

JESUS INSTEAD OF ME

Week 4: Deserted for Me

Series Big Idea: Every act of Love costs something.

Sermon Big Idea: Jesus was deserted for YOU.

1. Spring is here...or is it? Take time to discuss what you are looking forward to as we begin to move outside - especially this year!
2. What stood out to you the most from Pastor Dan's sermon when he was talking about the disciples deserting Jesus?
3. **Bible Study:** Take some time to read Matt. 26:31-56, 69-74 together.

Considering what Pastor Dan mentioned in his message, what other reflections do you have?

4. **Jesus knew** that the disciples would desert Him (Matt. 26:31). The Greek word "desert/fall away" is *skandalizō* means repugnant, scandalous, cause to stumble. Jesus knew that following Him would be so contrary to the disciples' idea of what a Messiah is, it would cause them to desert him. How does this change the way you see the disciples actions on the night Jesus was betrayed?
 - a. In what ways do you try to make Jesus (and His teachings) who you want Him to be, rather than who He is? (hint; your politics, your worldview, your desires) Discuss.
5. **Following involves stumbling (James 3:2).** As we follow Jesus, part of our ongoing transformation is a progressive revelation of the places we stumble as the Good Shepherd leads us into deeper discipleship. So shame off of you! Share how you have experienced this in your own spiritual journey.
6. How do you respond to the statement, "God is not a God of second chances, He's a God of chances?"

7. Repentance involves grieving (read Psalm 51). Consider Peter vs Judas.

- Peter's grief arose because of his conduct - Judas' because of the consequences of his conduct.
- Peter's grief was full of hope, but Judas' was full of despair.
- Peter's grief drove him toward Jesus, but Judas' grief drove him further from God.
- Peter's grief developed his Christian life, but Judas' became an element of sharp retribution.

How does true grieving and repentance lead us to be like Peter instead of Judas?

8. **We are going to stumble - stumble toward Jesus.** Even after He was deserted by His closest friends, Jesus on the cross declared Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing (Lk. 23:24)." He knew His disciples would stumble, He knew it was part of following Him, He promised He would go ahead of them after His resurrection (Matt. 26:32). Jesus came for us and continues to come toward us. Peter also ran toward the empty tomb (Lk. 24:12), and he ran to Jesus on the beach (Jn. 21:7), it was at that time He was restored. How is Jesus calling you to stumble toward Him this week?

Prayer:

- Invite your group to reflect in prayer for a few minutes over what you discussed.
 - Have someone close your time by praying for your group.