



## John 18:1-27 Small Group Discussion Questions

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- Have someone in your group read John 18:1-27. What happens in this passage What sticks out to you?
- What does the phrase, “Jesus is in control” mean to you? Where do you see Jesus demonstrating His control over the events in this passage?
  - In verses 5-6, Jesus tells the guards, “I am He,” as they come to arrest Him. Why does everyone fall to the ground? What is significant about this statement?
  - Why does it matter that Jesus was in total control going to His crucifixion? Why does John want us to understand that He could have stopped His crucifixion at any moment with just a word?
  - What do verses 8-9 tell us about Jesus’ heart for His people?
- Ben structured the sermon around the way that two characters reacted to Jesus’ plan and control. The first was Judas. What is Judas doing in this passage?
  - Why do you think Judas betrayed Jesus? He saw the miracles, listened to the sermons, and saw the lives changed in Jesus’ presence, but he still betrays him. Why?
  - Ben suggested that Judas betrayed Jesus for two reasons: disbelief and disillusionment with His plan. What is disbelief? How did Judas disbelieve Jesus?

- How is it possible that someone could walk with Jesus for so long and still not believe in Him?
- Why might Judas have been disillusioned with Jesus' plan?
- What does disillusionment with God's plan look like in our own lives? What are some signs that we may be disillusioned with God's plans for us?
- For Judas, this disillusionment led to betrayal and outright rebellion. Why might disillusionment lead to rebellion against God?
- In contrast to disbelief and disillusionment, how do we maintain a high view of God's sovereignty? What does it look like to believe that God is good and in control when His plans do not match our own?
- In verse 10, we encounter the second figure that Ben discussed in his sermon: Simon Peter. What does Peter do in response to Jesus' plan?
  - If you were to guess, what do you think Peter was experiencing in this moment? Why do you think he attacked Malchus?
  - What has Peter misunderstood about Jesus' plan?
  - How does Jesus respond to Peter's misunderstanding?
  - What is the cup that Jesus mentions? To help answer this question, you can have someone from your group read Psalm 75:8, Isaiah 51:17, and Jeremiah 25:15-17.
  - How does this connect to the gospel? Why is it good news for us that Jesus must drink the cup that the Father has given Him?
- Ben said that Peter's heart was characterized by restlessness towards God's plan. When have you felt restless about God's plan for you?
  - Restlessness has a lot to do with time; it comes when we feel like God is not operating according to our timeline. Have you ever tried to seize control of the plan yourself? What does it look

like to try to seize control of God's plan for you? What are some signs that we might be acting like Peter?

- Ben said that the antidote for restlessness is surrender. What does it look like to surrender to God's timeline for us?
- How can we intentionally practice surrender this week? Where do you feel a need to practice surrendering to God in your own life in this season?
- What does Peter do over the course of verses 15-27. What happens to him?
  - Why do you think that Peter—who was just willing to start a war for Jesus—now denies Jesus three times? What has changed?
  - Ben said that Peter has become a chameleon. He doesn't understand Jesus' plan, and he is intimidated by the social situation he is in, so he loses heart. What are some things in our lives that might tempt us to lose heart?
  - How can we practically trust God and His plan in those moments when we are tempted to lose heart?
  - Have you found yourself in a hostile social situation where people openly challenged or criticized your faith? What was that like? What did you do?
  - How can we boldly trust God's plan and proclaim His name in hostile social situations? What are some steps we can take to ensure that we don't become chameleons, like Peter?
- Ultimately, this passage teaches us that God is in control. How does this fact change the way you view disappointments or failures in your life?
- In moments of anxiety, worry, grief, or sadness, how can we practically rest in God's sovereign control over all things?
- Who do you have in your life that encourages you to trust God's plan? How can you be that encouragement to others this week?