

Celebrating Holy Week at Home - Wednesday, April 8

Read Mark 14:32-42

Jesus knew He was about to be arrested and sentenced to death on a cross. He knew He was about to experience a terrible, painful death. While He was completely God, He was also able to experience pain, and His heart was deeply grieving what was about to happen.

He cried tears and begged God that if there was another way, please keep this from happening. Then He said something very important, "Yet not what I will, but what you will." He was saying 'God, I don't want this, but if it's what you want, then let it happen'. Jesus realized that while this was going to be horrible, it was God's best plan. We know that it was. This was God's plan to bring His people back to Himself. God knew Jesus was the only ultimate sacrifice for our sins.

While Jesus was praying, he asked some of His closest friends to join Him and pray together while He prayed alone. These close friends kept falling asleep. Jesus came and checked on them a couple of times and they were asleep. One time he said to them, "Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

Jesus was telling His disciples that they would face many temptations, especially after He had returned to Heaven. He was modeling for them how they should handle those temptations; watch for those temptations, pray to God for help, seek your friends for support and ask for God's will to be done, not your own.

Discuss these questions with your family:

*Jesus prayed twice that he would not have to suffer through death on the cross. God chose to answer Jesus' prayer by saying 'no' and not protecting him from the cross. Have any of your prayers been answered in ways that you did not want them answered? Is it sometimes hard to trust God when His answers are 'no' or 'not now'? What do we know about God that helps us to trust Him through hard things?

Prayer: Thank God for the gift of prayer and that we can trust Him in knowing that He always answers in ways that are for our good and His glory.

Activity: Create a prayer page or prayer card for your family. Collect prayer requests from your family and add them to this list. Continue to add to the list and pray for these things daily.

