

Believe

JOHN

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Community Group Material:

Bible Reading: John 18:1-27

Community Group Material for week of February 25th, 2024

Believe: The Ultimate Contrast: The “I Am” vs “I am not”

Ask one person to pray at the beginning of your meeting.

Check-in

Check in with each other about how everyone is doing.

Bible Reading: John 18:1-27

Sermon Summary:

We have arrived at the climax of the Gospel of John (Jn. 18-20). In chapter 18, Jesus is a man determined to carry out what he had been working towards, his crucifixion. John doesn't present Jesus in the same way that the other three Gospels do. He's not afraid as he approaches 'the hour'. There's no agonising prayer in the garden. There's no kiss of betrayal by Judas to identify Jesus. Rather, Jesus is in complete control of every aspect of his arrest. One might even say that he actually isn't arrested, but willingly gave himself up. And while Jesus steps forward to be the undisputed hero, Peter in contrast, while he attempts to be the hero, fails again & again. How significant that when asked to identify himself, Jesus says, “I Am,” & Peter in similar circumstances says, “I am not.”

Discussion:

1. Read Jn. 7:30; 8:20; 12:23; 13:1; 17:1 & 12:27. Jesus & the author know that 'the hour' was what Jesus was heading towards. What conclusion would you draw about 'the hour' & how it governed Jesus' life &

death?

2. How do you see 'Divine Overruling' / God's control in Jesus' actions as in the garden?
3. Why is there no kiss from Judas in this account?
4. Why do all the soldiers & Jewish temple police fall down when Jesus says, "I Am"?
5. What was the purpose of Jesus saying "I Am" the second time?
6. In the context of 'the hour' & what Jesus is heading towards, why is what Peter does a frustration to Jesus?
7. Have you ever denied Jesus, or that you are a Christian? What might denial look like?
8. Talk with one another about the contrast between Jesus' "I Am" & Peter's "I am not."

End with Prayer.

- Pray for us all to see Jesus more clearly as the complete revelation of God himself, & for our seeing to affect the way we conduct ourselves at home, school & work.
- Pray for one another.