

Dear Life Group Leaders,

This week's passage follows Jesus's act of servanthood when he washed the disciples feet. It is all about betrayal and prophecy. These verse set the context for Jesus' teaching through John 14-17. Clouds are gathering over this group as Jesus and his disciples talk about betrayal and denials. There are plenty of challenges for us to draw out of this passage, as well as a few encouragements.

God bless,

Julie *(This week's Life Group Guide was prepared by Julie Willson, who is a Pastorate Leader in our Wimbledon venue)*

LIFE GROUP GUIDE

John 13:18-38

This week's BIG IDEA: Ultimately God is in control. He has a plan and he will see it through.

1. We start today's passage in the middle of a story. Can anyone summary John 13 so far and set it in the context of John's Gospel?

[Leaders note: Jesus has just washed the disciples feet. John's Gospel is switching from Jesus' public ministry to private moments with his disciples before his passion.]

Please read John 13:18-38

2. v18-20, why do you think Jesus starts v18 with a quote from Psalm 41:9?

[Leaders note: Jesus is reminding the disciples to be mindful of God's promises in scripture through the events that are about to unfold.]

3. v21-29, what does Jesus predict in these verses and what does the disciples reaction tell us about how they felt about it?

4. What may have motivated Judas to betray Jesus?

5. Have you ever been betrayed by a friend? How did it make you feel? What can we learn from the way Jesus reacted to the knowledge that Judas would betray him?

6. Why would Jesus have spent so much time with his disciples over the last three years when he knew that one of them would betray him and one would deny him?

[Leaders note: Romans 5:8.]

7. v28-29, why were the disciples so oblivious to Judas' true character?

[Leaders note: We have the benefit of hindsight when we read these verses. Up until this point Judas was as much as the 12 disciples as any of the others.]

8. v30, what significance can we draw from John's narration here?

[Leaders note: "And it was night." expresses the darkness of this moment.]

9. v31-33, what is Jesus referring to in these verses?

[Leaders note: He is talking about his death.]

10. v34-35, what encouragement, and what challenge, can we take from this teaching of Jesus?

11. v36-38, what do these verses tell us about how Peter was feeling in these moments? What story do these verses set up?

[Leaders note: Peter's three denials are recorded for us in John 18.]

12. Finish your time in prayer together. Here are some things you might like to pray through together:

- a. Sometimes it's easy to think that we know people and we categorise them. Do you have any friends who you think won't be interested in Jesus? Have you written them off? Why don't you pray for them now?
- b. Pray for the people you have on your list that you're praying will come to know Jesus.
- c. Pray v34-35 over your Life Group and over our church.