SMITH FOR CHRIST · TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN · LEADER'S SHEET · THURSDAY MAR 18

John **18** · week 18 of 21

The Cup, the Fire and the King · Answers and notes for Thursday

READ MONDAY – WEDNESDAY · MEET THURSDAY EVENING, MARCH 18

Answers to every worksheet question, with the exact NASB key-word counts. Personal questions are marked "Personal."

THE WEEK

Monday	Read John 18 straight through, then again with a pen and mark it · Mon, Mar 15
Tuesday	Read the study notes; answer the Observe questions and count the key words · Tue, Mar 16
Wednesday	Interpret, Weigh the Teachers, the Word study and Apply · Wed, Mar 17
Thursday evening	Together: watch the John 18 part of the film, go through the worksheet, pray · Thu, Mar 18

KEY VERSE

> **JOHN 18:11 · NASB**
>
> *"So Jesus said to Peter, "Put the sword into the sheath; the cup which the Father has given Me, shall I not drink it?"*

From a garden at night to a governor's headquarters at dawn. John cuts back and forth between Jesus standing firm inside and Peter crumbling outside. Listen for "I am" and "I am not."

John 18 *The Cup, the Fire and the King*

KEY VERSE 18:11

Theme of the chapter. Jesus goes to His arrest as the sovereign I AM who lays down His life, protects His own, and drinks the cup His Father gives Him. While Peter warms himself at the enemy's fire and denies Him, Jesus stands before the high priest and Pilate as the King whose kingdom is not of this world, and the crowd chooses a robber instead.

KEY WORD COUNTS (NASB)

Peter	**10**	vv. 10, 11, 15, 16 (×2), 17, 18, 25, 26, 27
king	**4**	vv. 33, 37 (×2), 39
truth	**3**	vv. 37 (×2), 38
high priest	**9**	vv. 10, 13, 15 (×2), 16, 19, 22, 24, 26
deliver / delivered	**2**	vv. 30, 35
Pilate	**6**	vv. 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 38

JOHN 18:1–11 The Garden

1 OBSERVE *Who came for Jesus, and what did they carry (18:3)? What did Jesus do, knowing all that was coming (18:4)?*

Judas, with the Roman cohort and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, "with lanterns and torches and weapons" (18:3). He "went forth and said to them, 'Whom do you seek?'" (18:4).

2 OBSERVE *What happened when Jesus said "I am He" (18:6)? What did He ask for His disciples (18:8)?*

"They drew back and fell to the ground" (18:6). "If you seek Me, let these go their way" (18:8).

3 INTERPRET *In Greek Jesus says only egō eimi, "I am." Why did armed men fall down, and what does that say about His arrest?*

Guzik: "There was such a display of divine presence, majesty, and power in those two words." He was not captured; He surrendered (10:18). Spurgeon: "There was no power on earth that could have bound Him had He been unwilling."

4 OBSERVE *What did Peter do, and what did Jesus tell him (18:10–11)?*

He cut off the right ear of the high priest's slave, Malchus. "Put the sword into the sheath; the cup which the Father has given Me, shall I not drink it?" (18:11).

5 INTERPRET *Read Isaiah 51:17. What is the "cup," and whose hand does Jesus see giving it to Him?*

In the prophets the cup is God's wrath against sin. Jesus does not see Judas or Caiaphas handing it to Him; He sees His Father.

6 APPLY *The Shepherd was seized and the sheep went free (18:8–9). What does "let these go their way" mean for you personally?*

Personal. The study's promise. Spurgeon: "Here I am; but let these, for whom I stood, go their way."

JOHN 18:12–27 Two Scenes Cut Together

7 OBSERVE *To whom was Jesus taken first, and what had that man's son-in-law once advised (18:13–14)?*

To Annas, father-in-law of Caiaphas. Caiaphas had advised "that it was expedient for one man to die on behalf of the people" (18:14).

8 OBSERVE *Trace Peter's steps: where does he stand, what is he doing, and what does he say each time he is asked (18:15–18, 25–27)?*

He follows, gets in through another disciple, stands with the slaves and officers by a charcoal fire warming himself. To the slave-girl and then the others he says, "I am not." The third time he denies again, "and immediately a rooster crowed" (18:27).

