

READ: Mark 14:33-52; John 16:33; 2 Corinthians 4:8

OPEN:

- How was your week? In what ways did you experience God at work in your life?
- What role does suffering play in the life of a believer?
- In John 16:33, Jesus says, "I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world, you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world." Describe how you have witnessed another believer endure suffering for God's glory.

BIG IDEA: *(This is where we are going over the next three weeks in our sermon series leading up to Easter.)* On Jesus' path to the Cross, we honor and remember His demonstration as:

- 1) Servant – Jesus washes the Disciple's Feet
- 2) **Suffering – Jesus at Gethsemane**
- 3) Sovereign – Jesus' Triumphal Entry / Palm Sunday

READ: Mark 14:33-52, NLT – **Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane**

- In v.32, Jesus is with His disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane, located at the base of the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem, which means "oil press." In what ways was Jesus pressed in the Garden of Gethsemane? (Teacher's Note: For Jesus to become the "light of the world," He had to be crushed for the forgiveness of sins.)
- In v. 34, Jesus says, "My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me." Why does Jesus make this statement? What does this say about Jesus' state of mind in this passage?
- Jesus cried out to His Father and asked, "You have all power. Nothing is impossible for You. Take this cup of suffering from Me." Have you prayed and cried out to God before to remove something or some situation from your life so that God would take your suffering away? Briefly share.
- Jesus focused on doing the will of the Father. Why is it important for Christians to focus on God's will while they are suffering?
- Why does God not take the Cup of Suffering away from Jesus? What does this say about how Christians should respond to the mystery of suffering in life?
- Discuss 2 Corinthians 4:6: "For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."
- How can we seek the will of the Lord in our suffering?
- How are you currently responding to the pain and/or suffering in your life right now?

REFLECT:

- How can we learn from our suffering and not grow in bitterness?
- In what ways can we seek to do the Will of the Father this week?
- Continue to pray and be proactive with your Easter Invest + Invite Card.

VISION OPPS:

- **EGGSTRAVAGANZA** - Saturday, March 24, 11 am
- **GOOD FRIDAY** - March 29, 5 & 7 pm, Doors open at 4pm and close at 9pm
All campuses will gather at the NB campus
 - We will take a look at the significance of the Passover and how it points us to Jesus
 - Rabbi Ned Puro from Shores David Messianic Congregation will explain the Sader/Passover meal
 - Before and after our Good Friday remembrance, take a walk through our visual display, The Passover
- **EASTER** Sunday, March 31