

The Puppet Challenge

“ How to Avoid Being Manipulated ”

- 1. Don't Engage in the Details** vv. 19-21

- 2. Don't Emotionally Engage** vv. 22-24

- 3. Expect to See Hypocrisy** v. 28



Grow Group Discussion Questions

A grow group is 8-16 people who get together weekly to study God's word and the previous Sunday's message. There is a time of discussion, support, encouragement, and learning how the message applies to daily life. **PCC uses the ESV (English Standard Version).**

HOW DO I JOIN A GROUP?

To learn more or join a group, visit pacificcoastchurch.org/gg/ or sign up at the patio Info Kiosk.

Point #1

- Read John 18:19-21. In what way did Jesus avoid engaging with Annas? Why? What does this reveal about Point #1?
- How can you fall into the engagement trap? Give an example. How do you need to apply Point #1 this week?

Point #2

- Read John 18:22-24. Why did the officer hit Jesus? How did Jesus respond? How does this relate to Point #2?
- How do you typically respond to the emotions of others? In what way can this be a trap? How does Point #2 help you?

Point #3

- Read John 18:28. Why didn't the religious leaders not want to enter the governor's headquarters?
- How does this relate to Point #3? Why is Point #3 important to recognize when it comes to manipulation? Be specific.

Daily Devotions

These are provided for mid-week personal spiritual growth. Prayerfully writing out your answers will help you experience real life transformation as you dig deeper into the spiritual truths of God's word and today's message.

A downloadable PDF of this document is also available each week at pacificcoastchurch.org/sermons.

MONDAY // Read John 18:19-21, Matthew 26:59

- Why did Annas ask Jesus about His disciples and teachings? In what way was he trying to manipulate Jesus?
- How did the response of Jesus prevent Him from being manipulated? (i.e., "Why do you ask me?")
- How does this help you better understand the dynamic between engagement and manipulation? Be specific.

TUESDAY // Read John 18:19-21, Genesis 3:1-7

- In what way was the first sin a result of manipulation? Be specific. How could Eve have avoided it from happening?
- Why is this important to recognize? How can you be tempted to engage when you hear things that aren't accurate?
- What is God teaching you about a manipulative situation you are currently facing? Be specific.

WEDNESDAY // Read John 18:22-24, Galatians 5:22-23

- Why did the soldier hit Jesus? Given we can assume Jesus wasn't rude to Annas, what was the soldier trying to do?
- How did Jesus respond? (Hint: legally) In what way did He avoid engaging emotionally in the situation?
- Why is this important when it comes to dealing with manipulative people? How does this help you? Be specific.

THURSDAY // Read John 18:28

- In what way did the religious leaders reveal their hypocrisy when convicting Jesus? (i.e., celebrating Passover)
- What does this highlight about manipulative people? Why is this important to recognize or even anticipate?
- How can seeing hypocrisy in others tempt you to engage? How does God want you to adjust today?

FRIDAY // Read John 18:28, Matthew 23:13-39

- Why did the religious leaders not want to enter the governor's headquarters? What does this reveal about their hearts?
- In what way was this just more of the same for the religious leaders? (c.f., Matthew 23:13-39)
- What does this reveal about hypocrisy and manipulation? What is God teaching you about yourself? Be specific.

SATURDAY // Read John 18:19-24, 28, Matthew 26:59-68, Luke 22:66-71

- When you compare and contrast Annas and Caiaphas, what types of manipulation do you see taking place?
- In what way did Jesus handle them both the same way? Be specific.
- What primary truth have you learned this week to prevent yourself from being manipulated by others?

MEDITATION VERSE: ²³Jesus answered him, "If what I said is wrong, bear witness about the wrong; but if what I said is right, why do you strike me?" ²⁴Annas then sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest. **John 18:23-24**