



# Discussion Questions

Sermon Title: Jesus Prays and the Disciples Sleep

Date Preached: 7/13/25

Speaker: Josh Ratliff

Outline: Mark 14:32-42 | Jesus Prays and the Disciples Sleep

- ❖ **Jesus Agonizes in Prayer (14:32-36)**
  - Gethsemane reveals a fully human Savior. (vv. 32-34)
  - Jesus prepares for the cup of God's wrath. (vv. 35-36)
  - **Question:** How do you see Jesus as our example in this prayer? Do you rest in God's character so fully that you lovingly accept difficulty from his hand?
- ❖ **Jesus Admonishes His Disciples: "Stay Awake and Pray!" (14:37-42)**
  - Jesus prepares his disciples for their own trials. (vv. 37-41a)
  - Jesus models what it means to get up from prayer with a settled heart and resolved purpose. (vv. 41b-42)
  - **Question:** How is your prayer life? Is it helping your resolve to God's will?
- ❖ **Bottom Line: Jesus knows our human weakness, and helps us overcome through prayer.**

Questions for reflection or discussion:

**Mark 14:32-36**

- How do Jesus' emotions and words in the garden demonstrate his fully human nature? Have you ever felt like Jesus in the garden (overwhelmed, distressed) while in prayer? What helped (or hindered) your ability to trust God in that moment? Why is having a vulnerable prayer life like this crucial to your walk with Christ?
- Jesus says, "Yet not what I want, but what you want." What does this moment teach you about what true surrender looks like? What are some common fears and/or desires that make this kind of surrender difficult?

**Mark 14:37-38**

- Why do you think the disciples struggled to stay awake and pray during such a crucial time? What are some things in your life that can distract and keep you from consistent prayer?
- Jesus tells Peter, "The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." What does Jesus mean by this? How does the tension presented here by Jesus play out in your own spiritual life?

**Mark 14:39-42**

- Jesus prays the same thing multiple times. Why is persistence in prayer important, especially when facing something difficult? What can cause you to give up praying in the midst of difficult circumstances? What can we focus on to help us stay engaged in prayer?
- Jesus came out of prayer calm and resolved, ready to face what was ahead. Why do you think prayer gave him that kind of peace and strength? After you pray, do you usually feel more at peace or still burdened by stress and worry? What might that reveal about how you're approaching prayer? What's one specific way you can improve your prayer life this week, whether it is in quantity or the quality of it?