

QUESTIONS THAT MATTER.

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 26:36-56

1. BELONG – Slow down and assess how people are doing in their personal lives. Have group members each share their answer to one of the two questions below. Allow time for encouraging conversation.
 - A. Today’s Bible passage describes some exhausted disciples. What wears you out the most (besides children)? What energizes you the most (besides coffee)?
 - B. In Matthew 26:53, Jesus references the thousands of angels that can operate on earth. Have you ever had a supernatural encounter, either angelic or demonic?

2. DISCOVER – Discuss the questions below. Remember, this is meant to be a dialogue, not a monologue. This section is all about hearing the Word of God together.
 - A. Read Matthew 26:36-56 around the circle.
 - B. Have one person summarize the story in their own words without looking at the story.
 - C. Read it around again.
 - D. Have an open discussion in the group with these questions:
 - a. What do you like? What surprises you or catches your attention first in this story?
 - b. What do we learn in this story about human nature? About ourselves?
 - c. What do we learn about who Jesus is? What do we learn about what He came to do?

3. GO – In the gospels, we learn of Jesus’ emphasis on transformation, above and beyond mere information.
 - A. Consider the three groups of Jesus’ friends (disciples) in this story. How does this speak to your friends’ roles in your life, and to your role as a friend to others?
 - First Group: 9 disciples – “Sit here” – vs.36 (outer circle friends, etc.)
 - Second Group: 3 disciples – “Remain here, and watch with me” – vs.38
 - Third Group: Father and Son – “He fell on his face and prayed” – vs.39
 - B. Consider the process of Jesus’ prayer and trust. How can this model/process transform your life of faith in the Father?
 - “My Father, if it is possible...” – vs.39
 - “My Father, if it is not possible...” – vs.42
 - (To disciples) “Look, the hour has come...Rise, let’s go...” – vss.45-46
 - C. Take time now to finish the statement, “Based on what I just read and learned, I will _____ this week.” Be specific. How would others know if you did this?

4. PRAY – Each person chooses one of the following ways to pray:
 - A. Share one “cup” (pain) which you need friends to watch and pray with you.
 - B. Pray for someone by name for whom you could watch and pray.