



# Groups

## Thanks for checking out our sermon-based Study Guides!

If you've never used our Study Guides before, you'll find some basic instructions towards the end of the document.

- These study guides will be written by thoughtful and experienced Life Group Leaders.
- Use these guides as a head-start in your own preparation as the needs and culture is different from each group.

## NEW THIS YEAR:

As we enter this new season at Grace Chapel in search for the next Senior Pastor, we invite you to consider the significance of this moment and to incorporate a time of prayer for the search.

## Outline

- I. Introduction and Main Scripture Readings
- II. Group Discussion Questions
- III. Prayer for Senior Pastor Search
- IV. The Journey Resources
- V. Support for the Leader

## How to Use These Study Guides:

1. **Before the meeting:** Consider sending out the Scripture passage to your group members ahead of time.
2. **Check In:** Begin each meeting with a short time checking in with one another.
3. **Read Scripture:** You may want to begin the discussion by reading the Scripture passage together out loud, or by summarizing the passage if everyone has read it ahead of time.
4. **Ask Questions:** Don't feel like you need to discuss every question included in the Study Guide. Pick one or two to start with and see how the conversation flows.
5. **End with Prayer:** Be sure to set aside time for sharing prayer requests and praying together.

*If your group meets over Zoom:*

- Expect to do more overt facilitating over Zoom than you would in person. Feel free to call on people to invite them to share.
- Be sensitive to attention spans over zoom. Keep meetings shorter than they would be in person.

### Group Leader Support:

- Please reach out to your Campus Pastor if you have any questions about leading your group or concerns about your group dynamic.
- If you have questions about or feedback on the Study Guides, please reach out to Pastor [Tim Ghali](#) or [Grace Lee](#) from the Group Life team.

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## LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

for Sermon given on February 18, 2024  
by Pastor Jon Kim

### CRYING AT KFC – Mark 14:32-36



#### I. Introduction

This past Ash Wednesday marked the beginning of Lent – a time of 40 days leading up to Easter where Christians reflect more intentionally around the life and death of Jesus. Our series for Lent is part 2 of our Kingdom Come series, entitled *Kingdom Come: Thy Will be Done*. Each week we will be focusing on something different that Jesus calls us to surrender. And we hope that this prayer of surrender that Jesus prays in the Garden of Gethsemane, *thy will be done*, would be our prayer as well. To be clear, this series is not about trying to figure out the will of God for your life, but focuses on the will of God for Jesus to surrender and give his life, and also the will of God for us to live a life of surrender.

Questions: What does surrendering your own will and desires for the will and desires of God look like?

Bottom Line: The invitation to surrender our self-preservation is an invitation to live vulnerably and authentically.

Let's begin in prayer before we begin reading and discussing our text.

***Main Scripture Readings:***

Mark 14:32-36

<sup>32</sup> They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.” <sup>33</sup> He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled. <sup>34</sup> “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death,” he said to them. “Stay here and keep watch.”

<sup>35</sup> Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him. <sup>36</sup> “*Abba*, Father,” he said, “everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.”

Mark 10:43-45

<sup>43</sup> Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, <sup>44</sup> and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. <sup>45</sup> For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

## II. Group Discussion Questions:

1. Surrender in many cultures, past and present, is considered a sign of weakness or failure. Giving up is especially unnatural for a culture in which we tell people from childhood that they should never give up.
  - Ask your group to share examples of surrender that left a deep impression in their own lives.
2. When Jesus says to his disciples: *My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death*, he shows weakness and vulnerability.
  - Imagine if you were Peter, James, or John. How would you have reacted to Jesus' admission? Now imagine if one of your closest friends said the same words to you. How would you react to them? How do your reactions compare? Share your thoughts and feelings with the group.
  - We can go to great extremes to cover our weaknesses. We even lie about the smallest things because we want to preserve the image of what others think about us. What about Jesus' example here stands out to you?
3. Pastor Jon points out that **being AROUND Jesus is not the same thing as becoming LIKE Jesus**. Even talking about Jesus isn't the same thing as becoming like Jesus.
  - Read Mark 10:43-45 together as a group.
  - Apply the three steps of inductive Bible Study together: 1) Observe, 2) Interpret, and 3) Apply.
  - What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus?
4. Pastor Jon pointed out that Mark was not concerned with trying to convince people to be a disciple of Jesus. Rather, Mark is trying to convince people that it is not through power Jesus is going to be the Messiah. It is through **serving, suffering, and surrendering. Surrender is the currency of the kingdom of God**. Because in God's Kingdom, it isn't power, wealth, or status that gives you access; it's surrender.
  - **Jesus surrenders his desire for self-preservation**. How does this stand in contrast with our instinct for self-preservation?
  - How does our world's social currency of success, wealth, power, and status contrast with the currency of the kingdom of God?
5. Pastor Jon shares, "the invitation to surrender our self-preservation is an invitation to live vulnerably and authentically. Instead of trying to save your life, **share your life**." Pastor Jon then shares a personal story of when he saw his father cry for the first time. When Jon's father showed weakness and sadness, Jon was able to understand his father's hurts and pains.

