

**PLEASE DON'T READ THESE NOTES UNTIL YOU HAVE COMPLETED YOUR LESSON.  
HEARING GOD FOR YOURSELF IS WAY BETTER THAN MY COMMENTS!**

### questions

1. Read **John 18: 1-27**. Who are the main characters of this narrative?

Jesus, Judas, soldiers and officials, Peter, high priests

- ♥ If this story were a play, which character would you be most suited to play? Why?
- ♥ Even though you may be familiar with this story, after reading this chapter, note any details in the story that you hadn't noticed before. Are there other parts of this story that you are aware of that are not included here in John's account?
- ♥ In this chapter, what evidence do you see of the supernatural at work (events that can't be explained by natural cause and effect)?

Jesus knowing all that was going to happen to him v. 4

The soldiers falling to the ground v. 6

So the words he has spoken would be fulfilled . . . v. 9

Caiaphas' prophecy that one man would die for all the people v. 14

The rooster crowing at the moment that Peter denied Christ for the third time v. 27

**John 18:1-11**

2. Consider Jesus' **words** and **actions** in **18:1-11**. What are several adjectives that would describe Jesus' character as displayed in these verses?

Encourage several to share ---

brave or courageous, composed, loving, compassionate, authoritative, obedient and submissive

- ♥ What aspect of Jesus' character impresses you the most? Why?
- ♥ According to **Luke 22:39-46**, what happens between **John 18:1** and **18:2**? How does this help explain Jesus' composure when the soldiers came with Judas to arrest him?

Jesus spent time with his Father in prayer, asking to be delivered from what was coming, but also submitting to the Father's will. He was in great anguish but an angel came and ministered to him to strengthen him.

3. As stated in **18:5-6**, how does Jesus identify himself and how does his words affect those who came to arrest him?

Jesus said, "I am he." Those who came to arrest him fell backward to the ground.

What is the significance of how Jesus identified himself and how could this explain the dramatic reaction (**Exodus 3:14; John 6:35; 8:12; 9:5; 10:9, 11; 11:25; 14:6; 15:1**)?

In saying I am . . . Jesus is using the sacred name for God – the name God used to identify himself when Moses asked who it was that was sending him to deliver the Hebrew people from the Egyptians. Jesus reveals his deity – just as he did throughout the Gospel with all his I Am statements. God's name is sacred and carries the power of God which is why the soldiers fell backward to the ground. It was a supernatural moment where Jesus was revealed for who he really was.

- ♥ What effect (positive or negative) have you seen the name of Jesus having on people regardless of their belief? Why do you think this is so? How does this explain the reason for the Third Commandment in **Exodus 20:7**? God's name contains his character. Just as God's Word is living and active and sharper than a sword (Hebrews 4:12), so, too, the name of God has power. We are not to misuse the name of God because God's name cannot be separated from God's character.

♥ In what ways can you positively use the name of Jesus? The name of Jesus is used throughout the New Testament to bring healing, power in preaching and teaching, evangelism and deliverance from evil spirits. We are baptized in the name of Jesus and someday every knee will bow at the name of Jesus (Phil 2:10). The name of Jesus is a powerful spiritual weapon.

What ways can you negatively use his name? Jesus name can be misused and abused in cursing, damning, or flippantly swearing. Whether used positively or negatively, there is a reaction when Jesus' name is used because of who Jesus is. To misuse Jesus' name is to misuse Jesus himself. God cannot be separated from his name. His name contains his character.

4. In **John 15** we learned that Jesus considers us to be his friends. In the moment of personal danger, what kind of friend does Jesus show himself to be (18:8-9)? What effect does this have on your friendship with Jesus?

Jesus was more concerned about the safety of his disciples than he was himself. Even though he was in grave danger, he was thinking about those he loved. He is the same way today. He always has our best interests in mind.

♥ If you had been with Jesus the night he was arrested, how do you think you would have responded?

