**JOURNEYING TOGETHER:** FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Session 4 of 4

# Good Friday

### MEETING AIM

To explore the events leading up to the crucifixion and specifically how Judas and Peter responded – and what implications that has for us.

### BIBLE PASSAGE

John 18-19

### BACKGROUND

This session plan is intended for use either in-person or online, depending on how you’re meeting. Adapt the activities to fit your situation.

There are a number of aspects you could explore in this passage, so don’t feel you have to explain or cover everything. Allow the young people to delve into and discover new aspects they haven’t previously thought of before – although don’t assume they are all familiar with the story. Go with your group on a brand-new journey in the passage – don’t fall into the trap of walking the same old worn, cliched paths! Can you get this generation excited about the crucifixion story in a fresh way?

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### STARTING OUT – 5 mins

As people join you, share any refreshments you have. Ask the young people to share what they have been doing during the past seven days. If you are doing this session at Easter, the young people are probably on holiday, so chat about the different things they have been doing. Has everything gone to plan? Or have some things been a disappointment?

### INTRO ACTIVITY – 10 mins

**You will need:** a pack of cards

Count out enough cards for each person to have one, including the ace of clubs. Give out the cards, one to each person. Set the scene: you are all in the high priest’s courtyard after Jesus has just been arrested. The person holding the ace of clubs is Peter, who is denying that he was with Jesus. The rest of you are trying to work out who is Peter!

‘Peter’ must lie, trick, bluff, stay silent, or use any tactics to not give away that they had that card. Give a couple of minutes for everyone to discuss together what happened and what clues they have, before the group has three guesses at who Peter is.

When the game is over you could ask them how it felt to deny Jesus! It’s meant to be tongue in cheek of course, but it could actually be quite an emotional insight into the passage for them. If they like it, you could play again and use a different card to represent Peter.

### BIBLE EXPLORATION – 10 mins

**You will need:** large sheets of paper or card; felt-tip pens; paper; pens

Tell the young people there are six main locations in today’s passage (the garden, the high priest’s courtyard, inside the high priest’s house, Pilate’s headquarters, Golgotha and the tomb). Split them into six teams and assign a location to each (if you have a smaller number of people, each group could do more than one place). Ask them to design a sign for their location. As they are working, read out John 18-19.

Staying in their teams they should complete the following tasks:

* Look at the passage to find out what happened at their location and list the main events on a sheet of paper.
* Come up with a statue-like freeze-frame scene involving all the team that gives some idea of the most important thing that was going on there. This will be tricky on a video call, so they will need to be creative!
* Discuss the main questions (not the answers) that occur to them as they discuss the story and look at the passage. For example: “Why was Simon Peter carrying a sword in the garden?” or “Was Pilate brave, or a coward?” They should write down the main one or two questions so that they can ask the rest of the group later.

### CHATTING TOGETHER – 5 mins

As a whole group, ‘travel’ around the locations in the story. Read the appropriate part of the story (you will visit the high priest’s courtyard twice). At each location ask the group to:

* Display the freeze-frame pose.
* Give a quick overview of their thoughts on what was going on.
* Present the question(s) that they discussed in ‘Bible exploration’. The rest of the group should then help answer these questions and discuss this part of the story.

### CREATIVE RESPONSE – 10 mins

**You will need:** paper; art materials

Give out the paper and the art materials, and encourage them to create a picture in response to the story. What the young people produce is not the most important thing here. What is important is the process. When hands are busy, it gives the mind space to think about the story and to listen to God.

As you work, continue to chat about the story and what they think. The young people might have questions that to us seem strange or unimportant, but you should treat these questions with respect, as they represent your young people sorting out elements of the story and what it tells them about God, faith and life. This is especially true of young people. Try to answer some of these questions together as you create your artwork.

### PRAYER – 5 mins

Remind the group that we all can know Jesus’ love and forgiveness – that because of the cross we can all be free from condemnation and fear and guilt and happily press on, trying again when we slip up and growing in boldness with his help to be a good witness.

Be silent together for a moment, and ask them to think about their reflections when they were doing ‘Creative response’. Encourage them to chat with God about their thoughts and to explore what he is saying to them.

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