

Women's Bible Study
Discussion Questions for April 25, 2018
John 18-19 ~ Svea Merry

1. 18:1–2 reveals Jesus went to the garden knowing Judas would expect him to be there, and verse 4 makes it clear that Jesus knew what was about to happen to him. From what we've seen in the book of John, what did Jesus understand about God the Father that gave him the strength to face what he was about to face? Does that apply to us too? Read additional details from Mark's account in Mark 14:32–42 to add even greater appreciation for Jesus's mindset about suffering for the Father's will.

2. In chapter 18, John alternates the story of Jesus's steadiness throughout his arrest and trials by interrupting it with the stories of Peter's impulsive sword-fighting and heartbreaking denials. What do you think John wanted us, his readers, to learn through this contrast?

3. Recall that this same flawed, impulsive Peter was later the head of the early Christian church who wrote the amazing book (1 Peter) we studied together last fall. Read 1 Peter 1:6–9 and then discuss how the mistakes Peter made in his earlier life may have been used by God to develop him into the incredible, spiritually mature man he became.

4. In the touching scene recorded in 19:26–27, Jesus does something quite profound considering that Mary had other biological sons. Does this demonstration of how relationships within our Christian family can supersede our biological relationships speak to you? Have you experienced this?

5. Do you struggle to fully accept, because of what Jesus accomplished on the cross, that when it comes to dealing with your sin, "it is finished"? For example, do you have tendencies towards struggling to believe that God has fully forgiven you, or do you try to continually prove your worth to Him? What would help you find peace in this area?

Women's Bible Study

Study Questions for April 25, 2018

John 18-19 ~ Svea Merry

1. Look at 18:1–11. Recall from John 13:21–30 that Judas left the fellowship of Jesus and the disciples right after Jesus had washed his feet just hours earlier. What heartbreaking information do you learn from verse 2 about how Judas knew where Jesus was likely to be? Describe the attitude and character displayed by Jesus in this section.

2. 18:8–9 is a summary of 17:12, and a fulfillment of 6:39 and 10:28. What amazing promise do you find fulfilled in these verses? Do you trust the security you have in Christ?

3. In 18:10–11, Peter valiantly tried to protect his Lord and friend he loved, but his actions opposed God's will. This was not the first time he refused to accept that death was the Father's will for Jesus (see Matthew 16:21–23). Has there been something in your life that initially you thought couldn't possibly be God's will, but in hindsight you understand?

4. Jesus was prepared to drink "the cup" on our behalf. Look up Psalm 75:8; Isaiah 51:17; and Jeremiah 25:15–29 to appreciate what he understood this cup to symbolize. Does this add to your amazement of what he was willing to do for us on the cross?

5. What aspect of Jesus did the former high priest Annas find threatening in 18:19–24? (If you wish, read Mark 14:53–65 to round out your answer.) What aspect of Jesus did Pilate find threatening in 18:33–37?

6. In 19:10, Pilate urges Jesus to appeal to his authority to be released, but according to Acts 2:23, under whose authority was Jesus killed? _____ Reflect on Romans 8:32 and the rest of that paragraph for the good news in this!

7. As you read through the account of the crucifixion, make note of each place where John says something happened to fulfill Scripture. Given the book's purpose statement in 20:31, why do you think John wanted to make sure we didn't miss these details?