



LESSON 18 ~ 1 AM HE

John 18

DISCUSSION STARTER

- As a child, were you ever blamed for something you didn't do? How did you react?

INTRODUCTION

Do you have a couple of favorite movies that you never get tired of watching? Perhaps you've seen them so many times that you can quote all your favorite lines and there certainly are no surprises left in the plot, yet the story is so good that you never get tired of seeing it. The next four chapters of John, the events of what we call *Holy Week*, are this kind of story. It is a story that we like to hear over and over because it never gets old.

John 18 has all the elements that make up a good drama – exciting, tense, and gripping events that include a traitorous villain, a dramatic arrest, a sham trial, desertion and denial, and most of all, a good, honest, self-sacrificing Hero whose motive is Love. It is a story we never get tired of because we are at the center of this story, each time we hear it. It was the Hero's love for us that compelled Him to die, so that we could live.

PREPARATION

1. Before you read **John 18**, ask the Holy Spirit to teach you and guide you into all truth (John 16:13). You may want to make the following prayer your own:

Spirit of the Living God, the One who comforts, strengthens and encourages me.

I admit that I cannot understand the truth found in God's Word with only my mind.

I agree that spiritual truth has to be understood with my heart as well as my head.

So I ask You to give me spiritual understanding as I do this lesson.

*I pray that You would enable me to see, hear and understand,
with my spirit, all that You want to teach me.*

I ask this in the powerful Name of Jesus (as if Jesus were asking it).

Amen

2. Read **John 18** slowly and thoughtfully in your own Bible. As you read and reread, *underline or highlight* any verses, phrases or words that are meaningful to you. Put a *question mark* beside anything you don't understand. Put a ✓ beside anything you would like more information about.

You may also want to read this chapter in another translation. The Scripture handouts for these lessons contain the *Amplified Version* of the Bible. It is important, however, that you don't try to answer the questions in the lesson from just the *Amplified Version*. The questions are phrased to be answered from the *New International Version* (NIV), the *New Living Translation* (NLT), or something similar. Using **only** the *Amplified Version* may be confusing. It is given only as a supplementary text.

3. Write one question that you have about this chapter that you would like answered as you do this lesson.

QUESTIONS

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

- ♥ 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)?

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?

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

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**)?

- ♥ 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**?
 - ♥ In what ways can you positively use the name of Jesus? What ways can you negatively use his name?
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?
- ♥ 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**)?

- ♥ 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**).

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	
Titus 2:14	
Romans 5:19	
2 Corinthians 8:9	

- ♥ 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**)?
- ♥ 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?

- ♥ 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**)?

- ♥ 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? 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**)?

9. How did Jesus' answer in **18:23** expose this trial as an illegal mockery?

- ♥ 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?

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?

- ♥ 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? 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?

- ♥ 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.		
Even those who love Jesus the most will sometimes fail him.		
God will never lose or disown one of his own.		
Even in suffering and hard times, God is in control.		
God doesn't ask us to go through the "fire" for no reason at all.		
Being open, honest and truthful sometimes causes you to suffer.		

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.