



# COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Week of 6/30/24

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## Opener (10 minutes or less)

You're tasked with designing a board game that combines two completely different game mechanics (like Candy Land meets jenga). What's the name of your game and how does it work?

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## DISCUSSION (50 minutes or less)

*Begin your discussion time in prayer.*

**Scripture Reading: Matthew 26:36-75**

Questions:

1. What stands out to you from this passage and/or Sunday's teaching? What was new, challenging, or encouraging?
  2. Jesus expresses deep anguish in Gethsemane. What reasons does the text give for his emotional state? How does Jesus approach prayer in this moment of suffering?
  3. Why do you think the disciples fail to stay vigilant? What lessons for our own faith and for our own friendships can we learn from their struggle?
  4. How does Jesus react to the violence? What can we learn from Him?
  5. What factors led Peter to deny Jesus? What factors led to him subsequently being martyred for Jesus later in his life? What changed?
  6. Jesus wrestles with the "cup" that represents his suffering. How do we navigate challenging choices, especially when they involve sacrifice or suffering? Can you share a personal story of a time when you faced a difficult decision?
  7. How can we find strength in difficult circumstances as Jesus did? Ultimately, who was there strengthening him in the garden?
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## PERSONAL (30 minutes or less)

1. Oikos - the 8 to 15 people God supernaturally and strategically places in your life. Any oikos moments you would like to share..
2. What is going on in your life (note prayer requests and praise reports)
3. Pray

## Matthew 26:36-75

**36** Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here, while I go over there and pray." **37** And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. **38** Then he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch<sup>[d]</sup> with me." **39** And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will." **40** And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, "So, could you not watch with me one hour? **41** Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." **42** Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done." **43** And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. **44** So, leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words again. **45** Then he came to the disciples and said to them, "Sleep and take your rest later on.<sup>[e]</sup> See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. **46** Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand."

**47** While he was still speaking, Judas came, one of the twelve, and with him a great crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. **48** Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; seize him." **49** And he came up to Jesus at once and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" And he kissed him. **50** Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you came to do."<sup>[f]</sup> Then they came up and laid hands on Jesus and seized him. **51** And behold, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword and struck the servant<sup>[g]</sup> of the high priest and cut off his ear. **52** Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place. For all who take the sword will perish by the sword. **53** Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? **54** But how then should the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must be so?" **55** At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, "Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me. **56** But all this has taken place that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled." Then all the disciples left him and fled.

**57** Then those who had seized Jesus led him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders had gathered. **58** And Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest, and going inside he sat with the guards to see the end. **59** Now the chief priests and the whole council<sup>[h]</sup> were seeking false testimony against Jesus that they might put him to death, **60** but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward **61** and said, "This man said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to rebuild it in three days.'" **62** And the high priest stood up and said, "Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?"<sup>[i]</sup> **63** But Jesus remained silent. And the high priest said to him, "I adjure you by the living God, tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God." **64** Jesus said to him, "You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven." **65** Then the high priest tore his robes and said, "He has uttered blasphemy. What further witnesses do we need? You have now heard his blasphemy. **66** What is your judgment?" They answered, "He deserves death." **67** Then they spit in his face and struck him. And some slapped him, **68** saying, "Prophecy to us, you Christ! Who is it that struck you?"

**69** Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came up to him and said, "You also were with Jesus the Galilean." **70** But he denied it before them all, saying, "I do not know what you mean." **71** And when he went out to the entrance, another servant girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth." **72** And again he denied it with an oath: "I do not know the man." **73** After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, "Certainly you too are one of them, for your accent betrays you." **74** Then he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, "I do not know the man." And immediately the rooster crowed. **75** And Peter remembered the saying of Jesus, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.