

SERMON SERIES: The Final Chapters  
SCRIPTURE: Luke 22:39-46  
SPEAKER: Mike Woodruff & Campus Pastors  
DATE: March 4-5, 2017

# Small Group Discussion Guide

## *for leaders* (see below for participants' guide)

### Gathering Time

- Make sure newcomers are welcomed and engaged in conversation
- Offer a snack and drink if the setting is right (i.e. a home)
- Arrange seating so everyone in the group can see each other

### Getting Acquainted

- **What is one takeaway from your last small group meeting? How are you doing putting it into practice in your life?**
  - As routine opener to group meetings, this question encourages individuals to apply your discussions in their lives. It also brings continuity & intentionality from meeting to meeting.
- **What is prayer?**
  - This question sets the stage for the Bible Exploration and helps people get to know one another on a personal level.

### Bible Exploration

- **Read Luke 22:39-46 as a group and reflect on Jesus' time of prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane. What details stand out and why? Are there things you don't understand? Discuss.**
- **What does it mean to follow Jesus when it comes to prayer? What kind of example does he set for us?**
- **Have you experienced receiving strength through the power of prayer in your life? Share a story.**
- **Talk about your prayer life. If you find it hard to pray regularly, why? If you have a strong prayer life, why?**
- **In this week's sermon we saw seven things we can learn from Jesus' prayer in the garden.**

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- Go to God when you are in crisis.
  - Pray to overcome temptation.
  - Prayer is hard.
  - Ask others to pray for you.
  - Find a posture that helps you focus.
  - Make your requests known to God.
  - Defer to God's will.
- **Which of the above things do have the hardest time with? How can your group encourage you in this?**
  - **What is one takeaway from this week's discussion you can begin applying to your life this week? Be specific, and be prepared to share next time how it went.**

## Prayer

- Invite the group to participate in a time of "conversational" prayer. Each person may pray as often as he or she wants, but only 1-2 short sentences on one topic at a time. This lowers the barrier of participation for people unaccustomed to praying with others.

## Wrap-Up

- Be sure to end the formal conversation on time.
- Thank newcomers for joining you, and invite everyone to the next meeting.
- Encourage people to linger for a few minutes, and do your best to have a personal interaction with each individual before he or she leaves.

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### Prayer