



**“Judas - Almost”**  
***EPIC FAIL***  
**Small Group Plan**  
**By Robert Stolte**

For three plus years Judas listened to the best teacher ever known. He heard the truth spoken but also experienced it lived out in the man Jesus Christ.

The more Judas heard, though, the more he rejected, and the more he rejected the more his heart hardened. He no longer responded to the teaching ministry of Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Judas gradually hardened to the point that it became a convenient place for Satan himself, leading to betrayal and death.

**OPEN IT / INTRODUCE IT ...**

- What are some ways that people try to deal with guilt?
- Tell about someone you know who is compassionate and caring.

**LOOK AT IT / STUDY IT ...**

**Read Matthew 27:1-5**

<sup>1</sup> *Early in the morning, all the chief priests and the elders of the people made their plans how to have Jesus executed. <sup>2</sup> So they bound him, led him away and handed him over to Pilate the governor.*

<sup>3</sup> *When Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. <sup>4</sup> “I have sinned,” he said, “for I have betrayed innocent blood.”*

*“What is that to us?” they replied. “That’s your responsibility.”*

<sup>5</sup> *So Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself.*

- Why do you think the chief priests were so insensitive to Judas’s remorse?

- In what situations do we sometimes offer token compassion or ignore altogether those who are hurting?
- What would you say to someone who was feeling extremely guilty and depressed?
- How can we avoid a downward spiral of sin, guilt, depression, more sin, greater guilt, deeper depression, etc.?
- How does sin, if allowed to go unchecked, cause us to lose all sense of rightness and kindness.
- What practical steps can we take when confronted with wrongdoing?

### **USE IT / APPLY IT ...**

- What does it look like to love Jesus?
- How can we encourage others when they suffer over the result of a bad or sinful choice?
- How would you generally advise someone to finish well?