

SESSION 4

GREATER LOVE

the amazing story of hope and redemption

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SESSION 1

READ

Take some time in advance to read and consider the Bible study questions and come up with personal examples to encourage discussion.

WATCH

Make sure everyone can see the screen and the audio is at a comfortable level.

DISCUSS

We hope those who participate in the study walk away knowing, feeling, and doing differently as a result of amazing discussion.

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OPEN

As you open up today, consider this; Can you think of a time in your life when, even though you had the ability to avoid it, you chose to endure suffering of some kind because you thought it was the right thing to do?

What jumped out at you from the message this week? What led you to really think or even better, to change your actions?

WATCH

What jumped out at you from the video?

INTRODUCTION

What do we know about Judas from the Bible?

We do not know a great deal about JUDAS. He was called Iscariot by the other eleven, as he was the son of Simon Iscariot. Some scholars think this means Man from Kerioth, a town in Southern Judea. Judas acted as treasurer to the disciples and was later on regarded as a thief who helped himself to the money.

Why did Jesus allow himself to be arrested in the garden?

Jesus wasn't arrested and executed because He was overwhelmed and had no choice. In fact, Jesus had every choice in the world. He could have washed His hands of us and went straight back to His Father in Heaven All of Jesus' disciples deserted Him, one betrayed Him, yet God's divine work of redemption was on schedule to be fulfilled.

READ

READ Matthew 26:47-56

What happened just as Jesus finished praying in the garden of Gethsemane?

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Judas arrived in the garden with lots of muscle and lots of firepower. He had with him a large crown carrying swords and clubs sent from the chief priests and elders of the people.

What was the signal that Judas would give on who to arrest and what was Jesus' response?

Judas gave them a signal, a prearranged greeting that would be sealed with a kiss. Before Judas can do anything else, Jesus says "Friend, do what you are here to do!

Whose trust have you violated recently that you need to ask for forgiveness?

Answers will vary

If Jesus addresses Judas as "friend" while he is in the act of betrayal, what does that say about Jesus and us?

Answers will vary

What did one of Jesus' disciples do in an attempt to protect his master and what was Jesus' response?

Peter pulled out a sword and chopped off the ear of one of the high priest's soldiers. Jesus acts but not in the way that they thought or hoped that he would: Jesus reveals that it is God's plan that is being accomplished through Jesus' own inaction.

Does the image of the disciples carrying swords fit with your current understanding of who they were?

Answers will vary

What are some implications of those closest to Jesus on earth being armed?

Answers will vary.

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What do you think would have been your reaction had you been in the garden that night?

Answers will vary.

What could've been Jesus' response in the garden?

Jesus could call down 12 legions of angels. To put it into perspective; A Roman legion of soldiers normally consisted of about 6,000 soldiers, which means Jesus is talking about 72,000 angelic warriors, any one of whom could easily dispatch this mob.

What do you imagine a "battle-ready" company of "fighting angels" must look like?

Answers may vary.

When are we tempted to take matters into our own hands out of "devotion" to God?

Answers may vary.

How can we use this passage to equip us as followers of Jesus?

Answers may vary.

LET'S PRAY

Consider the following questions as you pray together as a LifeGroup.

- How often do you find your plans in opposition to God's plans?
- Why do we think that our plans are more important than God's plans?
- How often do we try to institute our own plans and realize that God is already at work?
- What steps are we willing to take to find ourselves directly in the middle of God's plans, not our own, for our life?



