

IT'S NOT ME, IT'S YOU

HOW TO DEAL WITH
DIFFICULT PEOPLE

Week #2
Caiaphas
(Those Who Persecute You)



CONTENTS

HOW TO LEAD YOUR YCI CLUB



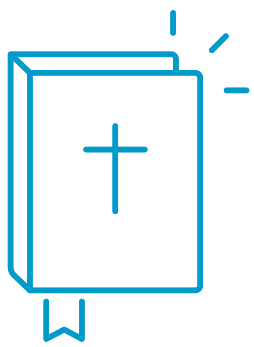
Play

Play a game together.



Pray

Spend time praising and thanking God in prayer.



Grow

Learn from Scripture about who God says He is and how we should respond to Him.



Go

Look for opportunities to share the Gospel, and serve others in your community with your YCI club members.



TIPS FOR USING THIS CURRICULUM

THREE RECOMMENDATIONS AS YOU LEAD YOUR FRIENDS IN PLAYING, PRAYING, GROWING & GOING

1) FAMILIARIZE

Prior to your weekly YCI club gatherings, spend time reading the curriculum to make sure you understand the game and devotional. Leading is easier when you are well-prepared!

2) ORGANIZE

The "Grow" portion of the YCI Club Curriculum gives you the "pieces" for a devotional, but it is up to you to put the pieces together. You may want to give "Book, Hook, Look & Took" a try:

- 1) Book:** Read the Bible verses.
- 2) Hook:** Share a brief personal story or idea that relates to the Scripture.
- 3) Look:** Share the context of the Scripture.
- 4) Took:** Share the takeaways from the "Learn & Apply" section.

3) CUSTOMIZE

Since every YCI club is different, it is important that you modify this content to fit your context. If you need help with this, we encourage you to reach out to your club's Campus Mentor!



MAZE RACE!

First, the YCI club should be split into two teams, and one student from each team should be chosen to be blindfolded before exiting the room. Next, the remaining attendees will create a simple “maze” using only the objects that are currently in the room (desks, bookbags, dodgeballs etc.). Once the maze is complete, the blindfolded students should be guided back into the room. Once the blindfolded students are positioned at the beginning of the maze, it’s then up to each team to verbally guide their representative through the maze (without touching them or moving any objects). The player who completes the maze first wins the game for their team. This process can repeat for as long as time allows!



ASK GOD FOR HIS WILL TO BE DONE IN THESE AREAS:



CLUB TIME

Pray that God will speak to everyone in the room through His Word.



GROUP NEEDS

Take time to discuss and pray over the personal needs and requests of those in attendance.



SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Ask God to move in situations that are unique to your school and community.



WHERE WE'RE GOING

HOW DID JESUS DEAL WITH DIFFICULT PEOPLE?

When we face difficult circumstances, we can take comfort in knowing that “we do not have a high priest [Jesus] who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin”
(Heb. 4:15 ESV).

Particularly in the area of relational stress and struggle, no one in all of human history is more experienced than Jesus.

From his birth in Bethlehem to his ascension on Mount Olivet, he regularly interacted with people that stood in opposition to His mission. However, regardless of the individual, Jesus’ response consistently included themes of:

- 1) **Identity**
- 2) **Understanding**
- 3) **Purpose**

In the **“It’s Not Me, It’s You”** curriculum, we’re going to take a closer look at three difficult people Jesus interacted with in **Matthew 26:**

- 1) **Judas** (Those Who Betray You)
- 2) **Caiaphas** (Those Who Persecute You)
- 3) **Peter** (Those Who Abandon You)

Prayerfully, as we look closer at how Jesus responds to each of these individuals, the Holy Spirit will strengthen and equip us to love the difficult people in our lives!



WEEK #2: CAIAPHAS

THOSE WHO PERSECUTE YOU

MATTHEW 26:57-68 (ESV)

“**57** Then those who had seized Jesus led him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders had gathered. **58** And Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest, and going inside he sat with the guards to see the end. **59**

Now the chief priests and the whole council were seeking false testimony against Jesus that they might put him to death, **60** but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward **61** and said, “This man said, ‘I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to rebuild it in three days.’” **62** And the high priest stood up and said, “Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?” **63** But Jesus remained silent. And the high priest said to him, “I adjure you by the living God, tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God.” **64** Jesus said to him, “You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.” **65** Then the high priest tore his robes and said, “He has uttered blasphemy. What further witnesses do we need? You have now heard his blasphemy. **66** What is your judgment?” They answered, “He deserves death.” **67** Then they spit in his face and struck him. And some slapped him, **68** saying, “Prophecy to us, you Christ! Who is it that struck you?”



HOW DID JESUS DEAL WITH HIS PERSECUTORS?

IDENTITY

Caiaphas, the Jewish high priest during the years of Jesus' ministry, plays a central role in His arrest, sentencing and eventual crucifixion. Driven by jealousy and fear, he and other religious leaders dedicate extensive energy to ensure that Jesus' ministry comes to an end. Caiaphas' accusations are centered around the topic of identity: "But Jesus remained silent. And the high priest said to him, 'I adjure you by the living God, **tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God**'" (Matt. 26:63). Jesus remains calm in the midst of persecution because He recognizes that He doesn't need to prove Himself because His Father already approves of Him. Similarly, when people attack or taunt us because of our faith in Christ, we can rest in the relationship purchased for us through His finished work on the cross!

UNDERSTANDING

In response to Caiaphas' question about His identity, Jesus says, "You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven" (Matt. 26:24). He recognizes that Caiaphas doesn't understand the eternal significance of what is taking place. There will soon come a day when Jesus' claim of being the Son of God will be placed on full display through His resurrection, ascension and eventual return!

PURPOSE

Hundreds of years before Matthew 26, the Holy Spirit inspires Isaiah the prophet to write the following about Jesus: "He was oppressed, and he was afflicted yet **he opened not his mouth**; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth" (Isaiah 53:7). Jesus is God. With one word, he could put an abrupt end to this abuse. Why doesn't He? He understands that this persecution is essential for fulfilling Isaiah's prophecy. Similarly, when we face persecution as Christians, we can take comfort in knowing that no weapon, not even death, can separate us from God and the purpose He has for us!

LET'S TALK ABOUT THIS

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS
(IF TIME ALLOWS)

QUESTION #1

What is one thing that “jumped out” to you while reading Matthew 26:57-68?

QUESTION #2

Why do you think Caiaphas was so determined to stop Jesus' ministry?

QUESTION #3

Can you think of a time when you, or someone you know, was persecuted or taunted because of their faith in Jesus? What did you learn from that experience?

Note: While it's important to demonstrate the mercy and grace of Jesus, there are times when it's unadvisable, and maybe even unsafe, to reconnect with someone who has hurt you. If it's dangerous for your physical, emotional or spiritual health, do not restore contact with the individual.



BEFORE YOU GO

BIG IDEA



Jesus didn't retaliate during persecution because He was fulfilling a prophecy essential for our salvation. When people attack or taunt us for our faith, we can take comfort in the knowledge that God forewarned us about persecution, and His approval is what truly matters.

SHARING TRUTH



Who is someone in your life that needs to hear about what we discussed today? Pray for them, and find time this week to encourage them.

MEETING NEEDS



What is something your YCI club can do to show God's love this semester?



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