

Annual Theme: "God's Love Seen In 2018"

Series: God Loves People - The *Merriam-Webster Dictionary* defines a traitor as "one who betrays another's trust or is false to an obligation or duty." I've chosen to consider in contrast the two traitors seen side by side in the New Testament accounts of the Passion of Christ. Though we may see some similarities in Judas and Peter, they are separated by one giant factor—the cross of Jesus Christ, the one thing that still offends most people.

Jesus Loves Traitors

Matthew 26

1. The Traitor Who Didn't Live Up to His Name

- A. His Hypocrisy (vv. 6-9)
- B. His Treachery (vv. 14-16)
- C. His Proximity (vv. 20-25)

2. The Traitor Whose Name Is Still Loved

- A. His Confidence (vv. 30-35)
- B. His Catastrophe (vv. 69-75)
- C. His Conversion (Luke 22:61,62)

LifeGroup Questions:

BEGIN IT (5min) - Time spent in praise and prayer to begin the study.

OPEN IT (10min) - What images does the word "betrayal" bring to mind?

EXPLORE IT (60min) - Review Sunday's sermon outline together pausing to read Scripture verses listed at each point of the sermon. Share questions, comments and contributing thoughts. Now answer final questions below:

1. What do you learn about God from the fact that Jesus did not yell at His disciples or disown them even though He knew they would abandon Him?
2. In what ways does our behavior betray whether we truly love and serve Jesus?
3. In what ways are we vulnerable to the temptations that snagged Judas?
4. How can you encourage a Christian brother or sister who has recently denied Christ and is feeling discouraged?
5. In what ways can you rely on more mature Christians keep you accountable so that you do not drift in your commitment to Jesus?

APPLY IT (15min) - What current situation might tempt you to be quiet or low-key about your relationship with Jesus Christ? Ask God's Holy Spirit to strengthen you.