

SMALL GROUPS

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Winter Semester - Week 5

*Remember, these questions are just tools for discussion. You don't need to 'get through them all.'
Use the questions that are helpful, and skip the ones that are not. And let the conversation flow naturally.*

OPTIONAL ICEBREAKER(S)

- a) If you made a New Year's resolution in January, how is it going?
- b) What winter activities have you been enjoying this year?

PASSAGE AND DISCUSSION

Read Mark 14:32-42

- a) Jesus prays, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me," (**v36**). What is "this cup" that Jesus refers to?
- b) In this passage, what attributes of Jesus' human nature are portrayed? What attributes of Jesus' divine nature are portrayed?
- c) **Read Mark 10:33-34**. Is it striking to you that Jesus' soul is sorrowful, even to death, as he contemplates his coming death, even though this is the reason that he came to earth?
- d) **Read Mark 14:36**. What can we learn from the example Jesus sets for us in this prayer?
- e) How do you feel about the fact that the disciples who were with Jesus fell asleep while he was praying, though he had asked them to be watchful?
- f) **Read Mark 14:38 and Philippians 2:13**. Jesus knows the frailty of humans, which is why he says, "The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Jesus knows it is easier for us to want to do his will, than it is to actually do it, and that often our weaknesses interfere with our God-given desires. Can you relate to that sentiment? How can you find encouragement in the words of Paul from Philippians? Why?

- g) What does it mean for us to watch and pray ‘that we may not enter into temptation’?
- h) When you’re struggling with temptation, how do you cope in that moment? Is there something that you find helpful to keep your eyes fixed on Jesus, to keep you from giving into your weakness?
- i) Read Luke’s parallel account of this passage; **Luke 22:39-46**. What stands out to you?
- j) Jesus prays the same prayer multiple times in this passage. What do you glean from the fact that even Jesus was persistent in his prayers, although his request was not granted to him from the Father?
- k) There are some Christian circles, where people are questioned for not having enough faith, when their prayers are not answered. What does this passage have to say about this theology?
- l) Gethsemane means “olive press,” indicating a garden among the olive groves on the Mount of Olives, where olive oil was prepared. Do you think that this location is significant as the place where Jesus experienced such immense pressure and distress?
- m) In Jesus’ human limitations, what empowered Him to face trial and temptation? How can we learn from Jesus’ example? How does Jesus’ humanity affect how we relate to Him or learn from His life?
- n) In our own times of distress and fear, how can we pray like Jesus during his time of distress?
- o) What is the connection between prayer and temptation? How does prayer affect our “spirit” and “flesh” (**Mark 14:38**).
- p) Jesus prayed for what He wanted, but submitted it all to God’s will. Have you been praying with the same heart? Is there anything that you still need to submit to God’s will?

TAKE IT HOME (OPTIONAL IDEAS FOR RESPONSE THIS WEEK)

- a) Memorize **Philippians 2:13** as a reminder for when you are tempted to give into your human weakness, that it is God who is working in you, giving you the desire to obey him, and the power to do what is pleasing to him (both to *will* and to *act*).
- b) This week, take time to reflect deeply on your personal prayer life. Reflect on how you can grow closer to the Father through prayer.

OPTIONAL IDEAS FOR PRAYER TIME

- a) Take some time to share and thank God for the ways that you have seen Him at work in and around you recently.
- b) Pray your requests in the way of Jesus - ask boldly, but submit trustingly.

OPPORTUNITIES TO GATHER, GROW & GO

Worship Night: February 26th at 7 p.m. This will be a special evening since this will be a recording session of our church's worship for future song releases. Join in!

Pine Car Derby: Race day is March 4th from 2-4 pm at Grant Memorial Church. Build a car as a team, a family or as an individual. Car kits will be for sale starting Sunday, February 12th, for \$10. Please return your finished car and your registration card to the church by March 3rd so we can prepare them for race day!

Premarital Classes: April 13th at 7pm For those recently engaged or planning a wedding within the next twelve months, we invite you to our next premarital class here at Grant Memorial Church. The five classes will allow you to hear from various marital experiences as you prepare for your big day. Communication tools, conflict resolution techniques, navigating relationships and sexual expectations, and many other topics will be covered. The classes will be conducted in a group style learning and with a couple of mentors coming alongside each premarital couple so that you have the support you need.

Men's Study: This course began on January 15th and meets on Sundays at 9 a.m. and Tuesdays at 7 p.m. Whether you attended the first few sessions or not, we invite you to join us for the rest of the Men's Fraternity Class. Together, we will explore and discuss this deeply practical study.

Daybreak: If you are available Tuesday mornings and you like to hold babies, be a volunteer in the nursery for Daybreak. You can email fgirardi@grantmemorial.ca if you are available to volunteer.