



# Matthew: New King, New Kingdom

## Cell Notes 2020

### STUDY 8. Betrayal of the King

**Aim.** This study is designed to slow us down and sit contemplatively with the text as we approach the cross and enter afresh into what is, for many of us, a familiar story. It's probably best if someone experienced leads so they don't rush through it. Give space to each of the three parts (at least 10 minutes) and encourage people who may not be used to a slower, quieter form of reading to give it a go and see what God does.

#### Part 1. Matthew 26.17–35

Ask one person to read the passage through twice, slowly and clearly.

- a. Encourage everyone to sit with the text for 5–10 minutes and imagine themselves as **Peter**. You can read out the following to aid people's reflections, **leaving plenty of space in between each:**
  - i. *Imagine the taste of the bread and the wine*
  - ii. *What might Peter be feeling – to be celebrating the great Exodus story with the Passover meal, and at the same time to hear your rabbi talking about his death and betrayal?*
  - iii. *Imagine hearing Jesus' words. How might it feel to be told that you are about to betray the one you have left everything to follow?*
- b. Encourage people to note down anything God might be saying to them in the quiet.

#### Part 2. Matthew 26.36–46

Ask someone else to read these verses twice through, slowly and clearly.

- a. Encourage everyone to sit with the text for 5–10 minutes and imagine themselves as **one of the disciples** looking on. You can read out the following to aid people's reflections, **leaving plenty of space in between each:**
  - i. *Imagine the strain of trying to stay awake.*
  - ii. *How do you react to Jesus' rebukes?*
  - iii. *How might you feel overhearing his prayers?*
  - iv. *In the quiet, ask God if there any situations right now for which He is calling us to stay awake, to watch and to pray.*
- b. Encourage people to note down what God might be saying to them in the quiet.

#### Part 3. Matthew 26.47–56

Ask a third person to read these verses twice through, slowly and clearly.

- a. Encourage everyone to sit with the text for 5–10 minutes and imagine themselves as **Jesus**. You can read out the following to aid people's reflections, **leaving plenty of space in between each:**





# Matthew: New King, New Kingdom

## Cell Notes 2020

- i. How might he be feeling – physically, emotionally, spiritually – after Gethsemane?*
  - ii. Imagine the sense of loneliness. How does it feel to see Judas leading the crowd? How does it feel to be deserted by all the disciples?*
- b. Encourage everyone to spend some time sitting in the horror and darkness of the scene. If we skip over this too quickly, we can miss the full glory of the cross.

Finally, in smaller groups encourage people to share what God has been saying to them in the quiet and to pray together.