



JOHN CHAPTER 18 (FACILITATOR)

Discussion Starter

- What are some different ways that people typically respond to stress?
- What are some different ways that you typically respond to stress?
- Opening Prayer
 - Ask if someone wants to volunteer before leading the prayer.

Tell the Story

- PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOU HAVE ONE PERSON WHO STORIES (SUMMARIZES THE CHAPTER) BEFORE THE GROUP READS THE CHAPTER TOGETHER.

Read the Story (John 18:1-40)

Read out loud as a group, 3-5 verses per person. Let everyone know they can opt out if they would like.

Breaking it Down

- All questions should be utilized as appropriate based upon group dynamics to facilitate both understanding and discussion. Don't feel tied to the questions and don't feel like you must get through every question. Follow the Spirit's lead! All questions are a matter of perspective in some way BUT there are specific questions that this is truer of, and these questions have been indicated to be perspective/opinion questions.

John 18:1-11

- The route that Jesus and His disciples took across the brook Kidron was extremely significant. When all the Passover lambs were killed in the Temple, the blood of those lambs was poured on the altar and the blood of the lambs would have been passed through the Kidron Valley. Jesus would have been reminded about His own sacrifice that was about to happen.
 - Put yourself in Jesus' shoes as He was about to sacrificially give up His life. What would you have been thinking? What would you have been doing?
 - These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.
- Notice the contrast between what the soldiers and religious leaders brought with them versus what Jesus had with Him. What does this indicate about Jesus?
 - Jesus was very clear about His mission and His mission was not to fight and battle for His own self-interests and agenda but rather lay down His life for the entire world. Conversely, the religious leaders and soldiers were there for their own interests and agendas.
 - How do you show up and live daily laying down your life for the sake of the kingdom of God and others rather than promoting your own agenda and/or self-interests?
 - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.
- What is significant about verse 4?

- Jesus was absolutely unflappable in the face of extreme adversity and distress. This doesn't mean that He wasn't afraid and didn't wrestle with things. Rather, it does mean that Jesus was driven and motivated by the love of His Father to surrender and submit to what His Father desired. He was willing to step forward with a boldness, confidence, obedience, and courage that allowed Him to live in freedom while also living in submission.
 - How does following Jesus allow you to live in submission to God while also living in freedom?
 - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.

John 18:12-27

- It was extremely significant and probably arranged that Jesus was sent to Annas first. Annas and his family were wealthy and Jesus' ministry and preaching had a tremendous negative impact on this wealth, especially when Jesus cleared the temple of the money changers back in John chapter 2. Since Annas and his family probably obtained their wealth through shady ways, everything that Jesus stood for and represented spoke against who Annas and his family were.
 - What specific areas of your life is Jesus seeking to change that are clinging tightly to currently?
 - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.
- Put yourself in Peter's shoes. You have been one of the disciples closest to Jesus. You told Jesus that you would never betray Him. You have been outspoken for Jesus. And then, you betray Him when

things are difficult in His time of great need. If you were Peter, what would you have done and how would you feel?

- These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.

John 18:28-40

□ When Pilate and Jesus are talking, what do Jesus' responses indicate about what He knew to be true?

- Jesus had a firm grasp on who He was.
- Jesus had a firm grasp on His mission.
- Jesus had a firm understanding of how He was being railroaded.
- Jesus was resolved to not allow anything, or anyone dictate His identity.
 - In what ways do you struggle with each of the following?
 - Your identity
 - Your mission

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Final Application

- What does this passage teach us about God?
- What does this passage teach us about mankind?

- What is a command to obey in this passage?
- What has God revealed in your life that needs changing?
- What truth can be applied to your life about the gospel?

Closing & Prayer Requests

- Have a designated person to capture and share (as appropriate) within the life group.
- What happens in life group, stays in life group.
- Don't forget get to confirm the next meeting date and time
- Also recruit someone to do the story for the following week (John Chapter 19)

JOHN CHAPTER 18 (STUDENT)

John 18:1-11

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 - Put yourself in Jesus' shoes as He was about to sacrificially give up His life. What would you have been thinking? What would you have been doing?

- Notice the contrast between what the soldiers and religious leaders brought with them versus what Jesus had with Him. What does this indicate about Jesus?

- How do you show up and live daily laying down your life for the sake of the kingdom of God and others rather than promoting your own agenda and/or self-interests?

□ What is significant about verse 4?

- How does following Jesus allow you to live in submission to God while also living in freedom?

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