

Digging Deeper: John 18:12-27

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Day 1

Remember to pray, asking for God's help so you can focus on His Word without distraction. Use a journal to write down your thoughts and feelings as you pray and study His Word this week. Read John 18:12–27. Why was Jesus arrested? Perhaps review verses 1–11. Why do you think Jesus was taken first to Annas' house instead of directly to Caiaphas and the Sanhedrin? When deceitful men and women pursue evil, what do they first need to do? Did Annas listen to Jesus' testimony honestly? Was it lawful or just striking a bound person, in this case, Jesus, before given a trial?

Day 2

Find a quiet place to settle your mind, body, and spirit. Don't hurry, read slowly and meditate on each verse. Pray, asking the Holy Spirit to bring truths and ideas into your conversation with God. Read John 18:12–27. Who was the first person to question Peter about knowing Jesus? What else is unique about this person? Have you ever been accused of something that made you feel guilty or respond negatively about knowing Jesus? How might you handle a future conversation like that about knowing Jesus?

Day 3

Pray for the Holy Spirit to help you dig deeper into His Word this week and what God wants you to learn today from some extra study on Sunday's message. Read John 18:12–27. What other evil things were Annas and Caiaphas doing? Check out Matthew 26:59–62. Why was it important for them to silence and kill Jesus? Why were the Jewish rulers in a hurry to get it over with quickly in the middle of the night?

Day 4

Pray for your neighbors. Ask God how He wants you to love and support your neighbors and friends with grace and generosity today. Read John 18:12–27. What normally happens with people around a campfire, or a fire barrel, on a cold night? In verse 25, when Peter is asked again about Jesus, what does he say? Is there a time in your life when you should have stood up for another Christian and failed to do so? What happened? How do you feel about it now? Next time, what can you do differently?

Day 5

Pray for how Jesus wants you to learn from His Word today. Read John 18:12–27. In verse 26, Peter denies Jesus for a second and a third time. Read Matthew 26:34. Read Mark 14:30. Read Luke 22:34. Read John 13:38. Peter's three denials and the crowing of the rooster show that Jesus has power over future events. He shows this to Peter, the rest of the disciples, and for us, as we read in all four gospels. What is going on in your life today that you might be in denial of that Jesus already knows about the future and a better plan for you? Can you trust Him?

Day 6

As you pray, reflect and discuss with Jesus and the Holy Spirit about the past days of the week and how you can apply what you learned this week for His glory. One last time, read John 18:12–27. What have you journaled this week about Jesus and his rushed, middle of the night trial? If you haven't yet, get a notebook and write down your thoughts about it, your prayers you have for others, and yourself. Consider contacting a friend to share what you wrote down and discuss it with them.