



# onechurch.tv

## bigIdea small group discussion

Bowe Bergdahl, the 28-year-old U.S. Army sergeant who spent five years as a captive in Afghanistan before being traded for five high-profile Taliban leaders, was returned by the Taliban on May 31, 2014.

Bergdahl was the only U.S. soldier held captive in Afghanistan and was released in exchange for five detainees from a detention center in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The circumstances surrounding the prisoner swap and Bergdahl's capture in 2009 have raised a national debate, with Bergdahl's supporters and friends joyous at his rescue, and some members of Congress — and some of his own platoon members — calling him a deserter.

So who is Bowe Bergdahl? A national hero? A deserter? Or even worse—a traitor to his country? And *What Would Jesus Say to Bowe Bergdahl?*



**BIG IDEA: What is Your Price?**

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. If you have followed the stories about Bowe Bergdahl, what are some of the facts that really stand out to you? Do you think we should have traded 5 Al-Qaeda prisoners at Gitmo for Bergdahl? Why or why not?
2. It's easy to think what we would say to Bowe if we met him, though this series is called *What Would Jesus Say to Bowe Bergdahl*. What do you think Jesus would say to Bowe? To Bowe's parents? To Bowe's captors?
3. In your opinion, what would Jesus say to a deserter? How would Jesus treat a traitor?
4. Judas was the treasurer and given charge of the money box. Question: Do you put someone you don't trust in charge of the money? What does this tell you about Judas' reputation within the disciples?
5. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read the accounts of Judas betraying Jesus found in Matthew 26:14-16, 20-25; Mark 14:10-11, 17-21; Luke 22:1-6; John 13:18-30.* If you were a movie director, how would you capture the drama of Jesus' confrontation in the upper room with Judas? What music would be playing?
6. If you had been sitting at this table, what would you be feeling? Saying?
7. In foretelling His betrayal, what do you sense in Jesus: Resolution? Resignation? Restlessness? What do you sense in His disciples? In Judas?



8. Is Judas to be held responsible when "the devil made him do it" (John 13:27; see also John 6:70, 12:4-6, 13:2)
9. How is the reference to *the poor* and to *night* ironic in John 13:29-30?
10. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read the accounts of Peter's denial Jesus found in Matthew 26:31-35; Mark 14:27-31, 66-72; Luke 22:24, 31-34, 54-62; John 13:31-38.*
11. When in your life were you most disappointed with yourself?
12. Peter is brave enough to follow Jesus to the High Priest's house.

(Mark 14:66) Why do you think he now denies Jesus? Do you think he realized what he was doing?

13. How were these three denials similar? Different?
14. In retrospect, how did Peter feel after denying Jesus?
15. In this series, we have seen what Jesus would say to some very high profile people. As we close, *what do you think Jesus would say to you?* What would He compliment you about? What would He confront you about?



## MOVING FORWARD

Sometimes we think we know what we would do in a certain situation, but really, no one knows what would happen during a time of crisis. Peter thought he would never leave Jesus—even said he would die for his faith in Jesus, but he deserted, denied, and betrayed him. Yet Jesus came back to Peter in John 21 and restores Peter and forgives Peter. What does that tell you about how Jesus would treat someone who hurt him deeply by deserting Him?

## WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Judas betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver. That was Judas' price. *What is your price?* What price would you pay to betray Jesus? To give up Christianity? The harsh reality is that all of us betray Jesus regularly throughout the week. And it's for a whole lot less than 30 pieces of silver. Every time we choose to sin over choosing to obey Jesus, we are saying that we do not love Jesus and we betray Him with our words and actions. What are some things you can do in group to allow these people to hold you accountable so that you will not turn and betray the God you love?



## CHANGING YOUR MIND

*Peter declared, "Even if everyone else deserts you, I will never desert you." Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, Peter—this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny three times that you even know me." "No!" Peter insisted. "Even if I have to die with you, I will never deny you!" And all the other disciples vowed the same. Matthew 26:33-35*

# WHAT WOULD JESUS SAY TO...

