

The Hour of Darkness

Week 26



Big Idea: His darkest hour led to our brightest.

Key Verse: Matthew 26:14-16

¹⁴Then one of the Twelve—the one called Judas Iscariot—went to the chief priests ¹⁵and asked, “What are you willing to give me if I deliver him over to you?” So they counted out for him thirty pieces of silver. ¹⁶From then on Judas watched for an opportunity to hand him over.

Table Talk

Jesus talks a lot about being God in this chapter (John 14:9, etc.). Why is it so important that Jesus is God?

During his arrest, Jesus is asked if he’s Jesus of Nazareth. He responds, “I am he” and everybody falls down. Why did those words have so much power? Why didn’t Jesus run away when everybody fell?

Peter got a little bold when Jesus was arrested, and he cut off the high priest’s servant’s ear. Jesus told Peter to back off, picked up the ear, and healed the servant. If you were one of the soldiers, what would you have thought about this Jesus who knocks over people with his words and has the power to heal? Because Jesus hadn’t done anything wrong, the Jewish leaders had to make up false testimony against him. Why was Jesus ultimately sentenced to death? (Blasphemy—saying he was God.)

What sets Jesus apart from other people who have claimed to be God?

Living Faith

In a poignant act of service, Jesus washes the disciples’ feet at the Last Supper. He was the ultimate leader and the ultimate servant. As parents, display that same kind of servant leadership by washing your children’s feet.

You can add to this experience by reading John 13:1–16 and by asking these questions: What most surprises you about Jesus washing his disciples’ feet?

Do you think it was hard for Jesus to wash Judas’ feet knowing that Judas would soon betray him? Do you think it’s important for leaders to show they love and care for the people they’re leading?

What are some other ways that Jesus showed the disciples that he loved them?

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