

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

JOHN 13:21-38

DISCUSSION 1: BETRAYAL

1. Are you or have you been in a situation where it felt like you were betrayed or attacked from friends, family, in the workplace, or even at church? What are some things we feel when betrayed, attacked, or slandered?
2. What do you think Jesus felt when betrayed by Judas (see 13:21-28 and 18:1-6)?
3. How can we lean into Jesus, knowing he understands, in these situations where we've been betrayed, lied about, or attacked?

DISCUSSION 2: HUMANITY

1. Read John 4:6; 12:27; 13:21; and Luke 22:44. What are some things in these verses and in John's Gospel we've seen about what Jesus experiences? How does seeing Jesus walk in our shoes and feel distressed, weary, or sorrowful encourage us to draw near to him?
2. Are there any hard circumstances or trials you're walking through this week? Are there any valleys you feel like you're in right now? How can you turn to, trust in, and lean into Jesus, who knows what it's like to endure these things and offers us grace, comfort, and help?

DISCUSSION 3: STUMBLING

1. None of the disciples suspected Judas as one who would betray Jesus. Yet in John 12:4-6 we see hints at Judas's self-centered heart ruled by idols rather than Jesus. Peter assures Jesus he will never deny him or abandon him (13:36-38), but we know a couple days later he does deny Jesus. How might this warn or challenge us not to coast in our faith, that we are not above falling into sin, and to not let idols gain ground in our hearts?
2. What are differences between Judas and Peter, both in the nature of their faith and what happens after they deny Jesus?
3. Why should this encourage us to take our sin seriously and be on guard in humility, and yet encourage us that when we do sin there is forgiveness and restoration?

DISCUSSION 4: LOVE

1. Do you think there's any significance to why Jesus gives the command to love one another at this point, or why John places it where he does in his gospel? What might it suggest or teach us?
2. Jesus tells us not only to love one another, but to love one another like Jesus has loved us (13:34). What are some of the ways Jesus has loved us, or what does his love to us look like?
3. How might we love one another like Jesus?
4. What are some specific situations you can reflect Christ's love? What could this look like in your church, small group, home, neighborhood or city, or workplace?

5. If people will know we are Christians because we reflect Christ's love, what are some ways selfishness, pride, disunity, or divisiveness might give the world a false picture of Jesus? What are some areas the church and you personally are most tempted today to not model Christ's love to other believers?

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean that we should love one another like Jesus loves us?
2. What are specific ways we can reflect Christ's love to others, including our family, friends, at church, in school, or in our city?