

# Growth Teams

Week Beginning  
Sunday 29th March 2015

## Growth Teams

Growth Teams are a wonderful opportunity to go deeper with other Christians. They are a great place to build real friendships and support networks, to pray for one another and to look more carefully at the topics we consider on a Sunday.

This is the last of our sessions on Mark 14. Growth Teams will have a break for three weeks after this session and start meeting again the week beginning Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April.

## Going deeper

Jesus quotes from Zechariah 13 when he predicts the disciples will fall away. Zechariah was a prophet during the period after the Jews had returned from their time in exile in Babylon. He uses lots of strange imagery in his prophecies. In these verses - from which Jesus quotes - the shepherd would naturally be understood as a ruler and the sheep his followers.

## Read Zechariah 13:1-9

5. Who is it that orders the shepherd to be struck? Why is this surprising? (cf. 12:10). What might be the purpose? (cf. 13:1)
6. What is special about the relationship between God and the shepherd?
7. What is the purpose of God 'turning his hand against the little ones' (vs. 7)? (cf. vs. 9)
8. What is the final result of all this suffering? Why is this ultimate result so important?
9. How might these verses have encouraged Jesus's disciples after he was arrested? How do they encourage us today?

**Now turn over and do 'Applying it to our lives'.**



**Growing in Christ  
to glorify God  
and enjoy Him forever.**

## A Sad Denial

Mark 14:27-31,66-72 (page 1021,1022)

*Space to take notes on the talk*

### Why should we listen to Jesus?

1. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ us \_\_\_\_\_

2. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ us \_\_\_\_\_

3. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ us \_\_\_\_\_

4. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ us \_\_\_\_\_

### Starter question

- Other than God and Jesus who do you think knows you best?

### Responding to the talk

1. What was the most important lesson for you in this week's talk?
2. Read Mark 14:27-31
  - a. Why do you think Peter disagreed with Jesus so strongly?
  - b. Why are Jesus's words in verse 30 even more shocking than his statement in verse 27?
  - c. Reading these verses how would you describe Peter's relationship with Jesus?
3. Read Mark 14:66-72
  - a. Why is it shocking that Peter's first denial was to a servant girl?
  - b. How do Peter's actions compare with Jesus's (14:61-62)?
  - c. Why did Peter 'break down and weep'?
4. Read Mark 14:27-31
  - a. Going back to Jesus's original forecast. Now that Peter has realised that Jesus's words are true, what comfort can he find in them?

*If there is time, you may like to do the 'Going deeper' questions over the page. Otherwise please just jump to questions 10 and 11.*

### Applying it to our lives

10. What stops us listening to Jesus today? How has what we learnt encouraged us to listen to him more carefully? What might we do differently as a result?
11. What pressures make us avoid being known as one of Jesus's followers today? What might we need to do to be better known as a Christian?