♥ How would you feel if someone today betrayed your best friend? What action, if any, would you take?

5. On his own initiative, Peter tried to help Jesus out by drawing his sword. What are some things that Peter still didn't understand about Jesus (**Matthew 26:52-53**)?

Peter did not realize that all of this was part of God's plan and that if Jesus wanted to escape, he certainly had the resources and power to do so. We cannot assume that we always know what God is doing or what his plan is. We often act before we consult God and ask for his guidance.

♥ When was a time you misunderstood God's plans and purposes? What, in the situation, led to your misunderstanding? Did you take any action that you later regretted?

♥ In the future, what steps can you take to guard against misunderstanding God's plans and purposes and prevent yourself from acting on your own initiative?

♥ Read the following Scriptures and discuss what usually happens when we try to "help God out" (**Genesis 16:1-2; Genesis 37:5-11; Exodus 2:11-15**).

We usually run ahead of God when we get tired of waiting for him to act or when we misunderstand what he is doing. In John 15, Jesus stressed that we are to remain or abide in him (stay connected) because without him we cannot do anything. If we stay connected to God, we will not act out of self-initiated behavior. Instead, our actions will be Spirit-initiated and we will be acting in cooperation with God and not independently from him. When we stay connected to Jesus, we will have the "mind of Christ" (1 Corinthians 2:16) and we will better understand what God is doing.

*Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me? (18:11) - Drink the cup* is a figure of speech meaning to "undergo" or "experience." *Cup* in Scripture is a symbol for *suffering* or the *wrath of God* being poured out. Since this *cup* came from the Father, Jesus knew that God was in control - even in suffering. No matter what the cost or suffering, Jesus trusted his Father and he demonstrated his trust through obedience.

6. Why was Jesus willing to be obedient and "drink the cup" the Father has given him?

Scripture	Why Jesus Was Obedient
Hebrews 2:14-15	So that he might destroy the devil who holds the power of death and free all those who are held in slavery by the fear of death
Titus 2:14	He offered himself as a sacrifice to free us from a dark, rebellious life into a good and pure life, making us people he can be proud of, eager to do good
Romans 5:19	Because Jesus (one man) said yes to God in obedience, many people can now be made right and righteous before God
2 Corinthians 8:9	Jesus obeyed God, leaving the riches of heaven, so that we, through his voluntary poverty, might become rich (in goodness and truth).

- ♥ How does Jesus' decision to "drink the cup" help you in your obedience to God? What issue of obedience is challenging you right now? What would it mean to trust God completely in this situation?
- ♥ How does Jesus' example help us when we face a difficult and unjust situation (**Hebrews 12:3**)? **When you find yourselves flagging in your faith, go over that story again, item by item, that long litany of hostility he plowed through. That will shoot adrenaline into your souls! (The Message)**
- ♥ What do you want to remember about Jesus' example the next time someone lets you down?

### John 18:12-14; 19-24

7. What did the high priest question Jesus about (**18:19**)? What was he trying to get Jesus to do? **The high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. He had no incriminating evidence against Jesus, so he was trying to get Jesus to incriminate himself by saying something that could be held against him.**

- ♥ Have you or someone you know ever been falsely accused of a crime and actually arrested? What kind of emotions and reactions does a false arrest cause?
- ♥ Have you ever been in a situation that was overtly hostile to Jesus Christ? How did you feel and what did you do?

