

Dear Life Group Leaders,

In today's passage we see the opposition to Jesus and his ministry reaching a crescendo. This is an excellent passage to help us consider the identity, purpose and perseverance of Jesus Christ.

There are many topics you could pick up in prayer at the end of the meeting. However, this week, I'd encourage you to also spend some time praying for our new king, prime minister and cabinet. As our passage illustrates, there are particular challenges associated with positions of power and authority, and with the dynamic of council decision making. We can be assured that God is in control and pray that our national leaders are not driven by fear. 1 Timothy 2:1-6 always provides helpful stimulus when praying for kings and governments, if needed.

God bless,

Tim

*(This week's Life Group Guide was prepared by Tim Maton, who leads our Wimbledon venue)*

## **LIFE GROUP GUIDE**

### **John 11:45-57**

**This week's BIG IDEA:** Opposition to Jesus and his ministry reaches a crescendo.

**Please read John 11:45-57**

1. With our summer break it's been a while since we've been in John's Gospel. What is the context of these verses? What's just happened in John's Gospel?
2. What do you find particularly encouraging, helpful or challenging from this passage?
3. v47-49, what is surprising about the reaction of the Pharisees in these verses?  
*[Leaders note: That rather than rejoicing in a miracle, they are concerned for their own positions.]*
4. Has there been a time when you were concerned about losing position, profile or power? If so, how did you deal with it and what did God teach you through it?
5. Which of the following are you most prone to putting your security and identity in instead of Christ: family, friendships, finances, ministry, home, savings, career, education, or something else?
6. v49-53, what's been your experience of prophecy? Do you believe that God can speak to others through you?
7. What insight does this unintentional prophecy and John's interpretation of it give us about God and his plans for the world? And what encouragement can we take from this?
8. What can we personally do to protect and enhance the unity of the church?
9. How does this passage prepare us for experiencing opposition to Jesus or the Gospel?
10. Spend some time in worship and prayer together. For worship, you could consider 'You Chose The Cross' by Martyn Layzell or another song that focusses on the cross.