

## The Day that Changed the World Discussion Guide Pt. 1 – Betrayal and The Arrest



**Begin.** Read Matthew 26:47-56 aloud.

After reading, give everyone 4 minutes of silence to reflect on the passage.

Consider some of the following questions during this time:

- How does this passage give me joy, encouragement, or hope?
- How does this passage challenge me?
- What does God invite us to do in response to this passage?

**Reflect.** *Matthew 26:47-50a – “Betrayal”*

1. This example of Judas is a big clear demonstration, involving persecutors and death. Often, this betrayal happens in small ways. What is “betrayal” to you?
2. What do you think it says about Jesus that even as Judas comes to betray him he greets him as a “friend?” How is this often different than how we react in moments of pain and conflict?
3. Pastor Tom made the statement: “Don’t let your disappointment become the source of your own undoing.” Respond to this together. Can you see ways that disappointment has led you away from God and others?

**Reflect.** *Matthew 26:50b-56 – “The Arrest”*

4. Why do you think there is so much violence in these few verses? (Ex. A mob with swords and clubs, the crowd seizing Jesus, a person’s ear cut off, etc.)
5. How does Jesus respond to this violence? What does he say to the crowd to calm the fear and anger of the crowd and his followers?
6. Verse 56 tells us that after this the disciples fled. How do you understand this in light of faith? Is fleeing inevitable, or are there different possibilities available to us, and why?
7. Pastor Cris talked about “attachments” in connection with the strong reactions of fear and anger in this passage. Reflect and respond to the following quote for how it relates to your life. Do you have unhealthy attachments that cause this kind of fear?

“Regardless of how a compulsion appears externally, underneath it is always robbing us of our freedom. We act not because we have chosen to, but because we have to. We cling to things, people, beliefs, and behaviors not because we love them, but because we are terrified of losing them. The classic spiritual term for this compulsive condition is attachment... Each of us has countless attachments. We are attached to our daily routines, our environments, our relationships, and of course our possessions. We are also attached to our religious beliefs and to our images of ourselves, others, and God... In a spiritual sense, the objects of our attachments and addictions become idols...” – **Gerald May, *The Dark Night of the Soul***

Consider how you can seek freedom from fear and grief, which takes place through love and gratitude in Jesus. Maybe your past did not reflect the story of your life you wanted. How is God bringing about healing in the here and now?

**Prayer:** Spend time in prayer for one another.

**Challenge:**

1. Who can you reach out to this week to forgive for how they have wronged you? Or is there someone you need to seek forgiveness from?
2. What do you care about *too* much (attachments)? What are ways you can submit that to God this week and allow him to set you free?

*\*You may want to choose one.*