

WEEK 2

# UPSIDE NMOD

## ADULT DISCUSSION GUIDE

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1. This wasn't the only time Jesus took Peter, James and John (the sons of Zebedee) with him and left the other disciples behind. When else did this happen? Look at Matthew 17. What happened the last time Jesus took these three disciples with him?
2. When Jesus took Peter, James, and John up the mountain (1) he was transfigured (2) Moses showed up to talk with Jesus (3) Elijah showed up to talk with Jesus and (4) God spoke to them in an audible voice. If you experienced something like that with someone and they asked you to come with them, would you fall asleep the next time?
3. What does Jesus mean when he says the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak? In June of 1999 the Dallas Stars won their only Stanley Cup (the championship trophy in Hockey). I was 13. The final game, Game 6 of the series, went into triple overtime. Near midnight, I fought like crazy to stay awake because I didn't want to miss the moment the Stars won it all. Alas, I fell asleep sometime during the second overtime and didn't awake until I heard yells of victory from family and friends. Have you ever had "flesh is weak" moment?
4. Why do you think Jesus asked these three to watch for him? Do you think it was for his benefit or theirs? Jesus came back to check on the disciples 3 times and each time they were asleep. Why do you think he came back and woke them so many times? How might the coming events (Jesus' death, resurrection, etc.) have been differently for these 3 had they stayed awake? Specifically, how might things have been different for Peter? (Consider Jesus' prophecy about Peter when he wakes him the first time)
5. Consider the following quote from Tim Keller "We can be sure our prayers are answered precisely in the way we would want them to be answered if we knew everything God knows." Do you agree or disagree with this quote? Why?
6. What can we learn about the way Jesus prays in this moment? When Jesus asked to have the cup taken from him, he was facing great physical pain (crucifixion) but other pain was he facing? Is it significant that Jesus went back to God with the same prayer several times? Theologian D.A. Carson points out that in the first garden, the Garden of Eden, it's "not your will but mine" that brings sin into the world and breaks the relationship with God. But Jesus flips this **upside down** in the Garden of Gethsemane with "not my will but yours". How do Jesus' prayer and willingness to die change everything?

# STUDENTS DISCUSSION GUIDE

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1. Jesus caught the disciples sleeping through what was a very important moment. How is this symbolic in your own life? What moments can you pinpoint?
2. Jesus asks God to "take this cup from me". What is God leading you to do that you have been resistant toward and why?
3. What does Jesus asking for a way out tell you about who He was?
4. Jesus' arrest showed His ability to use the brokenness of men for the benefit of the kingdom. how has God used your brokenness/mistakes for His glory?
5. This passage demonstrates many different characteristics of Jesus. Which one resonates with you the most and why?

## Here's Your Challenge:

- Take a few minutes each day this week to pray. In your prayer time each day ask God to use your brokenness to bring Him glory, and listen to Him for practical ways you can live that out. Write down any of the specific things He lays on your heart. It doesn't have to be a long prayer time and if you have trouble focusing, maybe even try writing your prayer down on a sheet of paper to keep your mind on task.

# KIDS DISCUSSION GUIDE

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1. Jesus took some of His closest friends to pray with Him in the garden. Do you have close friends who pray with you or for you? Do you pray for your friends?
2. One of the paintings I have in my house is of a picture I took in Jerusalem from the area where Jesus took His disciples to pray (see attached picture). The gate that is there today has the greek letters Alpha and Omega. Alpha is the first letter and Omega is the last. Omega is like our "Z" in the alphabet. God is the Alpha (beginning) and the Omega (end). Why is this important to remember about God during this specific story about Jesus praying in the Garden and being arrested?
3. Why is it important for us to talk to God about how we are feeling? If God already knows what we are going to pray, why is it important that we pray?
4. Why do you think Jesus goes to the garden to pray? Where is your favorite place to pray? Why?
5. Jesus came to turn things UPSIDE DOWN! He runs toward Judas, the disciple who mistreated Him, and allows Himself to be arrested. This could be a scary situation for Jesus, but He knows that God is in control. What scary situations have you faced where you needed to trust that God was in control?

## Family Activities:

- Preschool and Elementary: Take your kids to a garden or a park that is close to you. Talk about how Jesus "got away" to pray and chose a beautiful garden to do so. Pray together as a family for things that are hard for you right now.
- Jesus came to the earth to do the will of God. Play a game of Simon Says or Mother May I and talk about how important it is to pray and ask God to be the BIG GOD He is and move forward with His plans for our lives.



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