

## Small Group Discussion Guide — March 28, 2021

- Series: Way, Truth, Life
  - Sermon: Who's In Control?
  - Scripture: John 18: 1-11 (NIV)
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### **FOLLOW-UP FROM LAST WEEK:**

Was there a time this past week when you felt the joy of the Lord despite your circumstances, or perhaps because of your circumstances?

### **CONNECT:**

1. What stood out to you from this past week's service, and why?
2. How have you welcomed spring into your life so far?

### **ENGAGE:**

Read John 18: 1-11.

1. From this passage, what information can you gather about the garden (olive grove)? How do you think this garden made the disciples feel?
2. As the soldiers and religious leaders confront Jesus, what does verse 4 tell us about Jesus in that moment? What's his mental state here, as far as we can tell?
3. In verse 6, we learn that when Jesus first admits his identity, the guards "drew back and fell to the ground." Why do you think this happened? What does it mean?
4. In verse 8, what do you notice about Jesus here? What's his first concern?
5. What is "the cup" that Jesus must drink (v. 11)? What characteristic of Jesus does this show?

### **APPLY:**

1. The disciples were in a familiar area, doing a routine thing, when the gospel broke through, and it became evident that a much larger story was unfolding around them. When have you seen God show up in a normal routine in your everyday life? How could you live more in tune with the Spirit, to be more open to His presence and how He comes close to you?
2. Remembering from John 17 how Jesus prayed for all believers, and that he was resolved to face the brutalities of the cross, what does this tell us about trusting God's love, even in our darkest days? In other words, if his love was ever going to fail, wouldn't it have been then?
3. We see that Jesus holds authority and control in this scene with the phrase, "knowing all that was going to happen to him," and the fact that he stepped up willingly and told Peter not to respond with violence. How much better would we handle life's dark moments if we shared the same confidence in Jesus for our future?

### **PRAY:**

God in Heaven, We thank you that you are so dependable and faithful. We praise you for sending us your Son in order to guarantee our future with you in heaven. Help us to trust in you during the darkest moments of this life, as we hold on to the steadfast love of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen

## GOING DEEPER

1. As Pete led us in communion, he mentioned an ancient Latin phrase used in the early church - "*per crucem ad lucem.*" This means, "through the cross to the light." A more modern version of this idea is, "It's always darkest before the dawn." How might this ancient phrase change how you view the communion experience in the future? Consider meditating on this phrase whenever you take communion in the future. What a beautiful truth!
2. Did anything else stand out to you from the sermon that you'd like to discuss?