

THE BEST OFFENSE IS A GOOD DEFENSE

DISCUSSION GUIDE

SUMMARY:

When an individual repents and turns in faith to Christ for salvation, we can be assured that He will never leave us. We will be saved forever. However, it's certainly possible that we can sometimes veer off the path of God's will and purpose for our lives. Honestly, the Christian walk can be a struggle at times. This week's sermon examines the highs and lows of Jesus' disciples as recorded in the Gospels. Through their experiences, we can learn several principles regarding how to guard our minds and hearts against spiritual backsliding and burnout.

Key Passages: Luke 5:4-11; Mark 14:43-50

Be sure to read this Scripture passage together before you proceed to the "Grow" section of our study.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

KNOW: Spend some time finding out how everyone's week has gone.

The questions in this section provide a guide for connectivity; feel free to approach this part of your group time organically over a meal or "connection" activity or with questions appropriate to your context.

What is something that you are thankful for this week?

What is something that is causing you stress or concern this week?

Who in your life is in need of prayer, physical help, or emotional encouragement right now?

GROW: Grow in the Lord as you engage His Word together.

The apostles continued to fall asleep in the Garden of Gethsemane during a time that seemed to be Jesus' darkest hour of earthly ministry. They were physically and spiritually exhausted. Have you ever felt like the disciples did here? Talk about that.

Judas, a member of Jesus' inner circle, fell in with the wrong crowd and ultimately betrayed the Lord. Discuss the importance of the truth that who we closely associate with will affect our lives. What can be some positive and negative effects of that?

When Peter cut off the high priest's slave's ear during the scuffle of Christ's arrest in the garden, he was fighting the wrong enemy. Ephesians tells us we shouldn't fight against flesh and blood, but against Satan and his evil spirits. Have you ever got sidetracked fighting the wrong enemy? What lessons did you learn?

GO: Talk through ways you can put what you've learned into practice.

Have you created habits in your life that help you practice a sabbath? Share them with the group.

In what ways are you prone to put your confidence in your own assessment of a situation? How might Jesus' actions encourage you to more faithfully seek out and obey God's will in spite of what you see?

Compare the confidence of the authorities that they were in control with the confidence of Jesus that He was in control. What do you learn about (1) God's sovereignty, (2) submitting to God's will, and (3) placing confidence in your own sight?



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