

Life Group #2: The Garden
Mark 14:32-42; 15:21-34

Objectives: We want to see and experience a Jesus who is authentic and passionate. We want to understand his agony in the Cross. We want to understand that he endured suffering for us so that we can receive forgiveness of our sins and enter into a relationship with God.

For the leaders:

There are a few key things that come out in these passages. All 4 gospels include the garden. This is the first time in history that the "hero" of a biography was shown in true weakness. We get a picture of a broken, human Jesus. It counters the familiar image of a stoic, emotionless Jesus. This is significant to help us identify with Him, but also it verifies the authenticity of the Bible. Who would make up a story like this unless it was true! We also get to see a picture of His love of the Father (willing to follow) and of us. He ultimately drank the cup because there was no other way to pay for our sins. If Jesus does not "drink the cup" then our sins are not forgiven and we would receive the wrath of God instead of Jesus. We would have to face the separation from God that Jesus endured on the cross.

Getting to Know You (15 minutes)

Launch Use your own words... (3 minutes)

We don't know why all of you are here, but we are glad that you are. **We believe that Jesus is the King who is worth following with all of our life. We also know that people are at different places in that process. We want this to be a safe place where people can follow Jesus no matter where they are at in the process. In John 1:39 Jesus told a group of guys who were deciding whether they should follow Him to "come and see". In other words, he tells us to get to know Him so we can decide if we will follow Him with our whole life. Each week we are going to read a passage and ask some basic open-ended questions to help us engage with the person of Jesus.**

[Make sure to pass around info sheet for name, room #, phone, email, etc...]

Explore

Read Mark 14:32-42

- **How would you describe Jesus in this passage? Why?**
- **What do you "see" in Jesus that would cause you to want to follow Him?**
- **What do you see that would cause you to not be interested in following Jesus?**
- **How does this picture of Jesus challenge your standard view of Jesus?** *(most pictures of Jesus show him as calm and stoic, not passionate)*
- **What do you not understand?** *(you don't need to try to answer everything. It is ok if people leave with unanswered questions. We want them to seek to learn more about Jesus...)*
- **Throughout history millions of martyrs have faced death in a more noble manner than Jesus. Why do you think he is so sorrowful? In other words, what is the "cup" he is talking about?** *(The "cup" in the Old Testament was always associated with the suffering. He is talking about the cup of God's wrath. Specifically he was going to take the punishment for the sins of mankind. Isaiah 51:17; Jeremiah 25:15)*

Read Mark 15:21-34 in order to get a fuller picture of "the cup" that had Jesus in agony.

- **How would you describe Jesus in this passage?**
- **Why did he endure so much suffering, including silence from God? Why did God forsake Him? Why did he have to drink the cup?** *(be prepared to answer and explain the gospel. Wages of sin is death. Death is separation from God. Therefore someone had to die to pay for sins. Only a perfect person could pay for our sins, so Jesus had to pay for our sins and drink the cup that we were meant to drink... Jesus chose to do this out of love!)*

- **What do these passages teach us about people?**
- **What do they teach about Jesus?**

Apply

- **How should we respond to this picture of Jesus?** *(There are many applications. A big one is explaining how a person can accept his payment for our sins and receive forgiveness and new life. Another one is that no matter what you are going through, no matter how alone you have been, Jesus understands and is there for you. You need to turn to Him.)*

Memory verse- Mark 14:36

Announce

- Describe Real Life. Set up a time for dinner and for going to RL together.