9 WEIGH THE TEACHERS *Henry: "It is ill warming ourselves with those with whom we are in danger of burning ourselves." Guzik: "it was not the faith of Peter that failed, but his courage." Spurgeon: "Backslide a little and you are on the way to utter apostasy." What were Peter's small steps down?*

> Following at a distance, getting inside, standing with the wrong crowd, warming himself at their fire. Each step made the next denial easier.

10 OBSERVE *How does Jesus answer the high priest (18:20–21), and what happens next (18:22–23)?*

> "I have spoken openly to the world," "Question those who have heard what I spoke" (18:20–21). An officer strikes Him. Jesus: "If I have spoken wrongly, testify of the wrong; but if rightly, why do you strike Me?" (18:23).

11 APPLY *What fire are you warming yourself at that puts you in danger of denying Him?*

> Personal. The study's confession: warming myself at the wrong fire.

JOHN 18:28–40 The Praetorium

12 OBSERVE *Why would the Jewish leaders not enter the Praetorium (18:28)?*

> "So that they would not be defiled, but might eat the Passover" (18:28).

13 INTERPRET *Henry: "They strained at a gnat, and swallowed a camel." What is the irony in 18:28?*

> They protected their ceremonial cleanness while handing over the true Passover Lamb to die.

14 OBSERVE *What does Jesus say about His kingdom (18:36) and His purpose (18:37)? How does Pilate respond (18:38)?*

> "My kingdom is not of this world." "For this I have come into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice" (18:37). Pilate: "What is truth?" (18:38).

15 INTERPRET *"Not of this world" uses the Greek ek, meaning source. Read Daniel 7:14 and Revelation 11:15. Does Jesus mean His kingdom has nothing to do with this world?*

> No. It does not come from here, but it is coming here. Today it advances by truth, not swords; one day the King returns and His kingdom fills the earth.

16 OBSERVE *What does Pilate say about Jesus, and whom does the crowd choose (18:38–40)?*

> "I find no guilt in Him." They cry, "Not this Man, but Barabbas." "Now Barabbas was a robber" (18:40).

17 WEIGH THE TEACHERS *Guzik: "The cross Jesus hung upon was probably originally intended for Barabbas." Spurgeon: "He dies that we may be delivered." Where are you in this scene?*

> The study's answer: both the crowd that preferred its sin and the robber who walked out free.

WORD STUDY

18 WORD *anthrakia (G439), charcoal fire. This word is used only here (18:18) and in 21:9. Read 21:9–17. What happens at the second charcoal fire?*

> Jesus restores Peter with three questions, one for each denial. The study's hope: the second charcoal fire.

19 WORD *lēstēs (G3027), robber, violent bandit. Barabbas was a lēstēs (18:40), the same word for the thieves in 10:1, 8. What does it say that the crowd chose him over the Good Shepherd?*

> They chose the man who steals, kills and destroys over the One who lays down His life for the sheep.

ACTS 17:11 The Chosen check

> ACTS 17:11 · NASB
> *"...examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so."*

WATCH THIS WEEK

Season 5, Episode 8, "The Upper Room Part II" — Gethsemane; the season ends as Judas arrives

Answers and notes for the Chosen check. Let the group find the differences in the text before you give them.

C1 OBSERVE

Read 18:1–11. What is in John's arrest account that the episode does not show? What is in the episode that John does not record?

> John: "Whom do you seek?", "I am He," the soldiers draw back and fall, Jesus shields His disciples, Malchus's ear. The episode: the agony in prayer and Judas's kiss, which come from Matthew, Mark and Luke.

C2 OBSERVE

Why might John leave out the agony in the garden and show Jesus stepping forward instead?

> John stresses that Jesus lays down His life of His own accord (10:18). He is in command at His own arrest.

C3 INTERPRET

What did the episode add that John 18 does not say? Does the addition help you see the text, or does it change what the text means?

> Additions are not automatically wrong; they are not Scripture. The test is whether an addition changes what the text says about Jesus.

C4 APPLY

The Bereans received the word eagerly and examined the Scriptures daily (Acts 17:11). Where are you most tempted to let a picture, a sermon or a feeling stand in for the text?

> Personal. Press for one concrete habit: reading the chapter before watching, and checking every scene against it.

The Chosen is a drama, not Scripture. God's Word is the truth; where the film differs, the Word wins.