



Week 4  
Discipleship Study  
Questions



**Mark Part 1: The Journey to the Cross**

During the season of Lent, we will follow Jesus on His journey to the cross. As disciples of Jesus, we have to understand the cost of what He did for us. Jesus intentionally went to His death, suffering physical pain and separation from God. Even if we've heard this story before, we still can remind ourselves of the enormity of Christ's sacrifice for us.

But praise God, His journey didn't end at the cross – He is risen!

### **Read the Scripture:**

*Individual:* Read the passage from two or three different translations.

*Group:* Have two different group members read the passage using different Bible translations.

### **Speak the Scripture:**

*Individual:* Recite the story aloud from memory (as best you can) or tell it to a friend or family member. The goal here is to get the essence of the passage in your heart.

*Group:* Have someone volunteer to recite the passage aloud in their own words, as best they can.

### **Understand the Scripture:**

*Individual or Group:* Use the Discovery Questions to help ensure you understand the passage.

### **Dig Deeper into the Scripture:**

*Individual:* Work through the Digging Deeper questions and pray about what God reveals to you through His word. Discuss with a Christian friend or family member if you choose.

*Group:* Work through the Digging Deeper questions as a group, celebrating the work God is already doing in each person's life, and encouraging each other to trust Him in the places that need growth.

# Small Group Guidelines

## **This is a Safe Group**

Confidentiality is key—what is said in the group stays in the group. Be aware of how you are affecting the environment with your words, actions, and non-verbal communication. This needs to be a place where people feel comfortable opening up and sharing.

## **No Crosstalk**

Be considerate of others as they are sharing. No side conversations, phone time, texting etc.

## **Listen**

Let's value one another by listening to what is being shared. Allow a pause after someone shares to allow them to finish and others to consider what was said. Eye contact and body posture play key roles in creating a positive or negative group environment.

## **No Rescuing or Fixing**

We are not here to fix each other; Jesus does that part. Avoid the tendency to rescue when someone is struggling to get the words out or shares a struggle or conviction.

## **Use "I" Statements**

It's easy to talk about the issues of others, or respond with "we," "us," or "the church," but for us to grow as disciples and build relationships, we want to use "I" statements.

## **Don't Over-Talk**

We want to create time for all members of the group to participate in the discussion. Be careful not to always be the first responder or regularly give long responses.

## **Fight for Relationship**

It's not if conflict or hurt feelings will happen, but when. We commit to fight for relationship with each other. Go to the person and share your struggle or seek wise advice if you are not sure how to handle the conflict.

## Week 4

**Background:** After celebrating the Passover with the disciples, Jesus headed to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray. This was not unusual for Jesus; on the contrary, the gospels are full of examples of times Jesus spent time alone with His Father. He invited his three closest disciples to watch and pray as well – but they were not up to the task. The scene ends with the arrival of the chief priests and the guards as Jesus is arrested.

**Read:** Mark 14:32-52

### **Discovery Questions:**

What do we learn about God in this passage?

What do we learn about what it means to be a follower of Christ in this passage?

What do you think the Holy Spirit might be teaching you personally through this passage?

Is there anything God is leading you to do after reading this passage?

### **Digging Deeper:**

What stands out to you about Jesus' prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane? How do you relate to Jesus' struggle between praying for something you desire and ultimately surrendering to God's will?

How does the disciples' failure to pray reflect our own tendency to neglect spiritual preparation during difficult times?

What led to the disciples' panic in this moment, and how could prayer have prepared them to respond differently?

What are some ways we can build a habit of prayer now, to help prevent panic later?

What can we learn from Jesus' obedience in the Garden—especially the way he prayed, 'Not my will, but yours be done'?

### **End this time with a prayer.**

*Heavenly Father, You are the calm in the midst of the chaos of our lives. This world gives us so many opportunities to panic – but if we remain rooted in you, committed to prayer, we can face the trials of this world with calm and confidence. Give us a heart for prayer, that we may fall in love with spending time with you. In Jesus' name, Amen.*