

Small Group Questions
Pull and Release
Matthew 26:6-16 and 27:1-10

1. *Warm-up Game:* Have students pick a partner. Have partners stand two feet apart, facing each other with their own feet spread two feet as well. Each student should then put hands up with palms out (like a hold up). The goal is to try to push the other person's hands so that they lose their balance and have to move their feet. The students can only touch hands (palms flat, no interlocking fingers or holding), nothing else. Winners should move on to play other winners until you get a champion.
2. *How was this game like the game Brian played in large group? What were the strategies for winning?* You had to know when to push or relax. In the large group game you had to either pull or release. Both games required knowing when to do both of the two moves.
3. *Read Matthew 26:6-16 and 27:1-10.* What strikes you about the differences between Judas and Mary? Have students make a list of observations about each of the characters.
4. *Do you ever find yourself acting like Judas and trying to pull stuff out of God just for yourself?*
5. *What ways are you releasing your faith? How do you pour out your life before God?*
6. *The beauty of the woman pouring out the perfume was that it was both a release and a pull. She released something that she probably really loved. But she pulled closer to Christ through worship. On the back of the scripture page is two lists. One has activities that we can do to release things so that we get to know Jesus better. The other has activities we can do to pull closer to Jesus. Read through the list as a group and then have students do the following.*
 - a. *Determine which list you do more of (example: I tend to be more about pulling closer, than letting go of stuff)*
 - b. *Determine two things, one from each list that you could work on and ways you will do that this Holy Week.*