



IMMANUEL CHURCH

Discussion Guide: The Treacherous July 9, 2017

Opening Questions:

- Share about a time when a close friend betrayed you; maybe they shared your secret, stood you up, or lied to you. How did that feel? What did it take for your relationship to be restored?
- If you knew they were going to do that, would you still have chosen them as a friend? If you would, what about them is worth enduring that level of betrayal? If you wouldn't, are trust and loyalty your highest values in relationships?

Looking at Scripture:

- Read **John 6:60-66...** What parts of Jesus' teachings do *you* find difficult to accept? Are there elements you wish were different or not there at all? And have the difficult components ever tempted you to walk away from this Christianity thing all-together?
- Considering Jesus knew these people would betray him *from the beginning*, what does that say about Jesus? What does that say about his feelings toward these people; toward us?
- Read **John 13:18-30...** What strikes you most about the way Jesus identifies his betrayer for John? Why do you suppose he didn't make more of a scene and do more to ensure Judas felt guilty and ashamed?
- Have you ever considered Peter to be treacherous? We've discussed him in this series before as a screw-up, but denying his friendship with Jesus three different times is certainly betrayal and desertion. What was different about *Peter's* betrayal though?
- Judas and Peter have treachery land on very different ends of their stories, how do you suppose Peter's factored into his ministry going forward? Do you think it was something he kept secret or used as an example of Christ's scandalous grace and mercy? Why or why not?

Application Questions:

- This week's bottom line was **JESUS KNOWS YOU AND INVITES YOU ANYWAY**. As a long-time Christian, how does that sit with you? If you see yourself as a Judas, what does this phrase mean to *you*?
- When you think about the prodigal son story that Jesus told, who do you see yourself as most? The son who ran away? Or the son who never did? What attitudes do you find yourself carrying around most when it comes to the prodigals?

End your time together praying. Ask Jesus to minister to each heart in the group where they've been treacherous; whether it's been momentary or a more significant timeframe. Ask him to help his church see Judases as potential Peters; and to make sure they are Peters themselves — repenting and returning.