

Jesus Prays in the Garden of Gethsemane
Matthew 26:36-56
Key Verse: 26:39b

1. Read verses 36-38. Where does this event take place? Who is with Jesus? Why did Jesus go there? Which of the disciples does he take with him to the place of prayer? What did he want the others to be doing? What did he share with the three? Why? What did he ask them to do?
2. Read verses 39. What was his lonely, humble prayer request? What was "this cup?" What was his personal struggle? How did he reveal his surrender to God's will?
3. Read verses 40-41. When he returned and found his disciples sleeping, how did he admonish and warn them? What does it mean that "the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak?"
4. Read verses 42-44. How did he repeat his prayer request a second and third time? (42,44) Why was he "overwhelmed with sorrow"? (cf. Jn 1:29; 2Co 5:21; Gal 3:13) How did prayer change things? What does it mean that he called God "Father"?
5. Read verse 45-46. What does it mean that the hour has come? What does he teach here about himself? What do we learn about ourselves and all people?
6. Read verses 47-50. What is the tragic irony of Judas' betrayal? Read verses 51-57. Contrast the actions of Jesus and those of his disciples at the moment of his arrest. What accounts for the difference? How and why did Jesus emphasize the fulfillment of Scripture? What did he teach?