

Simply Jesus

The Life and Ministry of God's Son

Inductive: Lesson 26

Introduction

Who doesn't want encouragement and comfort when hard times come? Whenever people face a crisis, the greatest form of comfort is the company of those dear to us. Jesus was no different; He too desired to have His closest friends near as He was about to face His hour of suffering. He chose Peter, James and John—the three who had been granted greater access to the miracles. And the clock was now ticking as Jesus retreated to the quiet seclusion of an olive grove with His disciples. There He would await those who would shortly come to arrest him and take Him away. On this particular night, decisions would be made by different individuals that would forever alter their lives. From John's gospel account of the story we learn that Jesus was in complete control of His destiny. He didn't hide from anyone, a fact that John apparently wants the reader to understand. Gethsemane was a familiar place to Jesus and His disciples; even Judas knew well of its whereabouts. But this night would be different, for this quiet garden refuge would become lit with the torches of the enemy, led by one who would betray his Master. Swords would be drawn and angry words exchanged; and in the end, Jesus would be led away as a prisoner and put on trial.

Did you know ~

Mark's gospel reveals the humanity of Christ as He faced the most severe testing possible. The Garden of Gethsemane in Hebrew means, "oil press." This was a place where Jesus often went with His disciples to withdraw from the crowds and be alone. The garden was part of an olive orchard situated at the base of the Mount of Olives. It is believed to be the location where there was an olive press used to extract the oil from the olives. Symbolically, it represents much more—the place where Jesus was *pressed hard* as He fulfilled His mission to sacrifice Himself for our sins.

We are now entering the time in Jesus' life when He encountered His own greatest personal suffering. To fully appreciate your study time, read through the cross reference accounts found in the other gospels in the grid on page 2. John mentions close up details the others do not; but all of them encompass a well-rounded, full presentation of the story of redemption. This is not only history, it is *His story!* Try to put yourself in the disciples' shoes, seeing things from their perspective. Ask God to give you specific insight to see it in a way you have not before. It is a prayer He will be delighted to answer!

Open your Bible and lesson each day by beginning with a word of prayer.

Up Close ~

The chart below represents a reader's guide to the contents of this week's lesson. The topical teachings and/or events covered are followed by the primary scriptural text as well as the supportive parallel passages. You will be able to receive and grasp a well-rounded picture of the story narrative in the Gospel harmony by reading every passage. However, using the bolded text as your point of reference (your anchor text) will allow you to determine the facts, lessons, and personal applications necessary to formulate your own conclusions.

<u>Teaching / Event</u>	<u>Scripture Text</u>	<u>Parallel Passages</u>
Prayer in the Garden	Mark 14:32-42	Matt. 26; Luke 22
Betrayal and Arrest in Gethsemane	John 18:1-11	Matt. 26; Luke 22
Questioned by the High Priest	John 18:12-14; 19-24	Matt. 26; Mark 14
Denial by the Fire	John 18:15-18; 25-27	Matt. 26; Mark 14; Luke 22

First Impressions: Group Discussion

Reflect for a moment on the passages you have just read.

Respond by recording your first impressions from your initial reading of the text. Be prepared to share one of your impressions with your discussion group.

Heartbeat: Mark 14:38 NKJV (Memory verse)

(Write it out once in the space below. **Practice it each time** you open your lesson.)

Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing but the flesh is weak.

32 Then they came to a place which was named Gethsemane; and He said to His disciples,

“Sit here while I pray.”

33 And He took Peter, James, and John with Him, and He began

to be troubled and deeply distressed.

34 Then He said to them, “My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death.

Stay here and watch.”

35 He went a little farther, and fell on the ground, and prayed that if it were possible,

the hour might pass from Him.

36 And He said, “Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Take this cup away from Me;

nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will.

37 Then He came and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, “Simon, are you sleeping?

Could you not watch one hour?

38 Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing,

but the flesh is weak.

39 Again He went away and prayed, and spoke the same words.

40 And when He returned, He found them asleep again, for their eyes were heavy;

and they did not know what to answer Him.

41 Then He came the third time and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and resting?

It is enough! The hour has come; behold, the Son of Man is

being betrayed into the hands of sinners.

42 Rise, let us be going. See, My betrayer is at hand.”

John 18:1–11

Betrayal and Arrest in Gethsemane

1 When Jesus had spoken these words, He went out with His disciples over the Brook Kidron, where there was a garden, which He and His disciples entered.

2 And Judas, who betrayed Him, also knew the place; for Jesus often met there with His disciples.

3 Then Judas, having received a detachment of troops, and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, came there with lanterns, torches, and weapons.

4 Jesus therefore, knowing all things that would come upon Him, went forward and said to them, “Whom are you seeking?”

5 They answered Him, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus said to them, “I am He.” And Judas, who betrayed Him, also stood with them.

6 Now when He said to them, “I am He,” they drew back and fell to the ground.

7 Then He asked them again, “Whom are you seeking?” And they said, “Jesus of Nazareth.”

8 Jesus answered, “I have told you that I am He. Therefore, if you seek Me, let these go their way,”

9 that the saying might be fulfilled which He spoke, “Of those whom You gave Me I have lost none.”

