

Connection Group Discussion Questions

For the week of March 12, 2017

Matthew 26:36-45

These questions are to be used as a spring board for discussion.

Answers may or may not be found in the sermons.

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

³⁶ Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." ³⁷ He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. ³⁸ Then he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me." ³⁹ And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want." ⁴⁰ Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? ⁴¹ Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." ⁴² Again he went away for the second time and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done." ⁴³ Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. ⁴⁴ So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. ⁴⁵ Then he came to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners."

Connection Questions:

1. By this time in his ministry, Jesus had faced demonic opposition, satanic temptation, and the grilling by Jerusalem's religious leaders, with total composure, why is this time in prayer so different?

2. What does Jesus' time in the Garden of Gethsemane teach us about his humanity?

3. Jesus took only three disciples with him and he had done this before *Luke 8:49-51; Luke 9:28-30*. Why do you think he chose these three?

4. Why was Jesus so upset with the three disciples? What battle were the disciples losing? What opportunities were they missing? Contrast their actions here with their intentions. See *Matthew 20:22; 26:31-35*.

5. What were the reasons for his deep sorrow? See *John 1:29; Matthew 27:46*.

6. How does Jesus' initial prayer in verse 39 compare with his subsequent prayer in verse 42? What do you think has changed in Jesus' perspective?

