LIFE GROUP LEADER DISCUSSION GUIDE

Jesus Remains Faithful

Mark 14:53–72 • Nov 15, 2026 • 35 minutes

Aim Recognize Jesus' truthful witness and consider how fear can lead us to deny what we know about him.

Before you lead

Read Mark 14:53-72. Mark moves between Jesus before the council and Peter in the courtyard. Let their contrasting responses guide the discussion. Peter's restoration comes later; do not present it as an event inside these verses. Allow 6 minutes to welcome and read, 7 for Head, 10 for Heart, 9 for Hands, and 3 for prayer.

Ask the main questions first. Use the follow-ups when the group needs help going deeper; the leader notes are for your preparation. Give people time to answer, and ask them to point to the verses behind their observations.

Suggested timing Welcome, prayer, and reading 6 min • Head 7 min • Heart 10 min • Hands 9 min • Closing prayer 3 min

HEAD

Understand the passage

Read Mark 14:53–72 aloud from the ESV. Keep the passage open throughout the discussion.

1. What problems do you notice in the testimony against Jesus in verses 53-59?

Follow-up: What does that reveal about the hearing?

Leader note: Notice the search for grounds to condemn him and the witnesses' conflicting accounts.

2. When does Jesus speak in verses 60-65, and what does he declare?

Follow-up: How do those listening respond?

Leader note: Focus on his identity and authority, then the condemnation and abuse that follow.

3. How do Peter's denials change as the scene unfolds in verses 66-72?

Follow-up: What makes him realize what he has done?

Leader note: Trace the repeated accusations, his increasingly forceful denials, and his memory of Jesus' words.

HEART

Examine our motives

Choose a follow-up when it helps someone explain an answer. Allow people to share honestly without pressing them to disclose more than they are ready to share.

4. When has fear made it hard for you to speak truthfully about Jesus?

Follow-up: What did you think might happen if you spoke?

Leader note: Invite concrete reflection without shaming quieter personalities or equating boldness with volume.

5. How do you usually respond when you realize you have failed?

Follow-up: Do you hide, explain it away, confess it, or respond another way?

Leader note: Peter's tears make room for honest grief. Do not stop at regret or rush someone past it.

6. What difference does Jesus' faithfulness make when you see how inconsistent you can be?

Follow-up: What would it mean to turn toward him rather than pull away?

Leader note: Keep hope grounded in Jesus. If discussing restoration, identify Mark 16:7 as a later connection.

HANDS

Put the passage into practice

7. Where do you need to correct something untrue or misleading that you have said?

Follow-up: What would a truthful first step look like?

Leader note: Encourage a proportionate correction and wise attention to anyone affected.

8. In what situation this week might you need to express your faith clearly and graciously?

Follow-up: How could you prepare without relying only on your own confidence?

Leader note: Pray, think through a simple response, and ask a trusted believer for support.

Close in prayer

Honor Jesus for his faithful witness. Confess our fear and dishonesty, and ask for grace to turn toward him and speak truth with courage and gentleness.