



SMALL GROUP GUIDE: THE GARDEN

John 18:1-11

Small Group Guide:

Key Takeaways:

1. Jesus modeled dependence on prayer throughout his life and in his darkest moments.
2. Jesus drew strength from praying friends in difficult times.
3. The "cup" Jesus referred to was the spiritual agony of bearing the sins of the world.
4. Being around Jesus is not the same as having a relationship with Jesus.
5. Spiritual surrender is a willful act of obedience as we seek the Father.

Discussion Questions:

1. The sermon mentions Jesus praying for an hour. How does this compare to your prayer life? What challenges do you face in dedicating time to prayer?
2. Reflect on the importance of praying friends. Have you experienced the power of others praying for you? Share an example.
3. How does the concept of Jesus bearing the full weight of our sin impact your view of your own sinful nature?
4. The sermon contrasts Judas, who was around Jesus but didn't know Him, with true discipleship. How can we ensure we're not just "around" Jesus but truly know Him?

5. Discuss the difference between Peter's reaction (drawing his sword) and Jesus' surrender to God's will. How do you typically respond to challenging situations?
6. What does "spiritual surrender" mean to you? How can we practice this in our daily lives?

Practical Applications:

1. Prayer Challenge: This week, try to dedicate an extended time (aim for an hour) to prayer. Journal about your experience.
2. Accountability: Share with the group one area where you struggle with temptation. Ask the group to pray for you throughout the week.
3. Surrender Exercise: Identify one area of your life where you're holding on too tightly. Practice surrendering it to God through prayer each day this week.
4. Community Building: Reach out to a friend who might be going through a difficult time. Offer to pray with them, either in person or over the phone.
5. Self-Reflection: Take time to examine your relationship with Jesus. Are you just "around" Him, or do you truly know Him? Write down ways you can deepen your relationship.

Closing Prayer

Encourage group members to share prayer requests and pray for one another, emphasizing the importance of praying friends as modeled by Jesus.