened with Judas and Peter differently?
3. Why do you think the sermon emphasizes that Jesus went "not in submission to them, but in submission to the will of the Father"? What's the difference?

Application

4. Peter needed to be "pruned, lifted up, cared for" before he could bear fruit. What does spiritual pruning look like in practical terms? Can you share an example from your life?
5. The video reminds us that resurrection matters "not only for Jesus, but for those who will testify about him, and not only them, but for all those who will believe their testimony." How does this expand your understanding of why Easter matters for you personally?
6. If you were standing by that fire with Peter, what fears might have caused you to deny Jesus? What fears keep you from boldly identifying as His follower today?

Prayer Focus

- Pray for honesty to recognize where we've denied Jesus
- Pray for faith to believe in the power of resurrection in our daily lives
- Pray for courage to boldly testify about what we've seen and heard
- Pray for those in your group who are experiencing a "pruning" season
- Thank Jesus for His willingness to go to the cross for us