

## Leaders Guide 9 Gethsemnae

1. **Suggested Ice breaker: My favorite name/title of Jesus and why.**
2. **Prayer time: Pray wholeheartedly:** Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. <sup>13</sup> And you will seek Me and find *Me*, when you search for Me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29: 12, 13.
3. **Sharing from the week**
4. **Read for This week: Matthew 26: 36-56; Luke 22: 14-23, DA 74 and background.**
5. **Questions for Discussion**
  - a. Sometimes the word Gethsemane is used in referring to a life's struggle. Do you have such a story which might be an encouragement to others?
  - b. In John 18:2, it says that Judas knew the place in Gethsemane where Jesus went with His disciples. If Jesus knew that Judas would come after him why didn't he go to a secret hideout? \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. In Matthew 26 we have Peter and the disciples saying that they would die with Him (Vs. 35) but they wouldn't deny Him yet in the same chapter (vs 56) they all forsook Christ. Then verses 69-75 tell of Peter's denial of Christ. How can followers of Jesus be that vacillating? \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. What was Judas' motive in betraying Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. Matthew 22:44 says that Jesus was in such agony that He sweat great drops of blood. What do you think was the greatest reason for His agony? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Do you think Christ agonizes today over a lost world? Do we watch and pray with Him today \_\_\_\_\_
  - f. Jesus told Peter to put away his sword when the mob came after Jesus because if He wanted to He could call twelve legions of angels. Why didn't He call on these legions of angels? \_\_\_\_\_
  - g. Would you have run away with the disciples when Jesus was captured? \_\_\_\_\_. How might we test our courage for faithfulness in critical moments \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - h. What appeals to you the most about Christ's experience in Gethsemane? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - i. "As they approached the garden, the disciples had marked the change that came over their Master. Never before had they seen Him so utterly sad and silent. As He proceeded, this strange sadness deepened; yet they dared not question Him as to the cause. His form swayed as if He were about to fall. Upon reaching the garden, the disciples looked anxiously for His usual place of retirement, that their Master might rest. Every step that He now took was with labored effort. He groaned aloud, as if suffering under the pressure of a terrible burden. Twice His companions supported Him, or He would have fallen to the earth." DA 686. If you were with the disciples and Jesus how might you have responded seeing Jesus in this situation \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - j. If you were to take a trip to Israel which spot would you be most eager to visit? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Background

Thursday— From the Last supper to His trials (Starts the day in the Mount of Olives and ends with a night of trials mostly at Caiaphas' palace)

As I embark on this part of the story in the countdown toward Calvary, it seems appropriate to pause and thank Jesus for all He has done to provide for our salvation. "Thank You Jesus for your pain and death on our behalf!"

I will first give a chronology of the events of the day (Times are suggestion, not known exactly)—then have some devotional comments.

Chronology of Thursday's events--Mid-afternoon: Preparation for Last Supper. 6 pm: Last Supper: Preceded by Jesus washing their feet, they sang Psalms 113-118 at this event; Following the supper on the way to Gethsemane He gave the passionate messages and prayer recorded in John's gospel (John 14-17)—Judas left after the supper to betray Jesus); Perhaps around 10 am they arrive in Gethsemane and Jesus prays His most agonizing prayer asking His disciples to pray with Him. Around 12 midnight: Judas and the mob capture Jesus and take him to trial—the disciples flee; around 1-2 am the appearance before Annas occurs where Jesus' face is slapped; Trial before Annas and Caiaphas and other Sanhedrin members 2-3 am; (During the night Peter denies Jesus three times outside Caiapha's palace. Today a bronze statue is there picturing Peter in denial); a night appearance before the Sanhedrin where religious leaders seek to form a basis for condemnation 3-4 am: then just after the break of dawn 5-5:30 am, another meeting with the Sanhedrin—they condemn Him for blasphemy (Saying He claimed to be the Son of God). The reason for this second meeting is that no trials were to be allowed at night where death might be a penalty.

Judas left three meetings to negotiate with religious leaders on the betrayal—Saturday night, Tuesday night and Thursday night. How could he have been in fellowship with Jesus and the other disciples during the day while planning betrayal at night?—sin leads to strange behavior.

In the garden of Gethsemane, the disciples (Peter, James and John) fell asleep during Jesus greatest moments of agony in prayer. Jesus said, "Could you not watch with me one hour?" Perhaps during this unusual time of Covid 19 when we have more time than usual at Easter, we could spend time reading and praying through the accounts surrounding Calvary in the gospels and even the book *Desire of Ages*: Matthew 26-28; Mark 14-16; Luke 22-24; John 19-21; DA 685-795 (Free Online).