

Leaders Guide 10 The trial before Annas and Caiaphas

1. **Suggested Ice breaker: One thing that I used/did in my childhood that is no longer generally in use today.**
2. **Prayer time:** Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵ And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. James 5: 14-15
3. **Sharing from the week**
4. **Read for This week: Matthew 26: 57-75 DA 74 Background**
5. **Questions for Discussion**
 - a. No trial according to Jewish law was to be held at night or on a festival weekend. Yet the trial of Jesus by the Sanhedrin (Before Annas and Caiaphas) started just after midnight. Comment on why sometimes people follow laws and rules only when it is in their favor. _____

 - b. When Jesus was before Annas He was asked about his disciples and His doctrine. At this time He said you have had people listening to all my presentations why not ask them (John 18: 19-21). Why do you think at times Jesus wouldn't answer directly and sometimes He would? _____

 - c. During the trial at Caiaphas palace Jesus acknowledged that He was the Son of God (Matthew 26: 63-64). This was considered blasphemy and the High Priest even tore his clothes which was unlawful. Why do you think Jesus was so forthright about this controversial answer and so evasive before Annas? _____

 - d. Ellen White comments about Jesus controlled manner in these trials. How is it possible to be controlled in emotional times when the stakes are high? _____

 - e. Peter and John gained access to the courtyard of Caiaphas. What contributed to John having no shameful interactions with the people there and Peter denied Christ (See Desire of Ages 711 and 712). What lessons does this story possess that might be helpful for you today. _____

 - f. During the final week before Calvary Judas' character was exposed to the world. Ellen White makes these comments: "The history of Judas presents the sad ending of a life that might have been honored of God. Had Judas died before his last journey to Jerusalem he would have been regarded as a man worthy of a place among the twelve, and one who would be greatly missed. The abhorrence which has followed him through the centuries would not have existed but for the attributes revealed at the close of his history. But it was for a purpose that his character was laid open to the world. It was to be a warning to all who, like him, should betray sacred trusts." DA 716. What legacy are we seeking to provide from our life? _____

- g. Caiaphas was a Sadducee so when Jesus said you shall see the "Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven, (Matthew 26:64) it stood against his beliefs. In Revelation 1:7 we are told that when Jesus comes "every eye will see Him and they also which pierced him" There will be a special resurrection for those that night that spat on Christ so they can witness His return. Our destiny depends on our acceptance or rejection of Christ. The trial of Christ becomes a lesson to the world that everything depends on our relationship with Christ. Let's honor Him today so He can claim us as His at His return!

Background

Thursday— From the Last supper to His trials (Starts the day in the Mount of Olives and ends with a night of trials mostly at Caiaphas' palace)

Chronology of Thursday's events--Mid-afternoon: Preparation for Last Supper. 6 pm: Last Supper: Preceded by Jesus washing their feet, they sang Psalms 113-118 at this event; Following the supper on the way to Gethsemane He gave the passionate messages and prayer recorded in John's gospel (John 14-17)—Judas left after the supper to betray Jesus); Perhaps around 10 am they arrive in Gethsemane and Jesus prays His most agonizing prayer asking His disciples to pray with Him. Around 12 midnight: Judas and the mob capture Jesus and take him to trial—the disciples flee; around 1-2 am the appearance before Annas occurs where Jesus' face is slapped; Trial before Annas and Caiaphas and other Sanhedrin members 2-3 am; (During the night Peter denies Jesus three times outside Caiapha's palace. Today a bronze statue is there picturing Peter in denial); a night appearance before the Sanhedrin where religious leaders seek to form a basis for condemnation 3-4 am: then just after the break of dawn 5-5:30 am, another meeting with the Sanhedrin—they condemn Him for blasphemy (Saying He claimed to be the Son of God). The reason for this second meeting is that no trials were to be allowed at night where death might be a penalty.

Judas left three meetings to negotiate with religious leaders on the betrayal—Saturday night, Tuesday night and Thursday night. How could he have been in fellowship with Jesus and the other disciples during the day while planning betrayal at night?—sin leads to strange behavior.