



Week of Dec 3 - a

Scripture: Mt 26:30-35

Main Idea: Jesus is trying to prepare his apostles for what is to come with his trial, death, burial, and resurrection. They think they are ready and prepared. Jesus tells them they are going to turn their backs on him. But he is already preparing for what will follow when they return to him.

Questions

Preschool: Do you think it hurt Jesus' feelings when the apostles turned their backs on him?

Grade school: The disciples had been with Jesus for a while. They had been watching and learning. But, they still had no idea what was going to happen to Jesus. How could you prepare for something like that? He knows what's going to happen to him and he knows how his disciples will react. He also knows they are human and they will return to him after they fall short.

Teen: Even if you do not intend to turn from Jesus, is it possible you will? And if this were to happen, is Jesus waiting with open arms when you find your way back to Him? Peter's fear was greater than his faith. What helps you get your eyes back on Jesus when fear starts to creep in?

Adult: Let's place ourselves in the disciples' shoes. We've been following Jesus for some time. We believe he will set up an earthly kingdom. We've just eaten the Passover feast, a significant celebration for Jews, with this man we believe will be a King. Now, he tells us that we will all fall away "on account of me." How would you feel? Would you, like Peter and the other disciples (v35), believe you would never desert or disown Jesus? Do you think they got much sleep that night? How must they have felt the next morning when they each had fled? Do you think they replayed Jesus' words and their own in their heads for days?

PRAYER REQUESTS

December Memory Verse:

Romans 8:28 (NIV)
And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.



Week of Dec 3 - b

Scripture: Mt 26:36-46

Main Idea: This is the end of Jesus’ regular ministry and the suffering and sacrifice are about to begin. The horror of what he will go through was dreadful. Jesus prays for God to provide another way. But there is no other way. Jesus shows us his great love, by surrendering to his Father at the greatest cost, “not as I will, but as you will.”

Questions

Preschool: How do you think Jesus felt when he asked God to provide a different way, but God did change the plan?

Grade school: Jesus was full of sorrow at this point. He was sad and probably overwhelmed. Do you think he was scared? He was human wasn't he? He wants to know if there's any other way, but he knows there isn't. So he prays again but he knew that what he was about to do was the only way to save God's people

Teen: Jesus would have preferred a different way, but his love for you and his love and obedience to his Father led him to the cross. What does knowing this mean to you? Does praying help when you need strength and help resisting temptation? Why don't we do this more?

Adult: When your loved one is anxious about something, can you tell? What signs do you notice that gives you a hint that things are not well? Jesus says he is grieved or sorrowful to the point of death. When have you experienced severe emotional trauma? Can you remember exactly how that felt? Did your heart pound, blood rush in your ears? Even years later, can you place yourself in that time and feel the same distress? Jesus had asked Peter, James and John to keep watch with him, yet their eyes were heavy, and they slept. Why do you think they failed to provide comfort to Jesus? Do you think they failed to understand Jesus' emotional state? Did they know he was soon to be crucified?

PRAYER REQUESTS

December Memory Verse:

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