

THE GOSPEL OF

JOHN

STUDENT LESSON

BETRAYED BY
JUDAS, BUT JESUS
IS ALWAYS IN
CONTROL!

Open it

1. Where is your favorite place to spend time with your friends? What do you do together when you hang out there?

Daily Devotions

Day 1 — Today's Theme: Explore It

Read John 18:1–14.

2. Where did Jesus often meet with His disciples?
3. Who did Judas bring to Jesus?
4. What happened when Jesus said, "I am He"?
5. What did Jesus instruct these soldiers and officials to do for the disciples?
6. What did Simon Peter do?
7. What did the detachment of soldiers with its commander and the Jewish officials do to Jesus?
8. What did Caiaphas the high priest advise the Jewish leaders?

Day 2 — Today's Theme: Do the Hard Thing

Read John 18:1-4.

A number of years ago a popular book among Christian teenagers was written by two brothers, Alex and Brett Harris, called *Do Hard Things: A Teenage Rebellion Against Low Expectations*. The idea behind the book is to not take the easy road in life, especially when it comes to living for Jesus. In today's passage, Jesus foreknew that this was the time for Him to be betrayed by Judas so that He could be arrested, unjustly tried, and then condemned to die on the cross for our sins. Instead of avoiding this time, we see that Jesus took initiative and made Himself easy to find by Judas because He went to the garden where He always met with His disciples. When the soldiers and officials from the chief priests and Pharisees came, we see that Jesus "knowing all that was going to happen to him," took initiative to go out and meet them. In Luke 9:23, Jesus says, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me."

Jesus' calling for us to follow Him is not always easy and many times difficult. It will ask us to live sacrificially and may even cost us our lives, but it is the most fulfilling thing we can do. In this past year, one way I have seen many students in our student ministry do the hard thing is when they chose to plan and lead an outreach at their schools.

9. Why do students avoid doing the hard things?

10. Can you share an example of a hard thing that you did, and God blessed your efforts? Or how about a hard thing that you avoided?

11. What hard things might the Lord be calling you to do?

Day 3 — Today's Theme: Powerful Words

Read John 18:4–6.

When Judas arrived with the cohort to arrest Jesus, Jesus asked who they wanted, and they said, “Jesus of Nazareth.” When Jesus said, “I am He,” His words had such power behind them that the men all drew back and fell to the ground.

We can understand Jesus' response “*I am He*” on two levels. In one sense, Jesus is just identifying Himself as the man that they are looking for to arrest. In another sense, “I am” is proclaiming His deity, that He is God.¹ When God spoke to Moses at the burning bush in Exodus 3:13–15, Moses asked God what His name is to say to the Israelites who sent him, and God told him to say “I AM WHO I AM” has sent you. When Jesus says, “I am He,” He is using the same name that God gave of Himself to Moses, showing His deity. When Jesus speaks, there is power in His words. Jesus speaks to us today by His Spirit through His written Word, showing us that He is the one who is in sovereign control and powerfully works in and around our lives!

12. Share a time that someone used the power of words to either build you up or tear you down.

13. What is a Bible verse or passage that has powerfully impacted your life?

¹ Bruce, F.F. The Gospel of John, Grand Rapids, Mich. Eerdmans Pub. Co. 1994, p.341

Day 4 — Today's Theme: Jesus Protects You

Read John 18:7–9.

As Jesus is hours away from the cross, He is not thinking about protecting Himself, but about protecting His disciples. Jesus instructed the soldiers and Jewish officials who came to arrest Him to take Him since they were looking for Him and to let the disciples go.

The disciples were let go so that the words Jesus previously spoke would come true. In John 6:39, Jesus says, “*And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day.*” In John 17:12, Jesus also says, “*While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled.*” In the same way, Jesus protects us. If you remember, Jesus promises that nothing can snatch us out of His hand. Jesus says in John 10:28–29, “*²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father’s hand.* Remember that the Father and Jesus are always holding you in their hands, and nothing can snatch you from them!

14. In what ways do your parents try to protect you?

15. What does God protect you from?

16. What are some promises from Scripture that God always protects you?

Day 4 — Today's Theme: Taking Things Into Your Own Hands or Trusting Jesus

Read John 18:10–14.

In John 13:37 “Peter asked, ‘Lord, why can’t I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you.’” In today’s passage, we see a cohort of soldiers and chief officials all set to arrest Jesus, and I wonder if the reason Peter pulls out his sword and cuts off Malchus’ ear was to back up his words in John 13 where he says that he will defend Jesus and is willing to lay his life down for Him. This was not Jesus’ plan, for we see Jesus command Peter to put his sword away so that he could “drink the cup the Father has given him,” which was to suffer through His unjust arrest and trial, His mocking, His face being spit on and hit repeatedly, His crown of thorns, His flogging, His excruciating painful crucifixion, and ultimately His bearing our sins on His perfect sinless body and experiencing not only the turning of His back by the Father, but also the Father’s wrath being poured out on Jesus.

In spite of Jesus repeatedly telling His disciples at various times and in various ways that He had to suffer and die, Peter along with the rest of the disciples didn’t understand God’s plan. How often are we like Peter and the rest of the disciples who don’t take time to truly listen and understand God’s plan for us? How often do we not believe that God has His best for us, so we fail to trust God and take things into our own hands like Peter did with his sword?

17. What situations in life are hard for you to trust in God and easier to rely on yourself?

18. What is God's plan for your life?