8. If the high priest really wanted to know the truth, what does Jesus suggest that he do (**18:20-21**)? **Jesus suggested that the officials go and ask all the people who heard Jesus teach, if they really want to know. Jesus knew he had not done anything wrong or anything in secret. He never tried to hide his message or motives. He knew that the high priest had no evidence against him.**

- ♥ How do you deal with someone whose mind is so made up that the facts don't matter? How do you deal with this when it relates to your faith?
- ♥ Why do you think Jesus' answer in **18:20-21** made the official angry enough to strike Jesus in the face? **He was probably angry because he knew Jesus was speaking the truth and that they had no evidence against him.** Have you ever been in a situation where the truth made someone angry? How did you respond?
- ♥ Jesus claimed not to have "secret disciples" (**18:20**). Is it possible today, to be a secret follower of Christ? Why or why not (**Matthew 10:32-33**)? **This reference really rules out any possibility of being a "secret" follower of Jesus. If we are truly born again and are a committed disciple of Christ, it is really impossible to keep it a secret because we become an entirely new person in Christ.**

9. How did Jesus' answer in **18:23** expose this trial as an illegal mockery? **Jesus challenges them to present the evidence against him if he has said anything wrong. He knew they had no evidence and no witnesses.**

- ♥ Have you ever found it necessary to challenge a respected authority or belief? What did you do?
- ♥ Is Jesus' behavior in **18:22-23** consistent with his teaching in **Luke 6:27-31**? Why or why not? **Jesus showed his love for his enemies by dying for them and taking upon himself the punishment for their sins. He prayed for his enemies on the cross when he said, "Father, forgive them for they don't know what they are doing." Jesus "turned the other cheek" by letting himself be captured, tried, condemned and crucified. He certainly treated others not only as he would want to be treated, but always with love, goodness, and honesty.**

### John 18:15-18; 25-27

10. What were some brave things that Peter did after Jesus was arrested that showed his love for Christ? **He tried to defend Jesus when he was being taken by the soldiers; he followed him to his trial when everyone else except John fled and left Jesus alone. He wanted to come into the courtyard to be closer to Jesus, even though he knew it was dangerous.**

- ♥ How do you account for the difference in Peter between **18:10** and **18:17, 25, 27**? What do you think motivated Peter's repeated denials? **Peter became confused as to what God was doing which then led to fear for his own survival and safety.** Fear and faith cannot coexist in the same heart. When and where is it hardest for you to openly identify yourself as a Christ-follower?

- ♥ In what ways, both obvious and subtle, public and private, have you denied Christ? What was Peter's response when he realized what he had done (Luke 22:61-62)? What is your response?
11. This experience was a turning point in Peter's life. What do you think this incident showed him about himself? How could it be used for good in his life? How might remembering Jesus' words in Luke 22:31-32 have comforted him?

Failure reveals our weaknesses and shows us why we need God's power and help. Peter, no doubt, better knew his own heart and weaknesses after this failure. Like the apostle Paul, Peter learned that when he realized how weak he was, that is when he became strong, for then he relied on God's power and not his own ( 2 Corinthians 12:7-10). Jesus had previously warned Peter that Satan had asked to sift him like wheat, but Jesus told him that he had prayed for him – that he faith would not fail. Jesus also said the encouraging words to Peter, "And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers." As Peter faced his own failure and was tempted to give up the faith, he would have remembered what Jesus said and he would have realized that Jesus knew what was going to happen and the he expected Peter to turn back to him after denying him and that God would use his failure for good.

- ♥ Peter became a strong and prominent leader in the early church. As the Gospel accounts were written and circulated in those early years, how do you think Peter felt each time he read or heard mentioned his denial of Christ? Do you think he had any regret that his story was included? Why or why not?
- ♥ How does the story of Peter both humble and encourage you? When have you felt or acted like Peter? How do you explain the ups and downs in your own spiritual life?
- ♥ Peter recovered from this failure to do great things for God. What failure in your life has God used for good not only in your life but also in the lives of others?

## response

Listed below are some basic truths that are taught in the events of **John 18** that can be applied to situations in your life. Write down what event in this chapter demonstrates the truth listed and then make a note as to a situation in your life where the truth needs to be remembered or applied.

