

Royal Redeemer Going Deeper Guide

Based on the sermon for September 19, 2021:
Chapter 26: The Hour of Darkness



For personal reflection or for use as a devotion with CGS Community or family

- **CONNECT** *with each other*

1. On Good Friday we remember the day Jesus died on the cross. What traditions around this day are meaningful for you?

- **GROW** *in Christ*

9 *“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. 10 If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. 11 I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. 12 My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command. 15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. 16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. 17 This is my command: Love each other.*

John 15:9-17

1. As Jesus prepared for the Passover meal, He did not stop teaching and showing his followers how to live (John 13:1-17, *The Story* pp. 367-368). What was Jesus’ act of service and how did the disciples respond?
2. Why was it necessary for Jesus to die?
3. How did Jesus’ family, friends, and enemies respond to His trial and crucifixion?
4. Jesus was emphatically clear that He is the only way back to a restored relationship with the Father, the only path to heaven (John 14:6, *The Story*, p. 370) How do some people (even Christians) push back on this exclusive claim of Jesus? What do you believe?
5. Right before His arrest, Jesus took three of His friends to the Garden of Gethsemane, where He prayed. What do you learn about the love and power of God, contrasted with human weakness, as you read this account? (Matt. 26:36-46, *The Story*, pp. 372-373)
6. If Judas is playing a part in God’s Upper Story plan for the salvation of the world, is he responsible for his betrayal of Jesus?
7. How do you think Peter’s denial felt to Jesus? (Luke 22:54-62, *The Story*, p. 375) Are

there ways and times that you deny Jesus?

8. What do you learn about the heart of Jesus at His crucifixion from the way he interacts with the thief next to him, the Roman soldier, and his own mother? (Luke 23:32-43, John 19:25-27, *The Story*, pp. 378-379)
9. In your own words, what is the meaning of Jesus' words, *It is finished*?
10. Read Hebrews 10:19-22. When have you experienced any one of these truths:
 - We can draw near to God with confidence
 - We no longer have a guilty conscience
 - We are cleansed and pure
11. What is one thing you might do on a daily basis to maintain an intimate relationship with God?

- **SERVE** *others*

How does our willingness to serve reflect Jesus' presence in our world? What is one unexpected act of service you can offer this week?

- **End with Prayer, the Lord's Prayer, or a short Blessing.**