



## Northland Christian Church

### Group Discussion Guide For the Week of August 21, 2022

*Use the questions below as a springboard for discussion. You do not have to answer every question. Pick the ones you think will be helpful. Remember, Ultimately we want God's answers, not man's opinions. Always land where God lands. (ex: Where do we see that in the Bible?) Give grace. Give time for growth. Don't force it. Growth takes time, love, good questions, & patient, humble support.*

#### Connect

- When have you seen someone push through hard circumstances to accomplish something for others?
- When have you been challenged to stand up for something?

#### Context

In today's passage we begin the climax of the ministry of Jesus. In this chapter we see Jesus betrayed by Judas, arrested by a band of soldiers and religious leaders, and then falsely accused of blasphemy. It's important to notice that Jesus is clearly in control. He overwhelms his captors with his presence (v6), restrains his disciples from retaliation and violence (v11), and willingly subjects himself to the Jewish authorities who want to kill him (v8). This passage helps remind us that Jesus is fully surrendered to the plan of his Father. There is no reluctance in heading to the cross. He is prepared to complete the mission he was given - willingly and without any attempt to flee, fight, or plead for his release. He clearly fulfills the prophecies of the Old Testament. **Isaiah 53:7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth, like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.**

#### Engage the Bible

Read the passage and share Observations, Surprises, and Takeaways from:

Take turns and **Read John 18** out loud as a group.

#### Discuss

1. What stands out to you in this passage? What is surprising? Challenging? Encouraging? Motivating? What can we learn about Jesus? About people? About us? About the mission of God?
2. Why did Jesus go to a place where he knew Judas would find him (John 18:1-2)? Jesus knew this would happen and did not stop it; why (John 18:4)?

3. What does verse 4 indicate about who is really in control of whether Jesus gets arrested or not?
4. If you had been with Jesus the night He was arrested, how do you think you would have responded?
5. What can we learn from Peter's choices in this passage? Annas? Pilate?
6. Why are people sometimes tempted to compromise their beliefs, principles, or standards?
7. What self-protective reasons might tempt us to deny that we are followers of Christ?
8. When and where is it hardest for you to openly acknowledge your relationship with Christ?
9. How is Jesus the King in your life? What does Jesus do in this passage that inspires you to love, trust, and worship Him?
10. Jesus willingly surrendered Himself to the Father's plan. How is this an encouragement to you? Is there some plan for your life that God the Father is asking you to willingly embrace? What is it? How can the group support you?
11. What can you do in your typical weekly life to affirm your relationship with Jesus Christ before others?
12. In what areas of your life is the Lord leading you to express your loyalty to Jesus more openly?

### **Weekly Challenge**

13. Think of one way that you could take a courageous step to stand with Jesus this week. It could be engaging a friend at the gym or inviting a classmate or coworker to lunch and church - or really anything that helps someone else experience Jesus and connect to others. What step is Jesus asking you to take?

### **End Your Group Time in Prayer**

