



the road to the cross

Week 2 - Betrayal mark 14-16

1. Share with the group something that your parents have asked you to do, but you either struggled to do it, or simply couldn't be bothered.

Intro question to get them thinking about submitting to what we are asked / called to do.

This week we continue our series on Jesus' final week on earth. Last week we looked at a number of responses that various people made to Jesus just three days before he would die on the cross. Now the story continues on the day before Jesus' death...

Read Mark 14:32-42

2. In this section we see Jesus interacting with his disciples. Try and draw the story of this section in the six boxes below (it is up to you to decide how you break up the story).

<p>a</p> <p><i>This section is the key way in which you can work through the verses. It is designed to give some variety from simply having question and answer format. Ensure that they get adequate time to do this part, as this is the main way in which they will understand the passage. You may need to help them with some of the harder parts. It would be good to get some kids from the group to share and explain what they have drawn.</i></p>		
d	e	f

3. How do we see the disciples respond to Jesus' request in these verses?

They appear to be keen to do what he asks, yet they repeatedly fail to do so. It is not that they are intentionally disobeying what he has asked, yet they are simply falling into weakness and temptation.

4. How would you summarise Jesus' emotional state whilst they are in the garden?

He is deeply troubled, and is intensely wrestling with what he is about to go through (he knows that he will soon be arrested and crucified).

5. Why do you think it is significant that we read of Jesus struggling in this way?

It is important to note that we clearly see Jesus' humanity displayed in this scenario. He experiences emotion and pain as we do. [Possible cross-ref is Heb 4:15]. He too knows that he must submit to his Father's will. He too must obey God's commands, even when it's tough.

Read Mark 14:43-52

6. Jesus is now approached by Judas and the soldiers. Again, try and draw the story of this section in the six boxes below:

<p>a <i>Same intent as above.</i></p>	<p>b</p>	<p>c</p>
<p>d</p>	<p>e</p>	<p>f</p>

7. What can we notice as being particularly deceptive in Judas' actions?

We note that Judas tries to pretend that everything is normal. He greets him with a kiss (as a close friend would) in order to try and cover what he has just done. Although not following Jesus' will, he tries to pretend that he still is – something that we often do at times too.

8. We have read tonight of the disciples (and Judas particularly) who have failed to remain faithful to God's will, and of Jesus who has also struggled with the same thing. What can we identify from this passage as the crucial element in remaining faithful to God's will?

Prayer! v38 → the disciples are told to pray in order to not give in to their temptation to sleep. v32-40 → Jesus' response to struggling with what is about to happen is to pray! We too must pray when we are struggling to understand or submit to God's will for our lives.

9. What are some of the ways we today struggle to remain faithful to the way in which God wants us to act and live our lives?

A chance for practical application. Get the kids to be specific. Get some of them to share.

- a. What things would enable you to know that you are on track for remaining faithful to God's will for your life?

In order that we may be able to identify when we are struggling. It is one thing to theoretically know what it means to stay on track, but another to be able to recognise it.

- b. How can we practically help each other to take notice of these things and stay on track?

A chance for some more application as a group as a whole.

Pray as a group that we would be able to understand God's desire for the way in which we live our lives. Pray that we would be able to help each other to remain faithful to his will.