

## A LIFE THAT ALWAYS PRAYS YOUR KINGDOM COME

**PLACE:** Pick a public garden where you can gather. You could even ask a member with a green thumb to let people gather in your yard.

**OPENING QUESTIONS** – What parts of “your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven” impact you the most?”

**READ MATTHEW 26:36-46**

**SMALL GROUP SERVANT READ:** Some of the most gut wrenching moments in scripture seem to occur in gardens. In the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve choose to follow their own will instead of God’s, bringing separation from God and death into the world. In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus would set things right by praying for God’s will over his own at the greatest possible cost.

**TIME OF REFLECTION** - Consider any areas in your life where you’ve felt uncomfortable, pressured or anxious. Take a moment to write down a few sentences about any of those pressures you’ve experienced lately.

### DISCUSSION (15 MINUTES):

1. Could these areas be “Gethsemanes,” where the Spirit is squeezing your will toward surrender to God?
2. How might God’s way be different from the path you’ve charted?
3. Is there something that you could surrender that might lead to victory?

**INSTRUCTIONS:** One way to look at the grand narrative of the Bible is to see everything from from gardens to garden to garden. There are four movements of the good news or gospel and they all take place in gardens.

**PRAYER (20 MINUTES):** Break the group up into 4 groups & give the following instruction.

**1ST GROUP:** You are going to pray about creation. This is the first moment of the gospel and we see that God created humankind and placed them in a garden. You will each pray for about a 4 or so praying God for his creation.

**2ND GROUP:** You are going to pray about sin. That’s what happens next in the Garden of Eden. This is not a very fun assignment but we certainly need to pray about sin as it infests our world and infects our hearts.

**3RD GROUP:** Starting in the Garden of Gethsemane and ending at the Garden tomb, Jesus completed his redemptive work, taking our place so that we could receive forgiveness and salvation. Each person should pray about the glory of God’s redemption.

**4TH GROUP:** Even though Jesus made it possible for us to be redeemed we still live in a world that is dominated by sin and desperately in need of restoration. That’s what’s next on God’s calendar and we saw a glimpse of it in Revelation 21-22 which describes a garden city. Each person in this group should pray about the restoration to come for 4 minutes or so.

**If the prayer time doesn’t last 20 minutes, feel free let each group pray for a new topic out of the 4 given.**