

*Fifth Sunday in Lent ~ March 17, 2013*



***Life Group & Family  
Discussion Guide***

***“Jesus in Gethsemane”***

**Matthew 26:36-46**

This week we are continuing our sermon series entitled, The Passion. We are looking at events that took place in the final days of Jesus' earthly life and ministry. After the Last Supper (and first Lord's Supper), Jesus took the Disciples to an olive grove called Gethsemane. Gethsemane means, "oil press." In his place, Jesus faced great temptation. If He had given in... all would have been lost. Praise God, He didn't.



## DISCUSS WITH YOUR LIFE GROUP:

1. **Read Matthew 26:36-46.** How does this passage reveal Jesus' humanity? What is something you recently faced and really had to wrestle with what to do?

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2. Gethsemane means, "Oil Press." How does this aspect of the story inform our understanding of Jesus' overwhelming sorrow (vs. 38)?

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3. What thoughts come to mind when you realize Jesus asked God the Father if it were possible that the cup (God's wrath) could pass from Him?

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4. If Jesus wrestled with whether or not He was going to be faithful and continue to the cross (and face God's wrath), how would His disciples' unfaithfulness (i.e. falling asleep) affect His decision – that is, if He were just a normal person?

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5. *The Westminster Larger Catechism* says that Jesus "advanced our nature." Since Jesus was fully man (and fully God), He increased the amount of suffering human beings are capable of. This means we are able to withstand more suffering than we tend to realize. What might our church, our community, and the world be like if Christians chose to do more things that would alleviate the suffering of people in the world even if it meant more suffering for the Christians themselves?

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## **DISCUSS WITH YOUR FAMILY:**

1. Jesus delivered us from suffering by taking our suffering upon Himself. What are some ways the members of your family are suffering (or, could use some help)? How could other members of the family share the burden?
2. Jesus chose to be faithful to the disciples (and to us), even though they had fallen asleep after He had explicitly asked them to stay awake. What does this tell us about Jesus' commitment to us? Is it based on our commitment to Him?
3. What are some ways people in our church, or our community, are suffering? Are there ways members of your family could take on a little suffering in order to alleviate the suffering of someone else? Example: is someone in your neighborhood in financial need? Could you have a garage sale and give them the money?
4. Jesus made human beings capable of withstanding suffering for the sake of others, and He gives us His Holy Spirit to empower us to handle suffering. Spend some time in prayer thanking God for sending Jesus to die for us, and for sending us the Holy Spirit.

# **SERMON NOTES**