



KINGDOMCOME

parables of the kingdom

As we are in Holy Week with Good Friday and Easter around the corner, we'll be taking time to reflect on one of Jesus' last moments before being crucified—his prayer time in Gethsemane. As a reminder we have our Good Friday service this Friday from 5:30pm-6:30 in Mott Auditorium and then our Easter service with an egg hunt in the morning and a food truck picnic in the afternoon this Sunday.

FAMILY TIME

Take some time to share prayer requests and praise reports with each other and encourage folks to keep praying for each other's prayer requests throughout the week and to believe that these will become future praise reports.

DISCUSSION BASED BIBLE STUDY

See attached for a printout you can provide to your lifegroup members and for a simple guide on facilitating Bible studies.

Intro Question: What's the most suffering you have ever endured?

Mark 14:32-42

³²They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." ³³He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled. ³⁴"My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death," he said to them. "Stay here and keep watch." ³⁵Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him. ³⁶"Abba, Father," he said, "everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will." ³⁷Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Simon," he said to Peter, "are you asleep? Couldn't you keep watch for one hour?" ³⁸Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." ³⁹Once more he went away and prayed the same thing. ⁴⁰When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. They did not know what to say to him. ⁴¹Returning the third time, he said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The hour has come. Look, the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners. ⁴²Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!"

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What was the role of prayer for Jesus?
- Why does Jesus pray the prayer he does?
- Why does Jesus ask his disciples to pray? What is Jesus afraid will happen to them?
- What does faithfulness to God look like?

APPLICATION

What does it mean to me that Jesus understands what it is like to suffer?

In what ways is my flesh weak and what would it look like for me to not fall into temptation?

SMALL GROUP

Break up into groups of 3-4 to share about how the passage spoke to each person. Then take time to pray for each other.

PRAYING FOR EASTER

As Easter is approaching, take some time in small groups to pray together for Easter. Here are some possible prayer points:

- For people to have a great time whether they are newcomers or not!
- For our unchurched friends to come.
- For our church members to welcome and love newcomers well.
- For people to encounter God through the service and in conversations.
- For people to understand the significance of the cross and celebrate the implications of Jesus' resurrection.

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FACILITATING INDUCTIVE/DISCUSSION BASED BIBLE STUDIES

STEP 1: OBSERVATION (about 10-15 minutes)

- Before you begin, pray to ask the Holy Spirit to reveal the truths of the passage and to speak to each person, including yourself!
- Start by giving everyone a printout of the passage and giving them a few minutes to read through the passage on their own. It would be helpful to provide pens and markers for people to make notes or write down questions.
- Then gather the group together and give people an opportunity to share their observations. The purpose here is to identify what's going on in the text and to make sure we're all on the same page since people might notice or miss things others didn't.
- You could ask people to answer the basic investigative questions who (is speaking, are the main characters, is being spoken to), what (is happening, is the cultural context of the passage, is the scene), where (is the passage taking place), when (did the events take place), and how (did Jesus, people respond)?
- You could also pay attention to key words and phrases.

STEP 2: QUESTIONS AND INTERPRETATION (about 30-45 minutes)

- After giving people an opportunity to fill out the details of the passage during observation time, move into a time of questions. Since we want people to engage with the text for themselves and to see who Jesus is for themselves, we want to allow their questions to guide the study.
- You could have people ask all their questions up front and then go through them together afterwards. This way you can start with the questions from the beginning of the passage and move towards the end. This is in case you come across a later question that can't be answered until an earlier one is.
- You will want to write down people's questions as they ask them so you can refer back to them later.
- As you go through the questions, your goal is to get the group to try and answer the question together. Don't worry about having all the answers! Your primary task is to facilitate discussion and to help foster a space where people can think through questions for themselves and be open to how God might want to speak to them.
- If you're short on time, feel free to cut short discussion on some of the less important questions or even to skip them altogether. We want to make sure we focus the bulk of our energy on the more important parts of the passage.
- It would be helpful to read through the passage ahead of time in order to gain an idea of what the key questions or the crucial parts might be.
- Try to limit this section to under 45 minutes so people have time and energy to go into application and small groups.

STEP 3: APPLICATION AND SMALL GROUPS (about 15-30 minutes)

- This is the most crucial part of the whole study! Whereas the first two steps can feel more intellectual, here is where we actively look to see what the passage means for us personally.
- You could give people a few minutes to reflect on the passage and on the discussion and to ask God what he is saying to them personally.
- Beyond general revelations, we also want people to identify how they can practically respond to the passage and put things into action. Putting things into practice is what allows God to change our lives.
- Then break up into small groups of 3-4 so that people can share with each other how God spoke to them through the passage and how they want to respond and also to pray for each other to be able to believe and obey what they heard from God.