

Wednesday

Read: **Mark 14:32-34** *In the garden*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Why does Jesus need his friends to sit and watch while he prays?*
2. *Why is Jesus so distressed and grieved?*

Prayer Focus. You ask today us to keep watch over the ones who are grieved and distressed, marginalized and forgotten. Forgive us for the times we've failed to keep awake for the sake of your people, our family in you. Help us to watch, beloved Teacher.

Thursday

Read: **Mark 14:35** *Jesus asks for life*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *What was Jesus asking of God that night? Do you feel Jesus had a choice in these events?*
2. *How does it help you to hear the grief in Jesus' words?*

Prayer Focus Jesus, you honestly shared your agony with God. You were not afraid to be vulnerable, even in the face of death. We ask for that same connection, honesty, and trust in our prayers today.

Friday

Read: **Mark 14:36** *Honoring God's will*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Reflect on Jesus' surrender to God, even at the highest cost. What does his surrender mean to you today?*
2. *How can we as a church and as individuals share the good news that all things are possible with God?*

Prayer Focus Beloved Savior your humility and your courage inspire us, always. Be with us as we move toward the joy of the resurrection, singing of your great love.

The Garden: Risking Temptation

Pastor's message: Ephesians 6:11-17; Mark 14:32-36

Message Notes:



Small Group Format

Welcome

- Introductions/getting acquainted
- Mutual Invitation question: *What has been the highlight of this Lenten season for you?*

Opening Prayer

Song (optional)

Reflection on Scripture

Have someone read: **Ephesians 6:11-17; Mark 14:32-36**

- Discuss observations about the text
 - *What word or phrase strikes you the most?*
 - *What do you think is the most important point of the text?*

Application of Scripture (The central transformative questions)

- What did you hear God say to you through this week's Scriptures?
- What are you doing about it?
- How can we support you?

Share your faith (in groups of 3)

- *How have you experienced God recently in your life?* (This is a weekly question - it may be difficult to answer at first, but if you ask it each week you may start to notice God more in your life.)

Pray for each other

Refreshments (optional)

THE GARDEN: RISKING TEMPTATION **April 2, 2023**

Monday

Read: Ephesians 6:11-12 *Facing temptation*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *What negative forces are stirring in our world today? In our communities?*
2. *Where do you see God at work to light the dark?*

Prayer Focus. We see so much of this present darkness, God Almighty, and it's easy to give in to despair. We have to turn to you, again and again, to see the challenges we are facing, and to recognize where we need to stand firm in your way. Thank you for the gift of that way.

Tuesday

Read: Ephesians 6:13-17 *Resisting evil*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *How might each of these pieces of "armor" serve you in your journey of faith? Is there one piece that you feel you need most right now?*
2. *How does this passage help you in standing firm against darkness, despair, or fear?*

Prayer Focus Holy God, you don't send us to make war on our enemies but to bring out truth, righteousness in you, peace, faith, salvation, and your word in response to evil. Arm us with compassion and strength in you so that your world can be healed and reconciled as you have planned.