

COMMUNITY GROUP

DISCUSSION GUIDE

April 12/13, 2025

WELCOME/ OPENING PRAYER

PURPOSE: *We are here as a group to make and multiply disciples.*

DISCUSSION GUIDELINES

RELATIONAL WARMUP: *What issue has monopolized your energy the most in the past few weeks?*

SET THE STAGE: *The closer Jesus got to the cross the more the theme of betrayal would take hold. Peter asserted that he would follow Jesus no matter the cost, but it wouldn't be long before he would deny Jesus three times. Peter, James, and John would then literally fall asleep on Jesus in the garden after Jesus commanded them to keep watch with Him. Judas would then arrive with his betrayer mask fully exposed next to Roman soldiers' intent on taking Him away. Finally, there is the picture of a chaotic, disrobed young man fleeing for his life away from the garden. Our own betrayal of Jesus should not be lost in the actions of these disciples, who were convinced of their own commitment to the kingdom of God until the pressure became too much for them to bear.*

STORY or READ THE PASSAGE: *Mark 14:26-52*

HEAD QUESTIONS:

What does Jesus' prediction of the disciples' scattering and Peter's denial tell us about Jesus' understanding of human nature?

Why did Jesus ask Peter, James, and John to "watch and pray"?

If the young man fleeing is, in fact, John Mark, why would he include this embarrassing story about his own role in the story?

HEART QUESTIONS:

Have you ever had Peter's overconfidence in your own faith only to later have a moment of great doubt or failure?

What does Jesus' vulnerability in expressing the desire to have this "cup" pass from Him tell you about Jesus, and also about yourself?

What is one area where you need to "wake up" in your spiritual life, practice, and/or responsibilities?

HANDS QUESTIONS:

BLESS

What part of the BLESS strategy are you running away from right now?

TAKEAWAY

CLOSING PRAYER