



GEEKS UNDER GRACE

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AVENGERS: INFINITY WAR (2018) | *Hard Choices* | BIBLE STUDY

Facilitator Note: *We encourage facilitators to take this Bible study and expound on it throughout the week, allowing it to be a springboard for deeper conversation and personal meditation.*

PRESS START

Obviously, this film left a lot for us to process. There were so many shocking deaths. So let's start with this question...

Ask: *Whose death was the most shocking to you? Why?*

EQUIP

Ask: *Have you ever found yourself in an impossible situation where the only good solution was one you knew people wouldn't understand? What did that situation look like and how did you feel when you were walking through that process?*

LEVEL UP

In the film, Dr. Strange uses the time stone to look at every possible outcome of the situation at hand. His hope and plan was to discover some way of stopping Thanos. Much to his dismay, after searching through 14 million possibilities, he said he had found only one solution. As we all know, he ended up handing over his stone to Thanos. Many theorists believe he did this because he has a vision that this is the only outcome that ends with a true victory. If this is the case, then that would explain his final words before he blew away into dust: "This is the only way."

Unfortunately, this left a lot of people questioning Strange's actions. His solution simply did not make any sense; how could something so tragic end in a true victory?

We find a similar situation happening in the scriptures. Jesus has seen every possible solution to man's issues with sin, and He knows there's only one solution to give mankind a true victory. But it's a tragic process and many do not understand it. Not even his disciples understood it.

In **Matthew 16**, there were a number of interesting events that took place, not the least of which were the Pharisees demanding a sign from Jesus and Peter's confession of Jesus as the Messiah. Just after Peter's confession, we are told Jesus lays out some interesting teachings.

Matthew 16:21-23 *"From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, 'Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you.' But He turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.'"*

So here we have Jesus lay out His plan to His disciples. Jesus' plan was to suffer persecution, be murdered, and then be resurrected three days later. This idea surprised Peter; how could the Christ whom he just professed end up dead in such a fashion?!

Ask: *Have you ever been told by an authority they were going to have to suffer hardship for you? How did it make you feel? How did you respond?*

Many people are familiar with Jesus' infamous words to Peter: "Get behind me Satan!" Some of you may have said it to a loved one recently (that was a joke, relax)! But His following words are often overlooked. One translation reads, "You are a stumbling block to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man." Here we have Jesus rebuking Peter, explaining He has a plan in motion and Peter's interference would mess things up.

Why though? Peter was seeing the situation through the filter of his own eyes instead of through the divine eyes Jesus was seeing things through. Jesus knew the plan because it was given to Him by the Father. This doesn't mean it was easy for Him, though.

Luke 22:41-44 *"And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, saying, 'Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.' And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him. And being in agony he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground."*

Here we see Jesus struggling with the situation at hand. We see Him asking the Father for an opportunity for man's salvation to take place any other way. But He's also showing humility and determination to let the will of the Father be His will too. Like Dr. Strange, there were a lot of heartaches that went into the solution.

MOD

So what is our response? If you're not a follower of Jesus Christ, if you haven't asked Him to forgive you of your sins, then when we pray we'd like to invite you to do so. What we read just now shows the passion that went into Jesus' sacrifice. It wasn't an easy process, and we see from the text it wasn't some sort of surprise. Jesus purposed Himself to live a life that was sinless so it could be the perfect sacrifice for your redemption.

If you're in this room and you are a follower of Jesus, let this discussion be a reminder to us. It's easy to go through our Christian walk and become numb or apathetic towards the process of Jesus' sacrifice. This lesson should spur you to do more than walk in the peace that comes with salvation, but to walk with purpose to reach the lost who Christ has suffered, died, and resurrected for.

*(Suggestion: End the Bible Study by taking communion. If you have questions about how to take communion, we invite you to read through **1 Corinthians 11:7-34**)*

PRAY

End the meeting praying with those who wish to have Jesus forgive them of their sins and then pray for the Lord to use the passages you studied tonight to give you a renewed passion to serve Christ and reach the lost.

THE NEXT LEVEL

Luke 22:19-20 *“And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, ‘This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.’ In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.’”*

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