



Introduction

The hour of great darkness has come upon Jesus. All, including his closest friends, would betray him and lead to him being arrested like a common criminal. This however was all according to God's plan (the scripture - Mark 14:49b) and all that was meant for evil would be used for the greatest good.

Observation/Interpretation

- Why do you think Jesus expressed shock over the fact that those who came to arrest him had clubs and swords?

Application

- Although Jesus was a revolutionary, he was not in the tradition of other revolutionaries. His kingdom did not operate by the same manipulative tactics of 'sword and betrayal' as most other kingdoms did (and still do). Rather, his kingdom would advance through different principles: laying down one's life, dying to oneself, giving instead of taking, forgiving instead of retaining grudges. How is Jesus' kingdom radically different than other systems in this world?
- Why is Jesus' kingdom difficult to enter into or live in accordance with?
- How are we often like Peter who was quick to draw the sword and attack?
- How does God's character and love for us make it easier to submit to his kingdom?

Prayer

- Ask God for grace to live according to his kingdom.

Community Group Discussion

- Read the passage together out loud.
- Involve your group by asking/answering the study questions, taking the time to share.
- Ask for prayer requests and be sure to pray together.

Family Discussion

- Have your child/children read the passage aloud, if old enough otherwise you read it aloud.
- Involve them by asking questions.
- Ask for prayer requests and invite them to pray together as a family.

A great way to use of these notes is to start/join a Community Group

These notes can be used for personal bible study, yet, another way would be to invite some people together. We call these intentional gatherings, 'Community Groups'.

What is a Community Group?

Community Groups are small gatherings of believers (non-believers welcomed too!) that meet regularly for accountability, friendship, study of the Bible and prayer. Community Groups are an essential part of the mission of Calvary SLO Church as they are a place where we wrestle with the truths of the Bible and encourage one another toward the life God intends. Each community group is unique and molded by the people who attend it. Most community groups gather weekly and involve food, dialog, prayer, discussion for applying the Bible to practical living, and loving service to one-another. They're meant to be an organic and authentic expression of the church, actively living like the body of Jesus.

Why should I join/start a Community Group?

God is a Trinitarian God who is revealed as one in three persons: Father, Son and Spirit. We've been made to image God, which means we're designed for community & friendship. We often suffer when we're not in community, due to the brokenness of life, complexity of this world and the temptation to isolate ourselves. We encourage you to gather with a small group of friends, family or roommates on a weekly basis and use these discussion notes to press deeper into God.

How do I join the Calvary SLO Community Group eco-system?

We're enthusiastic about all forms of biblical community, however there are definite benefits to joining with the Calvary SLO Community Group (CG) eco-system. In short, the benefits are:

- **Training:** We have trainings intent on equipping leaders.
- **Support:** Each CG leader is assigned a coach to provide assistance and ongoing support.
- **Visibility:** CG's are promoted via the bulletin, website & given access to The City (our online social network).

To join all you have to do is sign up for the next upcoming training! Info: pastor James: james@calvaryslo.com.