

# king's chapel

## *Community Group Discussion Guide*

Week of October 16, 2016

**This Week's Focus:** Jesus is the true and better substitute because he accomplished God's plan of redemption, established before the foundation of the world, through his substitutionary, atoning death on the cross, thereby securing the salvation of all those who believe in him.

**This Week's Text:** John 11:45-57

The concept of substitution may be said, then, to lie at the heart of both sin and salvation. For the essence of sin is man substituting himself for God, while the essence of salvation is God substituting himself for man. Man asserts himself against God and puts himself where God only deserves to be; God sacrifices himself for man and puts himself where only man deserves to be. Man claims prerogatives, which belong to God alone; God accepts penalties, which belong to man alone. **John Stott**

### **Observations and Questions for Discussion:**

- What are your general impressions about this week's passage of Scripture?
- What was the reaction of those who witnessed Jesus raise Lazarus from the dead? Why the mixed response? What does this miracle reveal about Jesus' identity and his purpose and work in the world? Reference verses 4 and 25.
- What was the purpose of the Jewish council's meeting? What motivated them to make "plans to put him [Jesus] to death"? What is the difference between negative fear and positive fear? Name some negative fears that you struggle with. How do we cultivate positive fear of God that empowers us to live in freedom?
- How did Caiaphas address the Sanhedrin (Jewish Council)? What was his duty as the high priest of Israel? How could his decision to murder Jesus also be considered a legitimate, God-directed prophecy? Reference verses 51-52.
- Why was it necessary for Jesus to suffer on the cross as a substitute for the entire world ("penal substitutionary atonement")? What did Jesus accomplish by his atoning death on the cross?
- What is the Passover? Discuss how Jesus is the truer and better Passover lamb.
- How does the passage encourage you to declare and demonstrate the gospel in your community and spheres of influence?