SMITH FOR CHRIST

TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

REFLECTION JOURNAL · FIVE DAYS

John

Chapter 18

The Cup, the Fire and the King

MEMORY VERSE · JOHN 18:11

"So Jesus said to Peter, "Put the sword into the sheath; the cup which the Father has given Me, shall I not drink it?""

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

This week in John 18

This chapter is the longest night of Jesus' life — and He walks through it on purpose, for you. This week, stand in the garden, by the fire and in Pilate's hall, and ask where you see yourself: in Peter, in Pilate, in Barabbas — and in the men Jesus set free.

How to use this journal

1. Each day, read the passage slowly — out loud if you can.
2. Answer the **Observe** question from the text before you write what it means.
3. Write honestly on the **Reflect** questions. No one grades this.
4. Do the **Respond** step today, not someday. Say the memory verse.
5. Bring this journal to the group. The last page is for the table.

The full Deep Dive, the O·I·A study and the slides for this chapter are on the John study page.

WHERE I AM AS I START THIS CHAPTER

What is going on in my life right now that I want to bring to God this week?

DAY 1 OF 5

“I Am He”

READ · JOHN 18:1–9

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What did Jesus know as the soldiers came (v. 4), what did He say three times (vv. 5, 6, 8), and what did He ask for His disciples (v. 8)?

REFLECT

Jesus walked toward the torches instead of running from them (v. 4). What hard thing are you avoiding right now that you need to face with God?

REFLECT

Jesus said, “If you seek Me, let these go their way” (v. 8). What does it mean to you that Jesus was taken so that you could go free?

RESPOND — TODAY

Thank Jesus out loud, by name, for one specific thing He took on Himself so you could walk free.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (JOHN 18:11)

DAY 2 OF 5

The Sword and the Cup

READ · JOHN 18:10–14

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What did Peter do with his sword (v. 10), and what two things did Jesus say to him in verse 11?

REFLECT

Peter was loyal but swinging in his own strength. What "sword" do you reach for when you feel threatened — your temper, your mouth, your fists, your plans?

REFLECT

Jesus called His suffering "the cup which the Father has given Me" (v. 11). Is there something hard in your life you could start receiving from the Father's hand instead of fighting?

RESPOND — TODAY

The next time you want to strike back today, stop and pray verse 11 before you say or do anything.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (JOHN 18:11)

DAY 3 OF 5

By the Wrong Fire

READ · JOHN 18:15–18, 25–27

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Where was Peter standing, who was he standing with, and what was he doing (vv. 18, 25)? What did he say each time he was asked about Jesus?

REFLECT

Peter's fall came by small steps — a distance, a door, a fire, the wrong crowd. What small steps have pulled you away from Christ before?

REFLECT

Who asked Peter about Jesus — powerful people or ordinary slaves (vv. 17, 26)? Where are you most tempted to hide that you belong to Jesus?

RESPOND — TODAY

Name one "fire" you warm yourself by that isn't safe for you, and tell a brother you are stepping away from it.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (JOHN 18:11)

DAY 4 OF 5

Struck for the Truth

READ · JOHN 18:19–24

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

How did Jesus answer the high priest's questions (vv. 20–21), and what did He say after He was struck (v. 23)?

REFLECT

Jesus said He had spoken "openly" and "nothing in secret" (v. 20). Is there any part of your life that would not hold up if it were spoken openly?

REFLECT

Jesus was slapped and still answered calmly with the truth (v. 23). How do you usually respond when you are treated unfairly — and what would His way look like for you?

RESPOND — TODAY

Tell the plain truth today in one situation where you would normally shade it.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (JOHN 18:11)

DAY 5 OF 5

The King and the Robber

READ · JOHN 18:28–40

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Why would the leaders not enter the Praetorium (v. 28)? What did Jesus say about His kingdom (v. 36) and why He came (v. 37)? Whom did the crowd choose (v. 40)?

REFLECT

The leaders worried about staying ceremonially clean while plotting to kill an innocent man (v. 28). Where do you keep up the outside while your heart is somewhere else?

REFLECT

Barabbas, a robber, walked free while Jesus went to the cross (v. 40). How does it feel to see yourself as Barabbas?

RESPOND — TODAY

Write out verse 37's last sentence and ask Jesus to help you hear His voice this week.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (JOHN 18:11)

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS

Questions for the table

FOR THE GROUP · 1

Peter said “I am not” the same night Jesus said “I am He.” When have you been ashamed to be known as His?

FOR THE GROUP · 2

Pilate asked “What is truth?” and walked out without waiting for an answer. What makes it hard to stay and listen when truth gets personal?

FOR THE GROUP · 3

His kingdom is not of this world, yet it will fill the earth. How should belonging to that King change how you handle anger this week?

MY PRAYER

Lord Jesus, You were bound so I could go free; take the sword out of my hand and teach me to...

CUT OUT · CARRY IT · JOHN 18:11

"So Jesus said to Peter, "Put the sword into the sheath; the cup which the Father has given Me, shall I not drink it?""