

SERMON: The Courageous Love of Jesus
SERIES: The Gospel of Mark
SPEAKER: Pastor Mark

February 18, 2018

CONNECT (5-10 minutes): Help the members of the group grow in relationships with one another so all people in the group know they matter. Spend some time discovering what is happening in the lives of your group members. Share how God has been revealing himself in each other's lives.

REVIEW (15-20 minutes): Use this time to review the passage and the sermon outline (see below).

Note: this is a great opportunity to share leadership.

Use these simple questions to review the sermon/passage or for if you don't have much time:

1. What does this passage teach you about God? About us?
2. How does this passage point us to the gospel? How does it challenge you? Change you?

SCRIPTURE:

Mark 14:32-42.

³² And they went to a place called Gethsemane. And he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." ³³ And he took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be greatly distressed and troubled. ³⁴ And he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death. Remain here and watch." ³⁵ And going a little farther, he fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. ³⁶ And he said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will." ³⁷ And he came and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not watch one hour? ³⁸ Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." ³⁹ And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. ⁴⁰ And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy, and they did not know what to answer him. ⁴¹ And he came the third time and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? It is enough; the hour has come. The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴² Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand."

SERMON OUTLINE:

- I. The Agony of Jesus
- II. The Prayer of Jesus
- III. Trusting God in Our Suffering

GROW (45-60 minutes): Use this time to go deeper with your group.

Use these questions to discuss the sermon/passage:

1. Pastor Mark talked about the Christian life being a journey full of starts, stops, detours, battles, defeats, and victories. Can you relate to this vision of the Christian life? Have you faced any crisis on this journey that have challenged your faith?
2. Jesus suffered great agony in the Garden of Gethsemane. How do you tend to deal with your suffering? Do you isolate yourself? How can Jesus in Gethsemane inform our response to suffering?
3. Jesus suffered physically, emotionally, and spiritually as a sinner, even though he never sinned. What does Jesus' suffering mean to you personally?
4. Do you struggle with a God that is wrathful? Think about and discuss: God's wrath is his love in action.
5. "God permits what he hates to accomplish what he loves." Are you able to believe that God is good even when your circumstances are bad? How does the cross prove God's goodness to you? How can Hebrews 4:15 help you to trust God in the midst of your suffering?

Pray: Praise and thank God the Father, Son, and Spirit for accomplishing your redemption through Christ's suffering. Ask God to bring a deeper faith and communion with Christ through your suffering.