

Stations of the Cross
Episode #1 - **The Garden and Betrayal**

Jesus in the Garden - Station #1

1. Read Together Luke 22:39-46 - He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. 40 When he reached the place, he said to them, “Pray that you may not come into the time of trial.” 41 Then he withdrew from them about a stone’s throw, knelt down, and prayed, 42 “Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me, yet not my will but yours be done.” 43 Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. 44 In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground. 45 When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of grief, 46 and he said to them, “Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial.”
(NRSVUE)
2. Luke’s Gospel records that Jesus went to the Mount of Olives regularly (as was his custom). Is there a place or time that you regularly go to get away from life and listen to God?
3. Jesus tells the Disciples multiple times to wake up, so that they won’t come to a time of trial or temptation. It was in the Garden of Eden that the first temptation happened, now Jesus and disciples were being tempted in another garden. What temptations were the disciples facing? What about Jesus? What about you?
4. In Matthew’s Gospel, where Jesus goes to pray is specifically Gethsemane, which means “olive press.” How is this symbolic of the pressure that was on Jesus? Have you ever experienced unrelenting stress - seeming that circumstances was pressing the very life out of you? How have you been able to cope in those situations?
5. Luke records that Jesus sweat became like drops of blood. Hematohidrosis is a condition that usually occurs in bleeding disorders, but it may occur in individuals suffering from extreme levels of stress. Around the sweat glands, there are multiple blood vessels in a net-like form, which constrict under the pressure of great stress. How do you think you would have responded knowing that the very salvation of the world depended on your choice?
6. Jesus asks that the Father remove “this cup from me.” What cups have you asked God to remove from you. How does it affect you to know that Jesus came to the Father with complete honesty, wrestling with God’s will for him? Some might say that questioning God is a lack of faith. How would respond to that concept?
7. What are the similarities between and differences between the story of father and son (Abraham and Issac) in Genesis 22: 1-13 and the story the Father and Son in the Gospels on this night?
7. How does it make you feel to know that Jesus did drink that cup?

Stations of the Cross

Jesus is Betrayed - Station #2

1. Read together Luke 22:3-5 and 22: 47- 53 - “Then Satan entered into Judas called Iscariot, who was one of the twelve; 4 he went away and conferred with the chief priests and officers of the temple police about how he might betray him to them. 5 They were greatly pleased and agreed to give him money. 6 So he consented and began to look for an opportunity to betray him to them when no crowd was present.” (NRSVUE)

22: 47-53 - “While he was still speaking, suddenly a crowd came, and the one called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him, 48 but Jesus said to him, “Judas, is it with a kiss that you are betraying the Son of Man?” 49 When those who were around him saw what was coming, they asked, “Lord, should we strike with the sword?” 50 Then one of them struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his right ear. 51 But Jesus said, “No more of this!” And he touched his ear and healed him. 52 Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple police, and the elders who had come for him, “Have you come out with swords and clubs as though I were a rebel? 53 When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour and the power of darkness!” (NRSVUE)
2. Luke indicates that Satan entered Judas Iscariot (which means Judas the betrayer). Judas was just one of two disciples sitting directly next to Jesus at the Last Supper. What does that seating arrangement indicate? Why do you think Judas yielded to this temptation? What could have caused Judas to become frustrated with Jesus to do such a thing?
3. Luke 22:37 says - “Every day he was teaching in the temple, and at night he would go out and spend the night on the Mount of Olives, as it was called. 38 And all the people would get up early in the morning to listen to him in the temple.” How does this help explain why the chief priests and temple officers wanted to arrest Jesus when no one was around? What might have happened if they arrested him at the temple with his supporters present?
4. How many times have we betrayed Jesus in our hearts and actions? How many times have we given lip service to Jesus – words, songs, and such – and then no live up to what we say, sing, pray?
5. What does Jesus’ response to both the cutting off of the soldier’s ear and his questioning of the methods of the religious leaders coming at night, seem to indicate?
6. Have you ever been betrayed, even with a kiss? How did you respond? How did you recover?