



**I HAVE A QUESTION**

## A Guide for Spiritual Formation

Text for the Week: Matthew 26:36-46

Message for the Week: Does God answer our prayers?

**Sunday, May 18**

### Opening:

What is one low (a bad thing) and one high (a good thing) that happened to you this past week? Write them down and take turns sharing them with the others in your group.

Where have you seen the work of the Holy Spirit in your life this past week?

When was the last time that you asked for something and didn't get it? How did you respond?

### Preparation:

Spend 1-2 minutes in silence with God to center and prepare yourself for your time with God today.

### Read:

Read / Have two people in your group read [Matthew 26:36-46](#) out loud. Read The Message version too.

[Clicking the link will bring you to multiple translations.]

As you read and/or listen to the text being read, circle, highlight, or underline what words, phrases, or ideas grabbed your attention and heart in these verses?

Write them down below and/or share them with those who are with you.

## **Respond / Reflect:**

What is the tone and posture of your prayers when you pray? Describe them.

When the answer to your prayer(s) is not what you want, how do you respond?

God answers our prayers in different ways. Sometimes it is yes, sometimes it is wait, and sometimes it is no. Which of these answers is easiest for you? Which is hardest? Why?

What does Jesus teach us about praying (not prayer) in these verses?

When is it most difficult for you to pray? Why is this?

When is it the easiest for you to pray? Why is this?

## **Take Away:**

What is a main point or key message that you learned, understood, observed, or experienced that you are taking away with you from your group's reflections on the bible passage or your group's conversations today?

## **Prayer:**

Spend time praying with/for the other people who are with you. Who in your group needs prayer today? Who in your group will you pray for?

Pray this prayer together:

Father, forgive us for expecting the answer we want for our prayers. Help us to submit our will to yours so that your purposes are worked out in our lives. May we find peace living in your will so that your glory and purposes are worked out in our lives. AMEN

## **"Try It" - Putting our Faith into Action:**

This coming week, when you pray, make note of the posture and tone of your prayers. Pay attention to your requests and your willingness to receive the yes, the no, or the wait.

## Matthew 26:36-46 - New International Version

### Matthew 26:36-46

**26** <sup>36</sup> Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." <sup>37</sup> He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. <sup>38</sup> Then he said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me." <sup>39</sup> Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will." <sup>40</sup> Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Couldn't you men keep watch with me for one hour?" he asked Peter. <sup>41</sup> "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." <sup>42</sup> He went away a second time and prayed, "My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done." <sup>43</sup> When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. <sup>44</sup> So he left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing. <sup>45</sup> Then he returned to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour has come, and the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners. <sup>46</sup> Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!"

## Matthew 26:36-46 – The Message

### Matthew 26:36-46

<sup>36-38</sup> Then Jesus went with them to a garden called Gethsemane and told his disciples, "Stay here while I go over there and pray." Taking along Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he plunged into an agonizing sorrow. Then he said, "This sorrow is crushing my life out. Stay here and keep vigil with me." <sup>39</sup> Going a little ahead, he fell on his face, praying, "My Father, if there is any way, get me out of this. But please, not what I want. You, what do *you* want?" <sup>40-41</sup> When he came back to his disciples, he found them sound asleep. He said to Peter, "Can't you stick it out with me a single hour? Stay alert; be in prayer so you don't wander into temptation without even knowing you're in danger. There is a part of you that is eager, ready for anything in God. But there's another part that's as lazy as an old dog sleeping by the fire." <sup>42</sup> He then left them a second time. Again he prayed, "My Father, if there is no other way than this, drinking this cup to the dregs, I'm ready. Do it your way." <sup>43-44</sup> When he came back, he again found them sound asleep. They simply couldn't keep their eyes open. This time he let them sleep on, and went back a third time to pray, going over the same ground one last time. <sup>45-46</sup> When he came back the next time, he said, "Are you going to sleep on and make a night of it? My time is up, the Son of Man is about to be handed over to the hands of sinners. Get up! Let's get going! My betrayer is here."