

HOME GROUP QUESTIONS

Week 10 | 3.17.24
Seeing Jesus Anew

Scripture:
Luke 22:39-71

Group Gathering Question:

In times of crisis, do you keep your cool, get upset, run away, or dig in?

Read this week's Scripture and discuss these questions.

1. Jesus says to the disciples in verses 40 and 46 to pray so that they will not fall into temptation. What do you think Jesus means by this, given the context of the situation and what we learned about the disciples in last week's passage?
2. Read verses 42-44. Is Jesus praying to get out of his mission here in verse 42? Or is he simply praying and expressing his real feelings to God? What does this prayer time tell us about Jesus? How does the Father answer Jesus' prayer in verse 43?
3. We read in verses 54-62 how Peter denies knowing Jesus after Jesus predicted it in the last passage. How is it that Peter is so bold at other times but here denies even knowing Jesus? What is Peter's response after Jesus looks at him and what does that tell us about Peter?
4. Reread verse 61. What kind of look do you think Jesus was giving Peter when he looked at him in the courtyard. Why?
5. There are probably times when we have failed someone like Peter did. If you are willing, please share a situation where you fell short. How do you usually react when you experience failure? How have you learned from failure or how has it changed you in some way?
6. James Garfield said, "The truth will set you free, but first it will make your life miserable." Have you discovered this to be true in your life?

PRAYER

We would love to pray for you and have you join us in praying for our church, community, and world. To submit a prayer request or to access our prayer calendar, please visit zpc.org/prayer.

- Prayers of comfort for Jennifer Hufford in the passing of her mother, Jane Elder; Kelly and Jim Wendt in the passing of Kelly's mother, Marilyn Redmon; Butch West and family in the passing of his wife Jan; and for Mike and Ann Lechworth in the passing of Mike's mother, Byrd.
- Prayers of healing for Ken Miller and Nancy Thompson.



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HOME GROUP LEADER NOTES

This week marks the last of the 10 weeks of our winter Home Groups. Take a two-week spring break and Easter break from your group. We'll begin again with new questions and groups starting Sunday, April 7.

This week, we discuss the night "when darkness reigns" (Luke 22:53). Jesus agonizes in the Garden of Gethsemane while his disciples sleep. Jesus is arrested and taken before the Sanhedrin while Peter denies knowing him. What might we learn about dealing with darkness and struggle from Jesus and the disciples?

1. The disciples are merely human. Last week they argued about who was the greatest and now Peter denies knowing Jesus. They fall asleep in the garden. Jesus knew he was about to be led away from them and he knew they would need extra strength in the days ahead to face temptations to run away or deny knowing him or to doubt that he was really the Christ.

2. Jesus knew that a cup of terrible agony or wrath was coming. He would be mocked, beaten, put on trial and crucified. It would all be humiliating and painful. While he prayed that perhaps there was another way, he also prayed for the Father's will to be done. While he was in anguish, the Father sends an angel came to give him strength. It is healthy to express our true feelings, our fears, our heartfelt requests to God.

3. Earlier that same night, Peter had said he would go to prison and death with Jesus. Peter is bold enough to follow Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, enemy territory. But he is scared enough to lie and say that he doesn't know Jesus. Peter is intense, passionate and can be headstrong. He weeps bitterly. Jesus will restore him in relationship (see John 21:15) and Peter will lead the early church in the book of Acts.

4. Jesus looked at Peter after Peter denied knowing him. Perhaps it was a look of anger, or sadness at Peter's failure, or even a look of love knowing that he still loved Peter even though he had failed. Jesus still loved his disciples and loves us, and wants to be with us despite our failures.

5. Peter expressed courage, fear, failure and sadness all in a short time. We are all human and all fail. Sometimes we fail in our relationships, our jobs, our faith, our decisions. How we react or respond to failure matters as much or more than the failure itself. When we fail, we can admit it, ask for forgiveness, learn from it and move forward with Jesus' help.

6. The truth can be harsh. We would often rather live in a way where things are all things are good and fine. When we are faced with truth (like Jesus being arrested or Peter caught denying knowing Jesus), it can make us miserable. We can run away and deny ourselves or choose to face the truth even when it is difficult.