

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. *Enjoy discovering more about Him!*

"ABANDONMENT, ARROGANCE, AGONY" | MARK 14: 26-42 | PASTOR BRIAN BELL

WARM-UP QUESTION:

What is something you thought you would never do but ended up doing?

"Abandonment" Mark 14: 26-28

Jesus tells his followers they will all stumble and run away but He will meet up with them after He rises. **What are ways people abandon Jesus today? How does it show grace when Jesus makes a plan to meet with them after He's raised?**

"Arrogance" Mark 14: 29-31

Peter claims he will not fall away. Jesus tells him he will deny Christ 3 times. He objects, as do the other disciples. **Why do people often think they won't fail like others? How is it comforting to know God has already made a plan to restore us?**

"Agony" Mark 14: 32-42

Jesus takes James, John and Peter with Him to pray and He shares how much distress He's experiencing. They fall asleep instead. **What does it show that Jesus didn't want God's judgment but obeyed His Father? How can people pray like Jesus in distress?**

REFLECTION QUESTION:

Jesus knew his followers would fall asleep and fall away when He was most distressed and upset. Yet He prays for them and makes a plan to meet with them after, showing His love and grace. **What are ways you have stumbled lately in your faith? Have you asked for God's forgiveness? Are you expecting Jesus' grace, knowing He is praying for you and has a plan to restore you? Take time to pray honestly and openly to God and look for unique moments of His grace for you this week.**

Mark 14:26-42

9-14-25

Abandonment. Arrogance. Agony.

I. Announce:

- A. Welcome to those watching online 10am.
- B. Slide1-5 AL: Women's. WomensMark. At Risk. WomensXmas. Men's.
- C. Slide6 Israel Information Mtg: Today or next Sun, 1:30pm in Agape room.
 - 1. Come Explore Israel. It's a Journey of Faith and Discovery. Spring 2026.
 - 2. It will be an unforgettable journey to the Holy Land as a **spiritual and educational** experience *like no other*. Spaces are limited.
- D. Slide7 Church Family, this has been a heavy week. Here in our own church family, we have felt the sting of loss, *grieving a young child, a beloved sister, and a mom*. These are wounds close to our hearts, and we carry them together.
 - 1. And in our wider world, we've witnessed something jarring and painful. The national figure Charlie Kirk, assassinated while speaking at a university. Whatever you may have thought about his politics or his personality, what grieves me deeply is this: he was **invited** to speak on a campus, he was sharing his **own viewpoints** and **opinions**, and somehow that **space for free dialogue** ended in his death. That, friends, is the real travesty, that in our nation today, differing voices are no longer allowed to be expressed with **safety** and **respect**. God Himself invites us *Come now, and let us reason together*. Is.1:18
 - 2. It's a reminder to us as believers to **pray for a culture** where *honest conversation is not only protected but valued*.
We also grieve for Charlie's wife and daughters, and for those impacted, and for God's comfort and peace in the midst of this sorrow.

E. Slide7 Prayer:

II. Slide8 Intro: Abandonment. Arrogance. Agony.

A. Isn't it funny how often we say the words, "***I will never*** _____".

1. “I will never drive a mini-van.” “I will never shop at Costco on a Saturday.”
2. “I will never have an inside dog.” “I will never put pineapple on pizza.”

- a) We laugh at ourselves, because so many times the very thing we swore we’d never do ... we end up doing.
- b) This morning we have an example of **Peter** who once said, ‘*Even though they all fall away, I will not/never!*’. Yet just hours later, he denied Jesus 3 x’s.
- c) Here’s the good news: **God’s grace** is bigger than *our failures*, and His forgiveness restores us even when we’ve said ‘*never*’ and fallen short.

B. Outline: Abandonment. Arrogance. Agony.

C. Jesus and the 11 just finished up their *Thurs night Passover dinner*. They sang a hymn, and went to the Mnt. of Olives (a short walk away). *Let’s read ...*

III. Slide9a **ABANDONMENT (26-28)** *Read*

- A. **Abandonment** - He went completely *alone*. He went through *ultimate aloneness*.
- B. (v.27) You will **all fall away** - 1 already betrayed Him. 11 will run (50). 3 slept. 1 denied.
 1. But that was only abandonment my friends. It only gets worse.
- C. For the first time in eternity, He’s *going to* feel the Father’s face *turned away*. The weight of **sin, judgment, & wrath** falls squarely on Him, & bears it all alone.
 1. *Why?* So that **we** would never have to! **Jesus was forsaken so we could be forgiven**. He was **abandoned so we could be adopted**. He was **left alone so we could never be left or forsaken**.
- D. **Fall away** - (σκανδαλίζω/scandalizo) our word *scandal* - more of a **stumble**, *not* a *falling away* like Judas.
 1. **Fall away**/stumbling — Lit, *the stick which an animal stumbled over causing the trap to shut*.
 2. Here it is used to denote, “*something that trips men up.*”
- E. (27) Zech 13:7 Jesus applies to His situation.

1. In context, it's actually **the Father** striking *the Shepherd*. **Jesus is submitting to the Father's will**. Is.53, *it was the Will of the Lord to crush Him*. And when **He** was **struck**, they **scattered**.

F. **But after** - Ever have friends ghost you when trouble hits. When things get hard, they vanish, **but** Jesus *still restores*, and *calls them back*.

