

LISTENING IN THE SHADOWS



Sermon Discussion Guide

March 23, 2025

Use this discussion guide with your small group or by yourself, to dig into the text and theme of Sunday's message.

Key Point: Jesus gave himself, so we do too.

Life Sharing: (answer one)

1. What were your family's rules about washing your hands or keeping yourself clean?
2. What do you do to prepare for a busy and/or stressful week?

Transition / Open in prayer

3. Describe a time you sacrificed something important for someone else, or when someone did that for you.

Life Examination:

READ John 18:4-18

4. What do you make of the back and forth in verses 4-9? (The repeated "I am He", the crowd drawing back and falling to the ground, the explanation of verse 9)
5. Peter shifted from grabbing a sword to denying Jesus. Why do you think that happened?
6. What is the "cup" Jesus refers to in verse 11?
7. Caiaphas' words from John 11:49-53 are referenced by John in this passage. Why was a death required, from Caiaphas' perspective and from a spiritual perspective?

READ Hebrews 9:11-17

8. Why is Jesus' sacrifice greater than the Old Testament sacrificial system? How did the old system prepare people for what Jesus would do?
9. Verse 15 uses the words "mediator" and "ransom" to describe Jesus. What do these words mean?
10. Why does the author of Hebrews bring up wills in verses 16-17?

Life Application:

11. Imagine being in the garden with Jesus when he was arrested. How would you have reacted? What would you have done?
12. When is it hard to speak openly and/or boldly for our faith?
13. What is a "cup" that you feel God has given you to bear?
14. Besides the sacrifice of Jesus, what are the ways people try to make themselves right with our Creator God?
15. If you left a spiritual "will" for your friends and family, what would you hope to leave them to remember you by?

Life Prayers: Pray for one another and ask God to help each of you live out the new life Jesus welcomes you into.