

Study Guide #6 (Leader's Guide): K-group Bible Study for Week of October 22, 2017

Title of Scripture Passage: Obedience

Jesus provides an amazing example of extreme obedience when he was overwhelmed by the approaching crucifixion and he prayed "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will." This lesson teaches us to submit to the Father's will no matter the cost, and to walk in surrendered obedience to Christ.

Matthew 26:31-46

Matthew 26:31-46 (NIV)

³¹ Then Jesus told them, "This very night you will all fall away on account of me, for it is written:

"I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' ³² But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee."

³³ Peter replied, "Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will."

³⁴ "Truly I tell you," Jesus answered, "this very night, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times."

³⁵ But Peter declared, "Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you." And all the other disciples said the same.

³⁶ Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." ³⁷ He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. ³⁸ Then he said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me."

³⁹ Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."

⁴⁰ Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Couldn't you men keep watch with me for one hour?" he asked Peter. ⁴¹ "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

⁴² He went away a second time and prayed, "My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done."

⁴³ When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. ⁴⁴ So he left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing.

⁴⁵ Then he returned to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour has come, and the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners. ⁴⁶ Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!"

- Remind your group that one of the discipleship skills that we want to develop this year is the ability to verbalize scripture to people with whom we will have the opportunity to minister. So we will continue to ask one of you to tell the bible story from memory.

- So, let's give our undivided attention to _____ as he/she verbalizes tonight's bible study passage.

Questions

- Now, let's open our bibles to Matthew 26:31-46. Let's review the story and look for details that need to be emphasized and remembered.
- After clarifying what the bible says concerning the Jesus' example of obedience, what resonated with you the most?"
- Our focal text today is Jesus' prayer in Matthew 26:42, but first we need to notice the surrounding literary context. Based on the context, what is going on in Jesus' life? What has just happened and what is about to happen? (Note: Saying goodbye to his disciples in the upper room and dealing with their disappointment, misunderstanding and pain and then preparing himself to endure the crucifixion and its resulting physical and spiritual pain and suffering.)
- Specifically, what does vs. 36 tell us about Jesus' emotional state? Do some of the other Gospels provide additional insight into the trauma that Jesus' was experiencing? (Note: see Luke 23:44 as one example)
- Have you ever experienced a time of trauma where you had to pray and submit to God's will? (Take a few minutes to let people share their stories.)
- Why is obedience to God's will such an important discipleship principle?
- Can you think of other biblical stories or scripture passages that highlight the importance of obedience? If so, take a few minutes to "surf" the scriptures and look at these passages.
- What do we learn about God from this passage?
- What do we learn about ourselves (mankind) from this passage?
- What actions do you plan to take as a result of this study and our discussion?

Close with prayer. Pray specifically that the group can follow through with what God has put on their hearts to do.