



That You May
HAVE LIFE

A STUDY ON THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

women's
BIBLE STUDY



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LESSON *Fifteen*

Whom Do You Seek?

After sharing His final words, Jesus and His disciples walked to a nearby garden. There Jesus was arrested after being betrayed by one of His own. He stood on trial, reminding the high priest of His honesty in His teaching. Yet, even in His innocence, Jesus moved toward His death. This situation greatly challenged His disciples, as seen in Peter's own denial of the Savior he had come to love.

NEW SECTION

Chapter 18 marks the beginning of the end of Jesus' life on earth. From this point on, the Gospel of John will focus on the arrest, trial, crucifixion, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

THESE WORDS...

Chapter 18 begins, "When Jesus had spoken these words..." This broadly refers to His teaching in Chapters 13-17, what is known as the upper room discourse.

GARDEN

From the other gospel accounts, this garden was called Gethsemane. Read Matthew 26:36-46, Mark 14:32-42, and Luke 22:39-46 to gain more insight into how Jesus was feeling in these moments.

CONTROL

This account of Gethsemane is quite different from the others because the author "is not concerned to tell us everything that happened, but rather to show Jesus' complete control of the situation."⁸²

Read John 18:1-27 before answering the following questions.

1. Jesus came to earth so that you may have life. Considering Jesus was about to die, was that purpose threatened in this chapter? Why or why not?

Read John 18:1-14.

2. Record each character's actions in this section:

Jesus:

The Disciples:

Peter:

The Officers/Soldiers:

Annas:

3. Jesus states in verse 5, "I am he." While this could be a simple acknowledgement of His identity, it actually hints at a deeper meaning. Read John 8:24, 28, 58. What do you believe Jesus was implying here?

4. Reread verses 5-6. Considering what you know about Jesus and His teaching, why were the Jews trying to arrest Him? How did they respond to His claim?

5. Peter demonstrated action over obedience, passion over patience. When have you acted rashly, like Peter, ready to take steps forward without consulting or waiting on God? What was the result? How do you think God views you in moments like this?

6. Jesus revealed that nothing will get in His way of accomplishing God's work. How does His determination and willingness encourage you? (See Appendix: Justice)

7. Over and over again Jesus predicted His death. It was not a surprise. However, imagine Him in this passage as He faced the hardest moment of His life, knowing the painful end was coming. How had Jesus prepared for this moment? (See also Matthew 26:36-46)

Although we will never face what Jesus was facing, He warned us that hard times are ahead for all believers (John 16:33). How can you daily prepare yourself for those times now?

OFFICERS

It is apparent that both Roman soldiers and temple police were a part of Jesus' arrest, a detail the other gospel accounts leave out.⁸³

VOLUNTARY

Jesus voluntarily suffered and died for His people. He was no victim of the circumstances. Rather, His actions fulfilled God's bigger plan of redemption. See verses 4, 9, and 11.

CUP

In the Old Testament, the "cup" has ties to suffering and God's wrath.

HIGH PRIEST

Annas was the high priest from AD 6 to AD 15. However, many in his family line, including his son-in-law Caiaphas, also held this office after him. "Annas was thus the patriarch of a high priestly family..."⁸⁴

JOHN 11:49-52

Read John 11:49-52 to get context for the mentioned claim of Caiaphas in John 18:14.

OTHER DISCIPLE?

While the identity of the “other disciple” is unknown, it is thought by many to be John, the author of this gospel.

ROOSTER CROW

Don't forget Jesus' prediction of Peter in John 13:38. He was not surprised by His friend's rejection.

Read John 18:15-27.

8. In this section, Peter denies any association with Jesus three times. Fill out the chart below detailing these instances:

VERSES	QUESTIONS	PETER'S RESPONSE
17		
25		
27-28		

List some of the thoughts that might have been running through Peter's mind as he was questioned about his relationship with Jesus:

9. Go back and read John 18:1-11. Now, compare Peter's character in the first section to verses 15-27. Why might such a change have occurred?

10. Describe how Jesus was treated in verse 19-24. How did Jesus respond? Remember, Jesus could have put a stop to this but didn't. Why did He, the God of the universe, submit to this type of treatment?

11. Read Luke 22:60-62. How do you think Peter felt after denying Jesus? Do you think Jesus was upset with him? Why or why not?

12. Remember Peter's statement in John 13:36-37. Yet, he denied Jesus three times. Have you ever claimed strong faith in God but when it was tested you struggled to act in this faith? Explain. How might God use this experience in your life for your good?

“Relying on God has to start all over every day as if nothing has yet been done.”

– C.S. Lewis⁸⁵

GOD'S CHARACTER

For reminders of God's patient and loving character, read Psalm 103:8-12, 116:5-7, and 145:17-20.

DENIAL

Though Peter denied Jesus, he would one day become one of the most important figures in the history of the Church. His denial was not final but was spoken out of fear. God was still faithful and used him in mighty ways.



BIG IDEA

What is your biggest takeaway from this week's lesson?

Notes