



Discussion Guide – October 25, 2026

Kingdom Victory

Matthew 26:47-56

Written by: Joel Dawson

HOW TO PREPARE

Begin preparing by reading the full passage a few times. Then answer the questions for yourself. Then think about how your Small Group might answer them. Try re-wording the questions to fit you and your Small Group. Don't feel tied down to the discussion guide, just be sure to discuss the main point of the text in your conversations.

DISCUSSION GUIDE OUTLINE

Matthew 26:47-56

1. CHRIST: Our Example in Facing the Inevitable. Vv. 47-50
2. CHRIST: Our Example in Submission to the FATHER's Will. Vv. 51-54
3. CHRIST: MIGHTY GOD in a Man and, in Control of All Mankind. vv. 55, 56



MATTHEW 26:47-56

JESUS' BETRAYAL AND ARREST

47 While He was still speaking, behold, Judas, one of the twelve, came up accompanied by a large crowd with swords and clubs, who came from the chief priests and elders of the people.

48 Now he who was betraying Him gave them a sign, saying, "Whomever I kiss, He is the one; seize Him."

49 Immediately Judas went to Jesus and said, "Hail, Rabbi!" and kissed Him.

50 And Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you have come for." Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and seized Him.

51 And behold, one of those who were with Jesus reached and drew out his sword, and struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his ear.

52 Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place; for

all those who take up the sword shall perish by the sword.

53 Or do you think that I cannot appeal to My Father, and He will at once put at My disposal more than twelve legions of angels?

54 How then will the Scriptures be fulfilled, which say that it must happen this way?"

55 At that time Jesus said to the crowds, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest Me as you would against a robber? Every day I used to sit in the temple teaching and you did not seize Me.

56 But all this has taken place to fulfill the Scriptures of the prophets." Then all the disciples left Him and fled.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Ask a volunteer to read Matthew 26:47-56.

INTRODUCTION AND MAIN IDEA

1. How have you responded to betrayal/injustice? Are you seeking to forgive the betrayer/unjust?

UNDERSTANDING AND APPLICATION

These questions should help your Small Group dig deeper into the text and then apply it to your lives today.

I. CHRIST: Our Example in Facing the Inevitable. Vv. 47-50

2. Why was it necessary that CHRIST be accosted like this? (Ps. 41:5-9; 55:12-14; John 13:18)

3. Which is more important to you, that JESUS was betrayed to HIS murderers, or that the WORD which brought all creation into existence allowed HIS betrayal? (Luke 7:47)

II. CHRIST: Our Example in Submission to the FATHER's Will. Vv. 51-54

4. What led to Peter (John 18:10) "aiming for the servants head but missing and cutting off the servant's ear"?



5. In Luke 22:50-51, JESUS healed the amputated ear. What impulsive word/action has caused you guilt, and have you dealt with it through the HOLY SPIRIT?

6. Why did JESUS not have an angel army of 72,000 intervene? What is your heartfelt response to HIS submission to the FATHER's will? (Luke 9:22) "Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins."

III. CHRIST: MIGHTY GOD in a Man and, in Control of All Mankind. vv. 55, 56

7. What is the reason that the "enemy of righteousness" could not exercise his will in his time? WHO is in control of time? (Ps. 75:2; Habakkuk 2:3; Gal. 4:4-5) How does this encourage you?

8. What is the real enemy throughout history (HIS story)? What are our weapons? (2 Cor. 10:4)

9. Why did the disciples flee and leave JESUS to the mob? (John 16:32) Was it the time to "cause a scene"?



10. How are we to stand up for JESUS in this hour? What has been the cost of not being “ashamed of HIM or HIS WORDs” (Luke 9:26) throughout history?

11. What came of the disciples leaving HIM and fleeing? (Matt. 24:14) Can we “flee from HIM”? (Luke 9:26) “For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.”



COMMENTARY (FROM ESV STUDY BIBLE)

Matt. 26:47–56 Jesus Arrested. Judas betrays Jesus with a kiss, and the temple guards arrest him.

Matt. 26:47 Matthew emphasizes Judas's treachery by referring to him as one of the twelve. The great crowd consisted of a detachment of Roman soldiers assigned by Pilate to the temple for security, who were carrying swords, and Levitical temple police and personal security of the chief priests and Sanhedrin (elders), carrying clubs.

Matt. 26:48 kiss. A customary way for friends in ancient (and modern) Israel to greet one another now becomes the means of betrayal.

Matt. 26:49 Rabbi. See note on v. 25.

Matt. 26:50 Friend represents Greek *hetairos*, implying not the closeness and affection of the usual word for friend (*philos*) but only acquaintance and association. It was used previously by Jesus in parables concerning someone who has taken advantage of a privileged relationship (see 20:13; 22:12).

Matt. 26:51 one of those who were with Jesus. Simon Peter (John 18:10–11). servant of the high priest. Malchus (John 18:10).

Matt. 26:52 Put your sword back. True disciples of Jesus do not seek to advance or impose God's will on others through violent means.

Matt. 26:56 Their scheme had been predicted in the Scriptures of the prophets (cf. esp. Psalm 22; Isaiah 53; Zechariah 12–13).

