



## LC STUDY GUIDE: DONE IN SYNC WITH THE SERMON SERIES "S7CK"

### The Passage – Mark 14:32-42

For LCs meeting 4.6.14 – 4.20.14

*These LC studies complement the sermons, often using the same biblical texts, and will help your LC go deeper in personal understanding and application. These italicized portions are meant to resource and help you in leading and are not to be distributed to the entire group (it limits conversation). Not all of these questions need to be used in your LC meeting. Best to consider this a head-start to customize for your LC.*

**Big Idea: There are low points and slothful times in our lives where we must wake up, devote our wills, and surrender our heart so that we can be faithful to the Lord.**

#### Mark 14:32-42 (NIV © 2011)

<sup>32</sup> They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." <sup>33</sup> He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled. <sup>34</sup> "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death," he said to them. "Stay here and keep watch."

<sup>35</sup> Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him. <sup>36</sup> "Abba, Father," he said, "everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will."

<sup>37</sup> 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? <sup>38</sup> Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

<sup>39</sup> Once more he went away and prayed the same thing. <sup>40</sup> When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. They did not know what to say to him.

<sup>41</sup> 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. <sup>42</sup> Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!"

### Discussion Questions:

When we read this account and others in the New Testament, it can be easy to observe the disciples' behavior and words and to think that they were unable to understand things easily. Before we judge them too harshly, we should attempt to put ourselves in their shoes. Then, maybe we will have an idea of what it would be like to walk with Jesus as He was led to His death.

We can see from this passage that the suffering of Christ was more than physical. How else did he suffer?

*(He felt greatly distressed and troubled, was disappointed with his closest earthly friends, let down by them, misunderstood by them, His soul was very sorrowful, betrayed)*

Jesus often took Peter, James, and John with Him during key scenes in Scripture including the raising of Jairus' daughter in Luke 8 and famously, the Transfiguration in Luke 9. Here in Mark 14, Jesus brings them along to the Garden of Gethsemane. What might have motivated Jesus to do so?

*(Though not clearly stated, we can gather from other instances that these three disciples were in Jesus' "inner circle." Further, all three had expressed their tremendous loyalty had also boasted of their willingness or ability to follow Him/die with Him: Peter in Mark 14:26-31 and James/John in Mark 10:38-39 so Jesus was possibly allowing them to see their true hearts or weakness).*

Who are the people in your life that you would want to be with you if you were going through a very difficult time? How have they demonstrated their loyalty and what history and commonality do you have with them?

We see in the passage that the "inner circle" of Christ did not watch and pray with Him at a time when He really needed them and clearly asked them to do so. Have any of your closest friends or family members let you down? How did that make you feel?

The "cup" that Jesus refers to in verse 36 is the cup of suffering that He knew He was about to experience physically as He would be beaten, ridiculed and crucified. Describe a time when you really did not want something to happen but then you were able to get to the point of saying to the Lord, "Not my will but Yours be done." Think of a time when you were able to surrender the outcome of a situation to God and accept His will even if it was not what you would ultimately like. If you have not had an experience like this yet, think about how you may feel and/or react when a situation arises in which you must surrender what you really desire for something less than what you desire.

Now think about what Jesus said at the beginning of verse 36: "Abba Father, all things are possible for you..." What does this tell us about the view Jesus has of the Father even in times of trial?

*(He knew that God was His Abba (Daddy) and that all things are possible for Him)*

As imitators of Christ, why is having this perspective of the Father (knowing the truth of who He is) especially important when we go through various trials?

*(When we are going through trials, we may be more vulnerable to spiritual attack. If we are not believing truth, we will be believing lies which can quickly lead us to sin in our time of trial- going our own way or denying Christ, etc. when we are under pressure)*

Verse 38 says, “The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” What do you think this might mean?

*(Sometimes the spirit in us is willing to do whatever it takes to follow Christ (for example, Peter had said earlier in Mark 14 that “...even though they all fall away, I will not...” and “...if I must die with You, I will not deny You...” The Holy Spirit in Peter was so willing to do whatever it takes but when it came time to do as Jesus was asking, Peter’s flesh was weak and he fell asleep and he also did deny that he knew Jesus.)*

How have you experienced something similar in your life?

Though we know these disciples desired to be loyal to Jesus, we see them being slothful and squandering their opportunity to be faithful to Jesus in Gethsemane. What are instances and how have we as disciples of Jesus done similar? How can we express our devotion and surrender our hearts to be present with the Lord in various aspects of our lives?

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- a. **Please note that not all these questions are to be asked in a single meeting.** Take some time and select and reword the questions that best fit your voice and your LIFE Community group.
  - b. Certain questions work better for certain groups. You are encouraged to prayerfully discern what will serve your LC the best.
  - c. Complement these questions with “process questions” (what else? what more? what do others think?).
  - d. When you ask questions, give people ample time to think and respond. Wait. Take your time; don’t rush people but encourage their participation. And avoid answering your own questions!
  - e. Timing/pacing: allocate your time and move forward gently, with a steady pace.
  - f. Application: Pace the study to conclude with “difference making” application.
  - g. Secondary texts—use other texts sparingly, even if they are relevant. Such texts will push you into “teaching,” rather than facilitating. It can cause people to feel distracted or de-powered.