1. **Jesus knows** what the **Father** is doing, what His **followers** are going to do. **He knows** He's going to **die**. **He knows** He's going to be **raised**. And then *grace upon grace* ... I'll meet up with you again in Galilee.

G. **Slide9b** Our salvation rests not in our ability to *stay with Him*, **but in His** willingness to go it alone for us.

IV. **Slide10a ARROGANCE (29-31) Read**

A. (29) **Peters Arrogance or hubris** (excessive pride toward, or defiance of *the gods*).

B. **Poor Pete**, he didn't know how weak he was.

1. Had he forgotten the traps that life can lay for the best of believers? Had he forgotten that the best of men can step on a slippery place & fall? Had he forgotten his own human weakness? Had he forgotten the ambushes that life can throw at us? Had he forgotten the strength of the devil's temptations?

a) Peter seemed to have a problem with **applying Jesus' commands** *to himself*.

2. **Interesting** - it talks about **Peters mistakes** more in this gospel than the others - **as he's putting it all on display via Mark**. (Mark's gospel is *a record of Peters reports* of the ministry of Christ). *Integrity to write down his embarrassing words*.

3. Peter **loved Jesus**, and even if his *loved failed*, it **rose again!**

C. **Slide10b** The prayer of Jehoshaphat, *We are powerless ... we do not know what to do, but our eyes are on You*. 2 Chron.20:12

D. Luke's account says, *Satan wants to sift you like wheat*. The only thing keeping that from happening is *Jesus praying for him*.

E. Robert Murray McChesney (died at only 29 - Typhus Fever), wrote, *"The seeds of every known sin resides in my own heart."* - **There's not a sin I can't commit**.

F. There is **warning** and there is **hope**.

1. **Warning**, *you're gonna stumble*. **Hope**, *I'll meet you in Galilee*.
2. John's account it says that "*he love them to the end*." What kept the disciples to the end was **Jesus'** commitment to them, **not** their commitment to **Jesus**. *And that's what holds us today!*
3. If you're running from **Him** this morning, *He will have you*. **Humbly** come to him.

V. SlideX **AGONY** (32-42) *Read*

- A. **These 3** were with **Him** on the mount of transfiguration where *His deity* was revealed. **Now** here *His humanity* will be revealed.
- B. Here we intrude into the *private agony* of **Jesus**. **The 11** at a distance, **me & you** invited in!
1. **Gethsemane** – “oil press”. A press for squeezing the oil out of *olive pits*.
 2. **Great distressed** – *to be or become excessively affected by emotion*.¹
 3. **Troubled** – *to be despondent, in anguish, distressed*.
 4. **Very sorrowful** – ***crushed** by grief; understood as if surrounded by sadness*.
 5. **Even to death** – this burden is *killing me, is crushing the life* out of me.
 - a) He wasn't cringing in the face of **physical death**, **instead** He was dreading the moment when *His Father's face* would be turned away from Him. [The One who had lived **every moment** of His life in fellowship w/**God the Father**, was about to experience *total separation*].
 - b) **Maybe**, the **husband** who is separated for the 1st time from his **marriage** partner of 60 yrs, can just start to understand what *separation* from another means?
 - c) I don't know what being *disfellowshipped* by God feels like, **but be assured** every soul in hell does!
- C. **We know He came to die** for us. - **But now** here it is the end, **and** He prays the same prayer 3 times, *can you take it away? What's happening?*

¹ Bible Sense Lexicon, on Logos. All 3 terms.

1. We've seen Jesus teach with authority, heal the sick, cure leprosy, cast out demons, we've seen Him calm storms, and raise the dead. **And now the garden is different. Why?** He *wasn't surprised* the cross was coming, He's been talking about it. Even knew **resurrection** was on the other side of it. **So why? Why now the agony in Gethsemane like this?**

2. Re-read vs.36, **what's on His mind?** Just one thing, **the cup!**

a) **He's** going to drink, gulp down, and absorb **the cup of Sin** (brimming full of your jealousy, hatred, covetousness). **The cup of Wrath** (as sin-bearer, wrath appeased - *Salvation isn't addition or subtraction, its substitution*). **The cup of Curse** (*Christ has redeemed us from the curse of law, having become a curse for us*).

(1) **So that** we never have to drink from this cup ourselves.

b) **Now our cup seems** ... to be **A cup of grace** because of this. **A cup of forgiveness. A cup of exchange.** (So God treated Christ like He live our life, and God treats us as if we've lived His life. **Yep**).

D.(38) **Watch and pray** (be alert as u pray) **that you may not enter into temptation** -

1. **Jesus sought prayer, not for Himself, but for them.**

a) **Ps:** Jesus wasn't pouting, "*hey, you guys weren't there for Me.*" **But instead** was pleading, "*you don't realize the results if you're not prayed up.*"

2. **What temptations were they about to face? The temptation to** doubt, scatter, deny Him. **The temptation to** lose faith, lose trust, lose hope.

a) Wouldn't **their** outcome have been different if they would have **prayed** for the hour? ... Wouldn't **ours**?

E. (41) **#3 prayer and everything changes here.** - He's been in the presence of **Abba**, **and that** has *a transforming effect* on **Him**. **He goes from falling down, to let's go!**

F. **Prayer:** Jesus, **Thank You** that when everyone left You, **You still stayed the course for us.** **Thank You** for going through abandonment and agony **so that I would never be alone.** **Help me trust Your presence today,** even in my *loneliest* moments.

G. Keywords: Abandonment, Arrogance, Agony.