

# THE **crossing** **small groups**

## Who Is It You Want? | John 18:1-12 Sermon Discussion Participant Guide

**Purpose of Discussion:** To remind us that Jesus is the I AM, the one true Creator God, who willingly sacrificed himself for us.

**Sermon Reminder:** Dave continues the sermon series “Jesus is More” preaching about the arrest of Jesus by the Roman soldiers in John 18:1-12. We learn that Jesus willingly gave himself over to the Roman soldiers knowing what was going to happen. Jesus is who we should want more than any other false god.

**Icebreaker:** As Dave asked in Sunday’s sermon, ‘if you could fix one thing in your life right now that would make the biggest difference, what would it be?’

### Discussion:

1. Read John 18:1-12 aloud together. Then pray; thanking God for his Word that endures forever and asking for humility and understanding as we study the Word together.

### John 18:1-12 (ESV)

“When Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the brook Kidron, where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. <sup>2</sup> Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, for Jesus often met there with his disciples. <sup>3</sup> So Judas, having procured a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons. <sup>4</sup> Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to him, came forward and said to them, “Whom do you seek?” <sup>5</sup> They answered him, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus said to them, “I am he.”<sup>6</sup> Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. <sup>6</sup> When Jesus<sup>6</sup> said to them, “I am he,” they drew back and fell to the ground. <sup>7</sup> So he asked them again, “Whom do you seek?” And they said, “Jesus of Nazareth.” <sup>8</sup> Jesus answered, “I told you that I am he. So, if you seek me, let these men go.” <sup>9</sup> This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken: “Of those whom you gave me I have lost not one.” <sup>10</sup> Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant<sup>10</sup> and cut off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.) <sup>11</sup> So Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?”<sup>12</sup> So the band of soldiers and their captain and the officers of the Jews<sup>12</sup> arrested Jesus and bound him.”

2. Where does Jesus take his disciples after the Passover Meal? What is the significance of this place?
3. Dave draws attention to Jesus asking the question “Who is it you want?” Jesus asks this question twice. Often, we see Jesus using repetition to teach us an important message. Considering *who* is in the garden (disciples, Roman soldiers, and Judas), what answer do you think he is drawing them to?
4. Jesus, seeing that the Roman soldiers ‘drew back and fell to the ground’ asks a second time, ‘Who is it you want?’ and answers them “I am he.” In the sermon, Dave shares that the Greek translation just reads “I am.” Read the following passages and discuss who Jesus is:

**Exodus 3:14 (ESV)**

“God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” And he said, “Say this to the people of Israel: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”

**John 8:24**

I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins.”

**John 8:58**

Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.”

5. Remember, Jesus’ arrest takes place on Passover. On the first Passover, God brings judgement on all the gods of Egypt, declaring He is the “I AM.”

**Exodus 12:12 (ESV)**

“For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD.”

**1 Corinthians 5:7 (ESV)**

<sup>7</sup>Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed

6. Dave said these passages are part of a larger narrative directed against false gods:
 

“When the Bible calls them ‘false gods’ it doesn’t mean they are not real. It just means they are not the one true Creator God. So, when all these human forces and the false god behind them come to kill Jesus, Jesus utters “I AM.” And they drew back and fell to the

ground. What false gods behind you need to draw back and bow down to the one true Creator God?

7. Jesus went to the garden where he knew he would be found. He let the soldier back up off the ground so they could arrest him, beat him, crucify him. Jesus is our forever Passover Lamp. How will you serve the 'I AM' this week? How can you surrender your false gods for the "I AM?"
8. What does the following passage show us about following something/someone other than God?

**Read John 10: 7-18 (ESV)**

<sup>7</sup> So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. <sup>8</sup> All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup> I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup> The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. <sup>11</sup> I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup> He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. <sup>13</sup> He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. <sup>14</sup> I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, <sup>15</sup> just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup> And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. <sup>17</sup> For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. <sup>18</sup> No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."

## Sharing and Prayer:

This week consider parting into small groups of 2-3 members to pray.

Returning to the first question we asked, and as Dave asked in his sermon: "If you could fix one thing in your life that would make the biggest difference, what would it be?" Confess an idol that tempts you away from knowing Jesus is More. Surrender your idol to Jesus, and pray "Praise to You, our forever Passover Lamp. Jesus, I need you more than I need \_\_\_\_\_. Help me Lord to seek you more than anything or anyone."