

John 18 — He Knocked the Army Down

John 18:6 (with 18:4–5 · 18:8–9 · 18:11 · John 10:17–18) · For posting on YouTube & Facebook. Use the overview for the description; add the prompt and links wherever they fit.

VIDEO OVERVIEW (post-ready)

John 18 opens with an armed detachment marching into a garden with lanterns, torches, and weapons — to arrest one unarmed man. Jesus steps forward and asks who they’re looking for, and when they say “Jesus of Nazareth,” he answers with two words: **“I am he” — and the whole company draws back and falls to the ground.** Armed soldiers, flat in the dirt, at a word from his mouth. That’s John showing us who is actually in charge of this arrest. Jesus had already said it in John 10: **“No one takes my life from me... I lay it down of my own accord”** — and John 18 is where he proves it. He identifies himself twice, uses the moment of power not to escape but to shield his disciples — “let these men go” — and tells Peter to put the sword away: “shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?” Nobody took Jesus’s life that night. He laid it down — willingly, deliberately, for sinners.

GO DEEPER — STUDY PROMPT FOR VIEWERS

Read **John 18:1–11** with a pen and circle every verb Jesus performs — then underline every verb done *to* him. Count them both, and notice who is acting and who is being acted upon. Then read **John 10:17–18** and write one sentence answering this question from the text: who arrested whom? Finally, trace the bare “I am” through John’s Gospel — **John 8:24**, **John 8:58–59**, and here in **John 18:5–6** — and ask why the same words that made them pick up stones now put them on the ground.

KEY PASSAGES REFERENCED

Elsewhere in John: 18:4–9 · 18:11 · 10:17–18 · 8:58–59 · 12:27 · 17:12

Other Gospels: Matthew 26:52–54 · Mark 14:36 · Luke 22:31–32

Rest of Scripture: Exodus 3:14 · Psalm 27:2 · Isaiah 51:17 · Revelation 1:17

RESOURCES & FURTHER READING

The Living Care of the Dying Christ

C.H. Spurgeon — Christian Classics Ethereal Library
<https://www.ccel.org/ccel/spurgeon/sermons40.xxvii.html>

Spurgeon on John 18:8–9 — even at his own arrest, Christ’s first thought is protecting his people: “let these go their way.”

The Arrest of Jesus

R.C. Sproul — Ligonier Ministries
<https://learn.ligonier.org/sermons/arrest-jesus>

Sproul preaches John 18:1–14 — the “I am he” that knocked them down, and Christ’s willing, active obedience on the way to the cross.

Expository Thoughts on John — Chapter 18

J.C. Ryle — GraceGems
<https://www.gracegems.org/Ryle/j18.htm>

Ryle on the “secret invisible power” in Jesus’s words — proof the soldiers could never have taken him without his permission.