10 Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest’s servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant’s name was Malchus.

11 So Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword into the sheath. Shall I not drink the cup which My Father has given Me?”

John 18:12–14; 19-24

Questioned by the High Priest

12 Then the detachment of troops and the captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound Him.

13 And they led Him away to Annas first, for he was the father-in-law of
Caiaphas who was high priest that year.

14 Now it was Caisphas who advised the Jews that it was expedient that
one man should die for the people.

19 The high priest then asked Jesus about His disciples and His doctrine.

20 Jesus answered him, "I spoke openly to the world. I always taught in the synagogues and in
the temple, where the Jews always meet, and in secret I have said nothing.

21 Why do you ask Me? Ask those who have heard Me what I said to them.

Indeed they know what I said."

22 And when He had said these things, one of the officers who stood by struck Jesus with the
palm of his hand, saying, "Do You answer the high priest like that?"

23 Jesus answered him, "If I have spoken evil, bear witness of the evil;
but if well, why do you strike Me?"

24 Then Annas sent Him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

John 18:15–18; 25–27

Denial by the Fire

15 And Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. Now that disciple was known
to the high priest, and went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest.

16 But Peter stood at the door outside. Then the other disciple, who was known to the high
priest, went out and spoke to her who kept the door, and brought Peter in.

17 Then the servant girl who kept the door said to Peter, "You are not also one of this
Man's disciples, are you?" He said, "I am not."

18 Now the servants and officers who had made a fire of coals stood there, for it was cold, and
they warmed themselves. And Peter stood with them and warmed himself.

25 Now Simon Peter stood and warmed himself. Therefore they said to him, "You are not also one of His disciples, are you?" He denied it and said, "I am not!"

26 One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of him whose ear Peter cut off, said, "Did I not see you in the garden with Him?"

27 Peter then denied again; and immediately a rooster crowed.

(Scripture from the New King James Bible, © 1980 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission.)

Observation: Look!

Pray. Read the Bible passage several times, trying to get a big picture of what is going on.

Left Column (Facts): Following the writer in the order he tells the story, briefly describe who is involved, what is happening, when and where the events are taking place.

Right Column (Observations): Look closely to observe details. Some questions you may ask:

- What do you know about the people involved in the story? What questions does the story raise? What sources of conflict do you see? What does Jesus identify as true and important to life?
- Put yourself in the Biblical character's shoes. What were his ambitions? How did the character relate to others or to God? What problem did he think he faced? Did Jesus identify a different problem in his life? What did he discover about God? How did he respond?
- Are there any words that you are not familiar with? Look up the definition.
- Are there words or phrases that are repeated or emphasized? Why are they key?
- Identify comparisons, such as "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven..." What do you know about leaven (yeast)? Identify contrasts, such as "You have heard it said...but I say to you..."
- Extra: Record information you may find in Bible dictionaries, maps, handbooks, or encyclopedias. Understanding the culture/time in which Jesus lived will help you discover the meaning of the text.

Mark 14:32–42

Prayer in the Garden

What does it say? (Facts from passage)

What do I see? (Personal research/observations)

John 18:1–11

Betrayal and Arrest in Gethsemane

What does it say? (Facts from passage)

What do I see? (Personal research/observations)

John 18:12–14; 19–24

Questioned by the High Priest

What does it say? (Facts from passage)

What do I see? (Personal research/observations)

John 18:15–18; 25–27

Denial by the Fire

What does it say? (Facts from passage)

What do I see? (Personal research/observations)

Interpretation: What does it mean?

Pray. The more time you take to observe the passage, the more you will have a basis for understanding what God's Word means. Interpretation **always** seeks to answer the questions, "What was God saying to the original audience?" and then, "How does that same truth relate to life today?" Asking yourself questions will help you see the spiritual lesson in the text: What does this teach me is true about God? What does it teach me is true about mankind? Is there a command to obey? Is there a promise to claim? Is there a condition to the promise? Is there an example I should follow or avoid? A spiritual lesson is a timeless truth that points to God and speaks to the heart of man. Stating the lesson in a sentence of 10 words or less will help you keep it simple and memorable.

Application: How does it apply to me? Pray. Practicing Biblical truth day-to-day is the only way to grow in Christ and reflect the glory of God. To apply the spiritual lesson you have learned from the text, you have to take deliberate action. Take the time to examine yourself, and ask: Does this spiritual lesson point out error in my thoughts about God? Does it point to error in my attitude or actions? How does this lesson relate to my home life, my work, my relationships, how I spend my time, etc? What change is required? What practical steps will I take to make that change? Write your application in the form of a question to help make it personal.

Mark 14:32–42

Lesson:

Application: _____

John 18:1–11

Lesson:

Application: _____

John 18:12–14; 19–24

Lesson:

Application: _____

John 18:15–18; 25–27

Lesson:

Application: _____

Behold & Be Transformed

What did you see as you beheld God's Son?

How does beholding (looking upon) Him, motivate you to change your thoughts, habit, attitude, speech or actions?

Pause . . . What is the most significant lesson you have learned this week?

Ponder . . . How will you put it into practice?

Pray . . . Write out your prayer and be specific.
