

Jesus v God

discussion guide

based on **Mark 14.32-52** (Linked to sermon of 12/3/17)
which can be accessed at www.stjamesbythepark.org/current-sermon-series

This was part of a series called "24: Jesus' final hours" – going slowly through Mark 14-16 during Lent.

Intro: Recall a time when you've faced a crisis and you asked the question why has this happened or why did this have to happen?

Someone read Mark 14.32-42. Spend a couple of minutes prayerfully meditating on this and reflecting on Jesus' prayer of vv. 35-36. Use this time to "get into" the dramatic scene that was taking place.

Jesus recoils at the "cup" in his prayer in verse 36. The 'cup of God's wrath' referred to the disgusting, poisonous punishment that was coming. Someone read aloud Isaiah 51:17-23 – in the past, rebellious Israel had drunk the "cup of God's wrath" for their rebellion against Him and their faithlessness towards him. Why did Jesus now have to drink from this "cup"? (See Isaiah 53:1-6 for an explanation)

What sort of things have brought about God's wrath - see Romans 1:18-32 for an explanation. Whose actions deserve God's wrath - see Romans 3:21-25 and what effect does Jesus death have?

Faced with all this, marvel at Jesus prayer of Mark 14:35-36: reflect on "Yet not what I will, but what you will". What sort of prayers do you find hardest to pray like this?

Meanwhile the disciples kept falling asleep. Jesus' response to this in verses 37-38 suggests a need to be "spiritually" alert and on our guard. Compare this with 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 (someone read the passage). How do we need to respond to Jesus' call to "Watch and pray that you will not fall into temptation (Mark 14:38)"?

Someone read Mark 14.43-52. Note that the mob consisted of those sent by religious leaders and Judas all of whom rejected Jesus as their Messiah. In what way did Jesus fall short of Judas' hopes? What are your expectations of Jesus? How can you guard against being disappointed in Jesus and ultimately betraying him?

Up: Meditate on the enormity of what Jesus did for you. Suggested passage: Isaiah 51:17-53:12

In: Consider how to encourage one another in seeking God's will as individuals and as a group.

Out: Think of a person you know who needs to hear of the enormity of what Jesus has done for them. Share these in the group and continue to pray for them.

Pray: That the Lord would draw you close to him as you pray together. Pray through the Lord's prayer together, pausing for an extended period at "Your will be done" and pray into this section your own prayers.