

C. Beware of a heart that abandons Jesus when it is hard to follow Him.

D. Beware of a heart that tries to justify violence or hatred to advance God's kingdom.

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:34-35 (ESV)

Life Group Questions

1. What stood out to you in this message? What did you learn about Jesus' arrest that you didn't know?
2. God took Judas' sinful choices and didn't let them thwart His plans. God used them as part of his good plans so Jesus would die for our sin. Read Romans 8:28 and Genesis 50:20. How does it make you feel to know that as God's children, none of the evil done to us can ruin God's good plans for our lives? Share an evil done to you that God turned into a good thing.
3. Read Romans 5:3-4 and James 1:2-4. God's good plan for Jesus involved suffering and dying for sin. God's good plan for us sometimes involves financial loss, broken relationships, physical sickness and long periods of suffering. How does knowing God has a good purpose in all hard times help you endure difficult days?
4. All who followed Jesus on the night of his arrest abandoned Him when it was hard to follow Him. Have you found yourself abandoning Jesus or his church during the pandemic when it is hard to follow Jesus?
5. When Judas betrayed Jesus, he called him, "Rabbi," which was a term of respect. Judas also showered Jesus with kisses as he betrayed His life. This reveals the depth of Judas' hypocrisy. Judas lived a double life for many years. The Gospel of John tells us he was an apostle of Jesus and a thief stealing from the money bag (See John 12:6). In what ways do you find yourself living a double life? How is your private life and public life different? What does Judas teach us about the danger of living a double life?
6. Peter thought he could advance God's kingdom with violence. What does Jesus say is the danger of using violence to advance a kingdom or cause (see Matthew 26:52)? Christians are to be known for their love toward one another in spite of their differences (see John 13:34-35) and to love their enemies (see Matthew 5:44). How does this change the way we should handle ourselves in our politically divided world?
7. If the anonymous young man who ran away from Jesus' arrest without clothes was Mark—the author of this gospel, what was Mark admitting? Why is that an encouragement to us?

MARK THE KING AND THE CROSS

Mark 14:43-52 – The Kiss Of Death

October 11, 2020

1. The Background

2. The Confronting Crowd

And immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas came, one of the twelve, and with him a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders. Mark 14:43 (ESV)

So Judas, having procured a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons. John 18:3 (ESV)

3. The Betraying Disciple

Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man. Seize him and lead him away under guard." Mark 14:44 (ESV)

And when he came, he went up to him at once and said, "Rabbi!" And he kissed him. And they laid hands on him and seized him. Mark 14:45–46 (ESV)

Even my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me. Psalm 41:9 (ESV)

4. The Retaliating Disciple

But one of those who stood by drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear. Mark 14:47 (ESV)

When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground. John 18:6 (ESV)

Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place. For all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? Matthew 26:52–53 (ESV)

So Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?" John 18:11 (ESV)

5. The All-Powerful Jesus

And Jesus said to them, "Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me? Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me. But let the Scriptures be fulfilled." Mark 14:48–49 (ESV)

6. The Cowardly Apostles

And they all left him and fled. Mark 14:50 (ESV)

7. The Mysterious Streaker

And a young man followed him, with nothing but a linen cloth about his body. And they seized him, but he left the linen cloth and ran away naked. Mark 14:51–52 (ESV)

8. What are the lessons we can learn?

A. Those who try to destroy God's plans will find their evil actions becoming part of God's plans to accomplish His good purpose.

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28 (ESV)

B. While God incorporates evil actions as part of his good plan, that does not remove anyone of the responsibility for their sinful choices.

The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born." Matthew 26:24 (ESV)