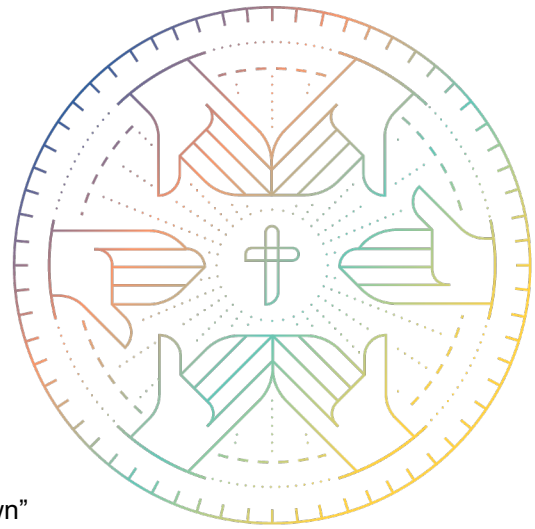


Group Life.

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SMALL GROUP GUIDE

Twenty-Four Hours: “When Someone You Trust Lets You Down”
Scripture Focus: John 13:21-38

ICEBREAKER

Can you recall a time when someone you trusted let you down? How did it impact your relationship with them?

When facing a difficult situation with someone close to you, what is your first instinct—respond with anger or try to understand their perspective?

OPENING PRAYER

Lord, we invite you into this space. May Your Spirit guide us, direct us and give us understanding as we open Your Word. Soften our hearts so that we may respond to You. In Jesus' name, Amen!

INTRODUCTION

In John 13:21-38, we witness two close friends of Jesus betray Him in different ways. Judas' betrayal was slow and secretive, while Peter's betrayal was sudden and public. However, both events reveal the deep pain of being betrayed by someone you love and trust. Despite this hurt, Jesus remained steadfast in His love, showing us how to respond when faced with betrayal.

INTO THE WORD

Read John 13:21-30, John 13:31-38, and Matthew 15:8. What stands out to you about Jesus' response to Judas and Peter's betrayal? How did Jesus show us the difference between responding in a way that hardens our hearts versus humbling us?

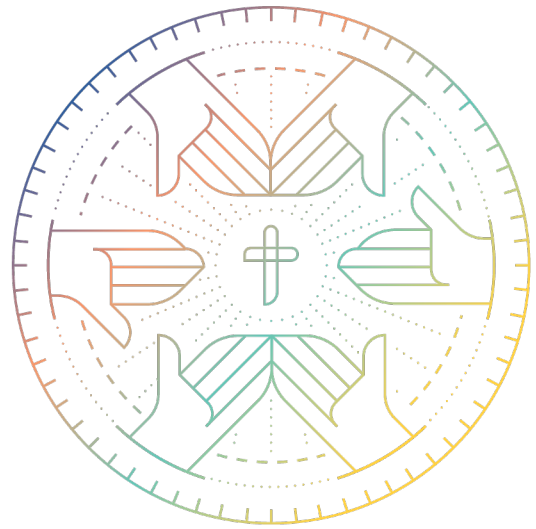
Read John 13:34-35, Galatians 6:2 and 1 John 4:7-8. How can we love others the way Jesus loved us, especially when we've been hurt by betrayal?

Read John 13:36-38, 2 Corinthians 5:17, and Romans 2:5. What is the difference between a hardened heart and a humbled heart in response to betrayal? How can we ensure our hearts remain humble?

Personal Reflection (allow group 2-3 minutes to quietly reflect): Is there anyone in your life who has betrayed you—either recently or in the past—that you need to offer forgiveness to? How can you take the first step toward reconciliation or healing?

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APPLICATION

Jesus didn't let betrayal define Him—He continued to live out His central teaching: love one another as He has loved us. Betrayal is inevitable, but how we respond will determine the trajectory of our hearts and relationships.

EMBRACE THE HOPE OF JESUS

Jesus offers us an example of how to respond to betrayal with love and grace. Betrayal does not have to define us. It can humble us, lead to forgiveness, and ultimately transform our relationships through God's grace. Jesus' example teaches us that love must remain central to how we interact with those who hurt us, and this love comes from a heart surrendered to God.

EMBODY THE HOPE OF JESUS

Choose to respond with love, even when betrayed. Rather than allowing betrayal to harden your heart or define you, choose forgiveness. Reflect on Jesus' love and allow that to guide your actions. Seek reconciliation, and don't let bitterness take root.

MAKE GOD KNOWN

Pray and ask God to open the door to share this message with someone this week. Share how Jesus responded to betrayal and how we can model that in our own lives.

SEEK GOD DAILY

Memory Verse: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another." – John 13:34

CLOSING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank You for the example of love and forgiveness shown by Jesus. We confess that betrayal hurts, and it's hard to forgive, but we ask You to help us respond with love as Jesus did. Teach us not to let betrayal define us, but to embrace the grace You offer. Heal our pain and fill us with humility to forgive those who hurt us. In Jesus' name, Amen.