

Betrayal & Denial

Small Group Questions



The following questions are intended to start conversations. Use only the ones your group finds helpful. Explore others as they come up.

Our preaching series during the season of Epiphany will pick up stories in John 12-15 (Light in Dark Places). Questions will be provided each week to help you think about these stories BEFORE you listen to the sermon. It is our hope that this will encourage your own study and prepare you for the upcoming sermon.

- Read **John 13:21-38**. What stands out for you?
- How did Jesus know that Judas would betray him? Why does that matter?
- Despite knowing that Judas would betray him (v. 11), Judas was still present at the meal. What does this tell us about the way of Jesus?
- John writes that “the devil” prompted Judas to betray Jesus (v. 2). Later, after sharing bread with Jesus, “Satan” enters Judas (v. 27). These verses suggest that Judas was not fully responsible for his actions. What do you think? Did Judas have free will or did “the devil make him do it?”
- Peter later suggests “scripture had to be fulfilled... concerning Judas.” (see Acts 1:16-17). What does this mean? Does this text say that our actions predetermined? If so, is it fair to be held accountable for them?
- Tradition holds that “the disciple whom Jesus loved” (v. 23) is John. Why would he refer to himself that way?
- Jesus gives his disciples a new command. What is it and how is it new?
- If the mark of being a disciple of Jesus is love, how might this (re)shape our response to the polarization and division in our time? What might happen if the church responded more this way? Give examples.
- Reread **John 13:36-38**. What does this interaction tell us about self-understanding? Jesus seems to have a much clearer picture of Peter than he does. How might we see ourselves more honestly?