

# the garden

We All Need A Place - Mark 14:32-46

## APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

1. Why do you think Jesus had a special place to get alone with God and pray? Do we need a special place to pray? Why? If you don't have one, where could your location be?
2. Why did Jesus pray, if Jesus is God in flesh? Was Jesus busy? Was he too busy to pray? What about us?
3. Do you tend to spend more time praying during a crisis or before? How important is it to have a prayer routine before a storm hits? Read ~ Matthew 6:34; 13:21; John 16:33  
Pastor David—"Church simply put, in order for us to conquer our Calvary we must first be willing to wrestle with God in Gethsemane."
4. Why did Jesus bring his disciples with him? What can you do to practice getting better at praying? How can you improve? Who are you praying for? Who is praying for you? What will you do this week as a result of this passage and discussion?

## MY NEXT STEPS FROM SUNDAY'S WORSHIP:

1. Reach out to 3 people whom I trust asking them to pray about something specific in my life, and I will reach out to 3 people whom I know asking how I can serve or meet a need in their life/family.
2. Pray for our country. For millions of Christians to repent and turn back Christ, and for God to bring His hand of protection back over our nation.
3. Leverage the down time I currently have to invest in my daily walk with Jesus and in my day to day relationships with family and friends.

## COMMENTARY:

**Vs 32.** Jesus was one hundred percent God and one hundred percent man. Mark reveals for us the complete humanity of Christ as he faced the most severe testing of his faith. The Garden of Gethsemane (Hebrew "oil press") was one of Jesus' favorite spots (Luke 22:39; John 18:12). He often went there with his disciples to be alone. Gethsemane was part of an olive orchard at the foot of the Mount of Olives. This garden was possibly the plot of land where an olive press extracted oil from the olives. Symbolically, Jesus would now be pressed hard concerning the fulfillment of his mission as the "sacrifice" for our sins.

**Vs 33.** When facing a crisis, most of us want moral support from others. Jesus was no different. Leaving the rest of the disciples behind, Jesus took with him the three disciples closest to him - **Peter, James and John**. They had been with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration (9:2), and they had accompanied him to the home of Jairus (5:37). They had been with Jesus during the best of times and now during the worst of times. True friendship operates in this fashion.

The words **distressed** and **troubled** describe the intense emotional, psychological, and spiritual suffering that Jesus was experiencing. Jesus knew great physical agony but he would bear all of the sins of the world—past, present, and future He would become the sin bearer; he would be forsaken by his own Father.

**Vs 36.** Here the Son wanted the comfort of his Father. The word **Abba** is the Aramaic word that means “Papa” or “Daddy.” The Jews did not use this word in addressing God because they felt it was disrespectful. But Jesus as the unique Son of God was on the most intimate terms with his Father. Jesus knew that his Father could do anything, and he asked that he take this cup from me. *(Rodney L. Cooper, Mark, Holman New Testament Commentary [Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2000])*

### **Vs 36. - To pray is to surrender to God’s will.**

In Jesus’s Gethsemane prayer we discover the true meaning of all intercession. As Paul says in Romans 8:26-28, we do not know the actual will of God when we pray. Yet we must realize that as we groan, the Spirit groans with us more deeply than we do, and the Spirit knows the mind of God. So when we ask for healing, the removal of trial situations, and so on, we can, like Jesus, throw ourselves on God’s mercy in the sure knowledge that the situation will work out for the best. Our place is to ask and surrender, to give the situation over to God and trust him to work out his will, not to demand that he accede to our request. That is our security and will result in our deliverance. We must learn to pray in the midst of troubles like Jesus did, with the desire that God remove the affliction and yet with a deeper desire for God’s will to be done.

### **Vs 38. - Facing Temptation**

Human Experience: Before being too hard on the disciples for falling asleep, we must remember that we too often succumb to temptation. The question becomes, “How do we stand firm against temptation?” One key is to keep our eyes on our Lord. A great illustration of this fact is to talk about effective dog training. A well-trained dog keeps its focus on its master and takes its cues from his or her commands. For example, a well-trained dog will leave a treat alone, on command, by keeping its eyes focused on the master and not on the treat. Try that same trick with a puppy, and puppy will immediately focus its attention on the treat and then disobediently eat it. One key to standing firm in temptation is to focus our attention on our Master and not on the temptation. *(Grant R. Osborne, Mark, Teach the Text Commentary Series [Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Publishing Group, 2014])*

## **FOR YOUNGER KIDS:**

What is prayer? Talking to God

Who should pray? Everyone

When should we pray? All the time! (before meals, when we wake up, when things are good, when things are bad, etc.)

What should you say? Prayer is talking to God, so say whatever it is you want to say to Him. Give Him glory, thank Him for what He's done, tell Him what you're worried or excited about, etc. Don't be afraid if you have no idea what to say, because the Bible says that the Holy Spirit will help you pray, even if it's just through tears. We pray in Jesus' name because there's power in the name of Jesus. And we often say "amen" (which means "so be it") as a way to respectfully end our prayers.

## **KIDS' ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK:**

- Find a quiet place in your house to pray. Make this your prayer place.
- Write on the top of a piece of paper "A Prayer for My Future...." Write this information on it: your name, grade, date, what you want to be when you grow up, and what you are praying for.
- Fill a piece of paper with the words of Jeremiah 29:12 "Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you."
- Write on the top of a piece of paper "Praying for My Family...." Draw a picture of your family. Hang it in your special prayer place to remind you to pray for them. Write a specific prayer for your family on the bottom of your picture.
- Write on the top of a piece of paper "A Prayer for the Sick..." Write the names of sick people that need prayer, and pray for them.
- Write on the top of a piece of paper "Thank you for..." Make a list of all the gifts God has given you. Remember to thank Him for these gifts.

# THE ABC OF MEETING TOGETHER:

A - Ask	B - Bible	C - Commit
<p><b>Share and Pray</b>            Ask: "What's going well?"            Ask: "What's not going well?"            Facilitate conversation about real life.            Fellowship: Jumping into one another's worlds            Praise: For the good things            Prayer: For the challenges</p>	<p><b>Study and Apply Scripture</b>            Read            Re-Read            Re-tell</p> <p>Go over suggested application questions above.</p>	<p><b>Discuss and Commit</b>            I will ...            How would I tell what I have learnt to someone I know?</p>
<p><b>Accountability and Support</b>            "So how did we go last week?" Look back and discuss how we went with the steps from last week. Done in a spirit of love, accountability and encouragement.</p>	<p><b>Questions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What do I learn about God?</li> <li>• What do I learn about us?</li> <li>• What do I feel about the story?</li> <li>• What does this teach me?</li> <li>• What do I need to obey?</li> </ul>	<p>How can we reach people outside our world?            Luke 10 + other stories of how Jesus reached people. Testimony and sharing good news.            How do I do that?            Pray and commit to pray every day</p>
<p><b>Vision Cast</b>            Answers the question "Why are we doing this?"            Lead this well as it's an important part of the process. Scripture: E.g., the Great Commission, Luke 15. Stories and testimonies</p>	<p><b>Holy Spirit Speaking</b>            Spend a bit of time waiting for the Holy Spirit to speak to us. "God, what should I do as a result of reading this?"</p>	<p><b>Pray:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For the coming week</li> <li>• For the lesson learnt today</li> <li>• For those we are reaching</li> </ul>