



## LIFELINE Discussion Guide

Week of March 23, 2026

1. Life is full of those moments where “...there’s no going back.” Think of these common examples: High school graduation. First day of a new job. Getting married. Moving to a new state. Signing paperwork for a home mortgage. What are some of the emotions you feel when you’re forced into a new situation? Discuss your answers.
2. **Read John 11:45-53.** Skim backwards through the earlier verses of John 11. What miraculous event forced the hand of these religious leaders? What was the purpose of this closed-door meeting?
3. Why did these religious leaders view Jesus as a threat? If Jesus rode a wave of popularity into political power, how might that affect the Nation’s status with the Roman Empire? (see verse 48)
4. Did Jesus come to be a political revolutionary or drive out the Roman occupation? Explain your answer with the help of Matthew 20:28, Ephesians 1:7, and 1 John 3:8. If someone asked you to explain the life of Jesus and why He came, what would you say? Was He just a teacher, moral example, or life-coach?
5. What suggestion did the high priest Caiphas make to the group about how to handle Jesus (verses 49-50)? Was this morally right or wrong? What was his defense of such an action?
6. In verse 51, John the gospel writer wants us to see the tremendous “irony” of Caiphas’ statement. Caiphas didn’t realize it at the moment, but he had just spoke a tremendous truth about Jesus’ death. What was God going to do through Jesus’ death on the cross? (verses 51-52)? See also Colossians 2:13-14.
7. What ultimate decision was made by the religious elites in verse 53? Why was this so despicable?
8. Their goal was to execute Jesus and forever eliminate His influence. But what actually happened? Read Acts 4:8-12 and Philipians 2:9-11.
9. If God was able to take the evil plans of people and use them to accomplish His eternal purposes of salvation, what does that mean about His sovereignty over your life today? If hard or horrible things happen to you, does that mean God is absent or against you? Discuss your answers and be sure to include Romans 8:28.

*Even the evil schemes against Jesus serve the eternal purposes of Jesus.*