Basic Truths	Demonstrated in What Event	Application to My Life
Obedience to what God asks is the most important thing.	Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?	
Even those who love Jesus the most will sometimes fail him.	Peter's denying Christ three times	
God will never lose or disown one of his own.	"I have not lost one of those you gave me."	
Even in suffering and hard times, God is in control.	Even though Jesus' arrest and trial were unjust, God let it happen for a reason	
God doesn't ask us to go through the "fire" for no reason at all.	Jesus suffered many things but it was a purpose. He purchased the salvation of all who believe.	
Being open, honest and truthful sometimes causes you to suffer.	Jesus was open and honest at his trial, but he still suffered and was condemned to death.	

## Encounter with Jesus

Have a conversation with Jesus about a situation in your life where you need to believe one of the above principles. Ask him for advise, insight and understanding. Listen and then write down what you hear.

**BELOW IS THE EXTRA SCRIPTURE FOR LESSON 17 THAT YOU CAN PRINT OUT FOR SMALL GROUP TIME**

## **NIV**

**Exodus 3:14** God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

**John 6:35** Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.

**John 8:12** When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

**John 9:5** While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

**John 10:9** I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture.

**John 10:11** "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

**John 11:25** Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies;

**John 14:6** Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

**John 15:1** "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener.

**Matthew 26:52-53** "Put your sword back in its place," Jesus said to him, "for all who draw the sword will die by the sword. 53 Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels?"

**Genesis 16:1-2** Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. But she had an Egyptian maidservant named Hagar; 2 so she said to Abram, "The LORD has kept me from having children. Go, sleep with my maidservant; perhaps I can build a family through her." Abram agreed to what Sarai said.

**Genesis 37:5-11** Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him all the more. 6 He said to them, "Listen to this dream I had: 7 We were binding sheaves of grain out in the field when suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright, while your sheaves gathered around mine and bowed down to it." 8 His brothers said to him, "Do you intend to reign over us? Will you actually rule us?" And they hated him all the more because of his dream and what he had said. 9 Then he had another dream, and he told it to his brothers. "Listen," he said, "I had another dream, and this time the sun and moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me."

10 When he told his father as well as his brothers, his father rebuked him and said, "What is this dream you had? Will your mother and I and your brothers actually come and bow down to the ground before you?"

11 His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter in mind.

**Exodus 2:11-15** One day, after Moses had grown up, he went out to where his own people were and watched them at their hard labor. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his own people. 12 Glancing

this way and that and seeing no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. 13 The next day he went out and saw two Hebrews fighting. He asked the one in the wrong, "Why are you hitting your fellow Hebrew?"

14 The man said, "Who made you ruler and judge over us? Are you thinking of killing me as you killed the Egyptian?" Then Moses was afraid and thought, "What I did must have become known."

15 When Pharaoh heard of this, he tried to kill Moses, but Moses fled from Pharaoh and went to live in Midian, where he sat down by a well.

**Hebrews 2:14** Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil— 15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.

**Titus 2:14** who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

**Romans 5:19** For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

**2Corinthians 8:9** For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

**Hebrews 12:3** Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

**Matthew 10:32-33** "Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. 33 But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in heaven.

**Luke 6:27-31** "But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. 29 If someone strikes you on one cheek, turn to him the other also. If someone takes your cloak, do not stop him from taking your tunic. 30 Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. 31 Do to others as you would have them do to you.

**Luke 22:61-62** The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: "Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times." 62 And he went outside and wept bitterly.

**Luke 22:31-32** "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. 32 But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers."

## **NLT**

**Exodus 3:14** God replied, "I AM THE ONE WHO ALWAYS IS. Just tell them, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

**John 6:35** Jesus replied, "I am the bread of life. No one who comes to me will ever be hungry again. Those who believe in me will never thirst.

**John 8:12** Jesus said to the people, "I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't be stumbling through the darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life."

**John 9:5** But while I am still here in the world, I am the light of the world."

**John 10:9** Yes, I am the gate. Those who come in through me will be saved. Wherever they go, they will find green pastures.

