

# Family Devotional

From April 2, 2017

**Brainstorm:** As a family make a list of the groups each member of the families is involved in. These can be formal groups like a soccer team, or informal groups like the kids in your neighborhood. Think about the people you spend time with on a regular bases. Now go through the list and name one positive thing you have learned by being part of that group.

Jesus had a group of really close friends. We know them as his disciples. He did everything with these guys. They worked together, ate together, and prayer together. Then one day one of his disciples chose to join a different group. Let's read that story.

**Read:** Mark 14:42-50

## Reflect:

- What do you think motivated Judas to betray Jesus? Read Matthew 26: 14-16
- Who was in the crowd that came with Judas to meet Jesus in the garden? What were they carrying?
- What was Jesus pointing out in the way the large group approached Him at night with weapons and not in the day time at the temple courts?

Earlier you listed groups you are a part of and one positive thing you learned from those groups. Being part of a community can be a cool thing, but it can also come with its challenges. Have you ever heard of a thing called "group think"? Even if you haven't heard that term, you have probably experienced it. For example, maybe a few of your friend at school all love the movie Frozen and they talk about it, quote it and sing the songs. You might not have had a strong opinion about the movie when you first watched it, but because you enjoy being around your friends who love the movie, you find yourself joining in the excitement and singing the songs even when you are not around them. This is a neutral example in that liking or not liking Frozen is neither a positive or negative, it's just a choice. However, there are times when our groups can encourage us to make negative choices, and unless we are really paying attention, we might not even stop to think, "Is this the choice I want to make or am I just going along with the crowd?" What are some examples when a group might influence someone to make a negative choice?

What might it look like if you choose not to go along with the group when they are making that choice?

The scary thing is that when we make the right choice, instead of following the group, we might be the only one and we'll be left standing alone. Jesus knows all about that. Reread verse 50.

The great news is, even if no one else in the group chooses to stand with you, Jesus does. He will give you the strength to make the right choice. He knows it can be hard and painful to be the only one making the right choice, and He is standing by your side cheering you on!

**Remember:** Work together as a family to memorize/meditate on Joshua 1:9 this week.

*"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."*

Ideas: Write this passage down and hang it on the refrigerator. Say it together as a family during meal time each day. Write it on a chalk or white board and erase a couple of words each day until you can say it by memory.

**Respond:** "Dear Jesus, thank you for making the hard but right choice even when everyone deserted you. Help me to think and evaluate the choices I make based on Your word and not just what everyone around me is doing. Thank you for all ways being with me .....Amen."