

Applying It In My LifeGroup time - 20 minutes

1. How did Jesus respond to his captors and the official who slapped Him? What are some others ways He could have responded to these people? How was His actual conduct different than what you would have done? How does Jesus' conduct in this situation serve as a model for how you can respond when you are being unfairly treated?
2. While we are all quick to condemn Peter, how are we like him in any way? How do you empathize with Peter in this situation? What could we do to ensure that when we are asked if we are a follower of Christ that we do not follow the same path as Peter?
3. What fears and doubts sometimes motivate our desire to hide our connections with Jesus from others, while still somehow wanting to be loyal to Him? Where have you found yourself doing this? What can we do to increase our willingness to be witnesses for Jesus in whatever setting we are in?

Prayer TimeGroup time - 15 minutes

Praise Jesus for the way He handled His arrest and trials. Thank Him for the love that moved Him to go through suffering; enduring shame and abuse on our behalf. Ask Jesus for the courage to be loyal to Him in moments of fear and doubt. Pray that He will show you how you might best participate in His kingdom work.

Finish your prayer time by praying for the needs of those in your *Growth Group*. Take a few minutes to share prayer requests. Ask someone in the group to record your prayers so that in future weeks you can see where God is answering your prayers.

RISE
RISING THROUGH BETRAYAL

Jesus Is Betrayed By Judas

John 18:1-2

- Judas worked for God, but he never WORSHIPPED God.

Jesus Before The Roman Army

John 18:3-11

- They came to arrest Jesus and He TELLS them what to do.

Jesus Before The Religious Courts

John 18:12-24

- The trial of Jesus was not a FAIR trial.
- God took an unfair trial and execution, to give us FORGIVENESS and RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Jesus Before Peter

John 18:25-27

- Peter DENIES Jesus before servants and slaves.
- Peter experienced doubt, fear and PRIDE.

GROWTH GROUP HOMEWORK

Week of February 29 – March 4, 2016

Getting StartedGroup time - 15 minutes

1. When have you been frustrated with the actions of our political leaders because they seem to be playing partisan politics rather than looking out for the best interests of the people? How is this similar to the politics played out in Jesus' arrest and trial by the Jewish leaders and the Roman officials? What can be done to change this trend in America?

FOR GROWTH GROUP TIME

Getting Into God's Word.....Group time - 40 minutes

Read John 18:1-27 (In preparation to answer questions)

1. What happened to Jesus in verses 1-12? How did He respond to the circumstances? What do you learn about His character, mission, and values from the details offered in this passage?
2. What did Jesus mean when He said, "I am He"? Why did He have to say it twice to the crowd? Why do you think the soldiers fell to the ground when they heard these words? What were they expressing about their understanding of who Jesus was?

3. What request did Jesus make to his captors as he identified himself for a second time to those who had come to arrest him? Why did Jesus make this request of his captors? What is the significance of this request?
4. Look at verses 19-23. What attitude did Jesus show here toward himself; toward others; and toward the circumstances? What did Jesus say about the temple guards and the Roman detachment coming to arrest Him in this isolated place?

5. Describe what you observe in this passage regarding the circumstances and conflict that Peter was experiencing. What do we learn of Peter's character? How does Peter respond to the servant girl's question? What do you think had changed in Peter from his earlier bold defense of Jesus in the garden to his denial of Him here before servants and slaves?