

# Small Group Discussion Guide

“Re-LENT-less” (pt. 1) – 3/23/2014

**Scripture:** John 18:1-12

**Bottom Line:** Jesus, being in control, willingly gave himself for your sins.

## INTRODUCTION:

What is relentless? Perhaps something like a student determined to get straight A's comes to mind, or a football team determined to win no matter the obstacle. Relentless describes Christ and his desire to carry out the will of the Father. This is a good word for us to dwell on as it relates to Christ as we move closer to Easter.

## UNPACKING THE GOSPEL IN THE BIBLE:

**Read John 18:1-3**

What is the significance of Jesus being in a garden at this point in the story? What other major story in Scripture involves a garden?

It is no coincidence that Jesus was in a garden at this pivotal point in the story. Just as Adam (who represented all of mankind) willingly rebelled against God in the garden and separated us all from God, so Jesus (the 2<sup>nd</sup> Adam or leader of mankind) willingly submits himself to God and surrenders himself to the guards so that he could die for our sins and reconcile us to God. The point of the garden is so that you would make this connection.

**Read John 18:4-9**

What is the significance of Jesus saying “I am he”?

In the Greek, this is translated “I AM.” It refers back to the story of the Exodus when Moses asks God, what shall I say that your name is when I approach the people of Israel? God answers him, “I AM WHO I AM”...tell them “I AM has sent me to you.” Jesus also identifies himself as the “I AM” in John 8:58

when he says that he existed before Abraham, who at this time would have been well over a thousand years old. The point here is that Jesus is calling himself God. He is saying that he is the God of the Old Testament.

Read John 18:10-11

What is the meaning of the cup that Jesus speaks of in verse 11?

It refers to the task that was given to Jesus by God the Father. The cup often refers to suffering or the wrath of God. In this case, Jesus drank the cup that was meant for us. This analogy paints a picture of what Jesus did with our sins. He took the suffering and wrath that our sin caused.

### UNDERSTANDING HOW THE GOSPEL APPLIES TO MY LIFE:

How do we know that God will not punish our sins anyway, even in light of what Jesus did?

As a result of our sins, suffering and wrath was meant for us but because Christ in his mercy took it on himself, we are set free. Because the punishment has been given to Christ, it cannot be given to us. Otherwise, God would no longer be just because he would have punished us for something for which punishment had already been given. You are free eternally from sin's penalty because Jesus took that penalty on himself. To say that you have to pay for your sins now would be to say that Jesus was not good enough to take your sins. But of course, we know that he is!

### LIVING OUT THE GOSPEL IN MY EVERYDAY LIFE:

Do you believe that God stands with you?

If the answer to that is yes then observe your life and look for areas where you can begin to live by faith. Where have you sought control that has led you to worry and anxiety? Know that God stands with you and he is truly in control. Acknowledge him in your ways and live in light of your faith.

If you struggle to believe that God stands with you, then first of all ask him to help you believe. He is merciful. Look to the promises of Scripture such as John 6:37-40. This promise was applied specifically to the disciples in John 18:9. Though there will be trials in this life, God is with you and he is in control.