

PREACHING CURRICULUM

Betrayed!

Mark 14:26-52

In the moments leading up to Jesus' arrest, we saw tremendous bravado and enthusiasm from the disciples. They were confident that they would stand with Jesus no matter what. Unfortunately, in the heat of the moment, their resolve quickly vanished and every one of them abandoned Him. From their behaviour, we're reminded of something that's true of all of us: we're not nearly as strong as we think we are. Only the grace of Christ will carry us through to the end.

1 REVIEW THE SERMON

LEADER NOTES: Encourage your members to pull out their notes and review the main points of the sermon. (9-12 mins)

Read Mark 14:26-31. Why do you think Peter and the other disciples were so confident that they would remain faithful to Christ? On what were they basing that confidence?

Read Mark 14:32-42. How well did Peter, James and John fulfill the commitment they had made to Jesus?

Read Mark 14:43-52. How many of Jesus' friends and followers stood with Him during His arrest?

From this incident and the behaviour of the disciples, what can we learn about our own ability to follow through on our commitment to Jesus, especially when things get difficult?

2 ASSESS YOUR LIFE

LEADER NOTES: Evaluate the condition of your lives in relation to the truth from God's Word. Encourage heart examination. (12-15 mins)

Do you agree that it is possible for any one of us to commit any sin, including the most serious and egregious sins such as adultery, murder, genocide, or even apostasy? Or do you believe that it is possible to progress in your Christian life to such a point where certain sins are impossible for you? Explain your answer.

Have you persevered through times of doubt, struggle and difficulty in your faith? If so, why and how were you able to persevere?

What makes you confident that you will continue following Jesus until the end of your life?

3 APPLY THE TRUTH

LEADER NOTES: Create a list of ways to close the gap between your lives and the truth of the Bible. Be practical and intentional. (12-15 mins)

Can we be genuinely confident that we will remain a Christian until the very end? If so, what is the basis of that confidence?

Who is ultimately responsible for keeping us in the faith until the end? *For further biblical input on this question, see John 6:35-40 and John 10:25-30.*

4 COMMIT THIS WEEK

LEADER NOTES: Call your small group members to make a commitment and get the group working together to follow-up with each other. (9-12)

Have you been placing your confidence in your own ability to remain committed to Christ? If so, how can you place all of your confidence in Christ?