

Transition:

Jesus knows it's His time. The Jews want to silence Jesus. They have plotted to have Him executed for blasphemy. However, since a festival is coming up, they are afraid to stone Him. Since all the visitors and pilgrims are coming to Jerusalem, the High Priests killing Jesus might cause a riot. Instead of taking the heat from the Jewish people for stoning Jesus, the religious leaders are going to falsely accuse Jesus to see if they can pressure the Romans to crucify Him.

Tell the story:

Tell the story (with passion!) the best as you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story. Perhaps leave some parts out or make a mistake, just to see if your group catches it!

Rebuild the story:

Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story. Then have someone else tell the story the best they can – just like you modeled the first time.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why did Jesus not resist the soldiers, since He is God and is omnipotent?
2. Why did Peter deny Jesus?

Fundamental:

Jesus prays all night in the garden. John doesn't record what Jesus prayed for.

In Matthew 26:36-42, it is recorded that Jesus prayed this cup might be taken away from Him. It would seem that God the Father told Him there was no other way for Jesus to save the people He loved; this was the path.

Homework/Challenge:

1. We often look for mystical directions from God, but His Word is very clear. Do you have an area of your life you are struggling with? Search for answers in the Word of God.

Discipleship Tip:

Have discernment for if someone in your small group is not listening to God and responding to His voice. They will never grow until they obey Him. Pray about lovingly addressing this individually with these friends.

Prayer:

Father, we pray that we would grasp the weight of the sacrifice Jesus made for us; that we would see how good He is and would want to follow Him whole-heartedly, with no reservations. Amen.