

Gospel of Luke: Garden of Gethsemane

March 17

Luke 22:39-46

the gospel according to

LUKE

Begin with Prayer

In silence, invite the Holy Spirit to guide you. Then pray: *Empowering God, we pray that you will send your Holy Spirit to move us to understanding; to help us to believe the gospel; to give us strength and wisdom to live by it. Amen.* (Worship Sourcebook Q.3.5.8)

Reconnecting and Debriefing

Take a moment to check in with one another (2 minutes each).

1. *What was an interesting moment in your life the last week?*
2. *How do you speak when you pray? Do you speak formally, casually, intimately, etc.?*

Introduction

When we gather, our goal is to be a people apprenticed to the life of Jesus. As you begin this week, remind your group to be respectful and non-judgmental.

Listening to God's Word

Nobody wants to experience pain – our instinct is typically to avoid suffering at all costs. However, there are inevitably hardships that we cannot avoid in life. Despite being God, even Jesus felt this desire to avoid pain. In this week's passage, we see Jesus praying in solitude for God to save him from suffering, stressing the importance of prayer to his disciples in the process. **This week's study guide will address how Jesus prays in the midst of suffering and how that serves as a model for us as his apprentices.**

Small Group Discussion

Read Luke 22:39-46 Then discuss together:

- *What is your first thought when you read through this passage?*
- *Jesus had a place that he went to pray regularly. What kind of place or times do you find prayer comes most naturally?*
- *When warning his disciples about temptation, Jesus does not name what temptation. What do you think he was referring to?*
- *Why did Jesus feel the need to withdraw from the disciples to pray alone?*
- *Jesus prays both with his disciples and alone. In what situations do you feel the need to pray with others? In what situations do you feel the need to pray alone?*
- *Despite earnestly praying for the Father to spare him, the answer to Jesus' prayer is no. How do you respond when your vital prayers aren't answered?*
- *Jesus trusts that God's will is good, even when the answer is no. As hard as this is, how can you keep that attitude?*

- **Read Luke 22:42 & Matthew 4:11.** In both passages, angels came and attended to Jesus. *What do you think the role of angels is in these key times? Do you think they are still at work today?*
- The disciples are aware of the need to pray, but their sorrow keeps them from doing so. *Where in your life do you feel you've been avoiding prayer?*
- ***How do you sense the Holy Spirit calling you to respond to or act on what we have read and discussed?***

Practices – Prayer of Relinquishment

In this text, Jesus famously prays the line, “Yet not my will, but yours be done.” After praying for his desired outcome, despite his pain, he submits to the will of God. Jesus’ apprentices are called to the same level of honest prayer alongside humble submission. This does not mean we don’t care about the issues we pray about or don’t want God to act – we are honest and earnest in prayer, and yet we commit to follow God, come what may.

Take time to reflect and bring to mind a deep desire that you have. It could be a healing, a future career you want, a life circumstance you want God to change, a relationship, or anything that comes to mind.

Go around the room sharing one at a time what came to mind. After each person shares, have the person next to them pray for them before moving to the next person. In sharing and in prayer, be honest with God about the desire and what you want him to do; then, close your prayer in the same way Jesus did – “Yet not our will, but yours be done.”

During the coming week, continue to pray Jesus’ short prayer as worries and desires come to your mind.

Share how you feel towards the desire that you shared now that you have relinquished it to Jesus.

Caring for One Another

- *Suggest a prayer request that is related to the topic we’ve discussed.*
- ***Do you or your family have a need that the Life Group can help meet?***

Using **the Lord’s Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13)** as a guide, based on what you’ve shared together, spend time listening to God and praying for one another.