- Ask your group to share their own experiences with showing vulnerability or observing it, and then to describe what impact it had on that relationship.
  - What pain, weakness, sadness are you carrying right now? How can the group support and pray for you?
6. As you close in prayer, ask the Lord to put on your heart the name of someone you can share your life with. Not the perfect self-image that you want to project, but to share your weakness, sadness and emotions. This might be someone in your family, a friend, neighbor, colleague, or a brother or sister in Christ. Conversely, if you find someone revealing their vulnerabilities to you, pray that you would listen with care with a true desire to know them more fully.

***Take Home Message:***

Jesus offers a vision of the kingdom of God – where we can express our emotions, our weaknesses, and still be loved and cherished. If we could be more vulnerable with each other, maybe we would begin to understand each other's hurts and pains. Instead of trying to save your life, share your life with God and the people around you.

***Let's Pray***

### **III. Prayer for Senior Pastor Search**

During this next ministry year as we navigate transitions, we invite you to secure time during your life group to pray over the search process. Click [here](#) to access the full resource of the prayer guide.

**Prayers for Preparation of the heart**

- Pray for God to reveal to you the condition of your soul or the work of God's Spirit within you, as you consider your feelings about the Senior Pastor search process.
- Prayer is not just an opportunity to make requests from God, but to listen to what God might want for us during this season of transition. Pause and listen for any invitation from God that he is asking you to enter into.

**Prayers for the Purposes of God**

- Pray that God will use the people of Grace Chapel in the fulfilling of his mission to further the Gospel message and for us to be people of peace and healing in a broken world.

**Prayers for the People of Grace**

- Pray that Grace Chapel will to seek the Lord as we continue our vision to be a vibrant, growing, multicultural community of seekers and believers, discovering life with God for the good of the world. Pray that we will continue with our mission to make and mobilize more disciples for Jesus Christ in Greater Boston and beyond.

### Prayers for the Person God's calling

- Pray that they will have a passion to continue the work the Lord is doing at Grace Chapel and that they will be excited about the opportunities here.
- Pray that the new pastor will have a clear vision for how to minister to the people of Grace Chapel and the surrounding community.

### Prayers for Discernment

- Pray for God's clear direction in how resumes are examined and interviews conducted.
- Ask God to bring the right person to the attention of the committee.
- Pray for the Search Committee to have God's wisdom in all the questions and information they share with the prospective pastor.

## IV. The Journey



*We're all on a journey. Where is yours taking you?*

The beauty of the way of Jesus is that it's not just good for us, it is good for the world around us. But that kind of beautiful life doesn't come from just hearing the words of Jesus. It comes from putting them into practice.

Three kinds of practice, actually:

- The **with-God life** of our personal habits and routines;
- The **with-others life** of our genuine and life-changing relationships; and
- The **for-the-world life** that makes an impact beyond our immediate homes and families, into our communities and beyond.

Growing as disciples of Jesus will make a Kingdom difference in our world and a transformative difference in our lives as believers and as a group. And these resources are helpful in identifying the next steps for our journeys.

### Launching by the end of September: The newly, revised Discipleship Planning Tool

We invite your group to [take the assessment](#) and to spend a session to share about the practice and perspective you chose to focus on for the next three months.

## V. Support for the Leader

These Teaching Points are provided to help the group leader make connections from the message to their group with both insights from the Biblical text and opportunities in the life of our church.

### ***Teaching Points:***

- Mark is not concerned with trying to convince people to be a disciple of Jesus. He is trying to convince people that it is not through power Jesus is going to be the Messiah, the savior of the world, it is through serving, suffering, and surrendering
- Although surrendering our desires for God's desires isn't easy, surrender is the currency of the kingdom of God. Because in God's Kingdom, it isn't power, wealth or status that gives you access; it's surrender
- Jesus wasn't someone who just prayed when he was going through a hard time, he prayed all of the time so that when he encountered a hard time, that he would be more ready
- Being around Jesus is not the same thing as becoming like Jesus
- Jesus came not to be served, but he came to serve and to give his life for us
- Jesus surrendered his desire for self-preservation
- Share your life with Jesus, talk to him, let him know exactly how you feel.