

## LifeGroup Questions

### Overcome

Based On: Matthew 26:36-46

April 5, 2014

### Overview: Matthew 26:36-46

Everyone struggles. Everyone faces trials. Whether we call it just a part of life or not, going through trials can wear all of us down. In today's passage Jesus is on the verge of facing His greatest trial: the cross. In the gospel of John it mentions that Jesus and His disciples crossed the Kidron Valley. We know this was done during the Passover which was on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of the month. During this time hundreds of thousands of sacrifices would have been made and the blood would have flowed down through the Kidron Valley. It is conceivable that Jesus and His disciples would have had to cross this sacrificial blood to get to Gethsemane. The only Gospels to mention Gethsemane are Matthew and Mark. Luke records this area as the Mount of Olives in 22:39. The book of John describes it as "across the Kidron Valley". It is from all the Gospel accounts that we have come up with the phrase Garden of Gethsemane. The word Gethsemane is actually comprised of two different Aramaic words. *Gath* means press, while *shemen* means oil. The word is used to describe an olive oil press. Olives are placed under intense pressure to extract their oil. In Matthew 26:38 Jesus says that His soul is "overwhelmed with sorrow." The words used to describe what Jesus was feeling are difficult to translate. A stronger translation would be that He was 'crushed with anguish'. Everything was set in motion. Before Jesus proceeded to His greatest trial He took time to pray.

### Bible Study: Matthew 26:36-46

1. When a struggle/trial comes into your life what is your initial reaction? How has it changed over the years?
2. Read Matthew 26:37. As Jesus was being overwhelmed with sorrow He took Peter, James, and John farther away to keep watch and pray. In what ways can the company of fellow believers help you through a trial? Give an example of when this happened for you.
3. Read Matthew 26:39. This verse demonstrates the struggle between Jesus' divine nature and the desires of the flesh. He knew the horrific torture and death that awaited Him. Describe a time when you decided not to follow your own desires, but submit to God's will.
4. Stress, frustration, disappointment; there are a wide range of emotions that occur when you face a trial. Is it easy or hard for you to pray during a tough time? Please explain.
5. Beyond the physical pain of the cross, Jesus was carrying the sins of the world. How have your trials been used to minister to someone else?

6. Jesus prayed that the cup of suffering He was about to face would be taken away from Him. Read Hebrews 5:7. Jesus' prayer was heard but not answered. He would die, but then be resurrected. How do you continue to stay strong when your prayers are not being answered the way you want?
7. Read Matthew 26:40. In what ways can a lack of support from friends be extremely disappointing?
8. What advice would you give a new believer facing trials? What life examples would you use to support your advice?