

Life Group Leader Guide: “Struggling with God”

Dates: 1/17/21- 1/23/21

Video:

Show the video. It is about 3 minutes long.

Scripture: Mark 14: 32-42

Gethsemane

32 They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.” **33** He 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.” **35** Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him. **36** “*Abba*, [f] Father,” he said, “everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.” **37** Then 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? **38** Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.” **39** Once more he went away and prayed the same thing. **40** When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. They did not know what to say to him. **41** Returning 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. **42** Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!”

Reflection Time

- We recommend taking about 4-5 minutes for people to reflect after the passage. But before you do, say something like:
 - “I encourage you to first take a couple minutes to reflect on this passage and the video, come up with any questions, connections, or what the passage says to you tonight.”

Question: Does anything surprise you about Jesus’ actions in this passage? What thoughts does he have that challenge your assumptions about him?

Question: How do you reconcile Jesus’ question to the Father in verse 36 (let this cup pass from me) with his nature as the Son of God?

Question: In verse 33, It mentions that Jesus was accompanied by his closest friends and disciples Why do you think he brought them along to that point in the garden?

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Question: What resolution does Jesus come to in the middle of his doubts and struggles (HINT: end of verse 36)

Question: In verse 34, Jesus says that he is overwhelmed by sorrow to the point of death. Is that a statement that has ever been true for you? In what season of your life did you experience this?

Observation: Jesus experienced doubt in this passage, showing us that it is not inherently sinful to doubt. In fact, this passage shows us that at times it may be necessary to arrive at the place where we can live out God’s will for us. However, there is a way that we can engage with doubt that walks *with* God and allows a way forward and a way to doubt that actually produces hopelessness and enduring distance from God

Question: How did Jesus perfectly model how to engage with doubt, but remain anchored in God?

Question: What is the role of surrender and submission to God in processing our trials and doubts?

Observation: In your experience, what are some *unworthy* ways you have seen the Church or Christians respond to to their struggles with God? What consequences did they have?

Question: What is a personal example of a doubt that you have struggled with, and how you moved with it and through it to a healthier place with God?

Observation: Are there any doubts that you are currently struggling with? How have you been contending with them?

Prayer:

(LIFE GROUP LEADERS):