**John 10:11** "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

**John 11:25** Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die like everyone else, will live again.

**John 14:6** Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.

**John 15:1** "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener.

**Matthew 26:52-5** "Put away your sword," Jesus told him. "Those who use the sword will be killed by the sword. 53 Don't you realize that I could ask my Father for thousands of angels to protect us, and he would send them instantly?"

**Genesis 16:1-2** But Sarai, Abram's wife, had no children. So Sarai took her servant, an Egyptian woman named Hagar, 2 and gave her to Abram so she could bear his children. "The LORD has kept me from having any children," Sarai said to Abram. "Go and sleep with my servant. Perhaps I can have children through her." And Abram agreed.

### **Genesis 37:5-11**

One night Joseph had a dream and promptly reported the details to his brothers, causing them to hate him even more. 6 "Listen to this dream," he announced. 7 "We were out in the field tying up bundles of grain. My bundle stood up, and then your bundles all gathered around and bowed low before it!" 8 "So you are going to be our king, are you?" his brothers taunted. And they hated him all the more for his dream and what he had said.

9 Then Joseph had another dream and told his brothers about it. "Listen to this dream," he said. "The sun, moon, and eleven stars bowed low before me!"

10 This time he told his father as well as his brothers, and his father rebuked him. "What do you mean?" his father asked. "Will your mother, your brothers, and I actually come and bow before you?" 11 But while his brothers were jealous of Joseph, his father gave it some thought and wondered what it all meant.

### **Exodus 2:11-15**

Many years later, when Moses had grown up, he went out to visit his people, the Israelites, and he saw how hard they were forced to work. During his visit, he saw an Egyptian beating one of the Hebrew slaves.

12 After looking around to make sure no one was watching, Moses killed the Egyptian and buried him in the sand. 13 The next day, as Moses was out visiting his people again, he saw two Hebrew men fighting. "What are you doing, hitting your neighbor like that?" Moses said to the one in the wrong. 14 "Who do you think you are?" the man replied. "Who appointed you to be our prince and judge? Do you plan to kill me as you killed that Egyptian yesterday?" Moses was badly frightened because he realized that everyone knew what he had done. 15 And sure enough, when Pharaoh heard about it, he gave orders to have Moses arrested and killed. But Moses fled from Pharaoh and escaped to the land of Midian. When Moses arrived in Midian, he sat down beside a well.

### **Hebrews 2:14-15**

Because God's children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—Jesus also became flesh and blood by being born in human form. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the Devil, who had the power of death. 15 Only in this way could he deliver those who have lived all their lives as slaves to the fear of dying.

**Titus 2:14** He gave his life to free us from every kind of sin, to cleanse us, and to make us his very own people, totally committed to doing what is right.

**Romans 5:19** Because one person disobeyed God, many people became sinners. But because one other person obeyed God, many people will be made right in God's sight.

**2Corinthians 8:9** You know how full of love and kindness our Lord Jesus Christ was. Though he was very rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty he could make you rich.

**Hebrews 12:3** Think about all he endured when sinful people did such terrible things to him, so that you don't become weary and give up.

**Matthew 10:32-33** "If anyone acknowledges me publicly here on earth, I will openly acknowledge that person before my Father in heaven. 33 But if anyone denies me here on earth, I will deny that person before my Father in heaven.

**Luke 6:27-31** "But if you are willing to listen, I say, love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you. 28 Pray for the happiness of those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you. 29 If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn the other cheek. If someone demands your coat, offer your shirt also. 30 Give what you have to anyone who asks you for it; and when things are taken away from you, don't try to get them back. 31 Do for others as you would like them to do for you.

**Luke 22:61-62** At that moment the Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered that the Lord had said, "Before the rooster crows tomorrow morning, you will deny me three times." 62 And Peter left the courtyard, crying bitterly.

**Luke 22:31-32** "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to have all of you, to sift you like wheat. 32 But I have pleaded in prayer for you, Simon, that your faith should not fail. So when you have repented and turned to me again, strengthen and build up your brothers."