

## Study Guide

### Series: The Final Hours of Jesus' Life "A Garden"

**Monday** - *Read Mark 14:32.* Nelson's Life Application Bible says that Jesus chose a familiar place to pray one of his final prayers. The area around Jerusalem was rich with olive groves and many people were employed at the commercial oil presses or gethsemanes to produce the city's only export product. The garden mentioned here was a place where Jesus often went alone or with his disciples for prayer or relaxation. As a result, Judas had no trouble finding Jesus when he led the guards to arrest him (John 18:1-2). The exact site of the garden is unknown today, but it was on the Mount of Olives, just east of Jerusalem across the Kidron Valley, opposite the Temple (see Mark 13:3; John 18:1). Today, there is a garden there with Olive Trees dating back to the time of Jesus where Christians come from all over the world to pray. Do you have a familiar place of prayer at home and/or at work ... a place you can retreat to when you are stressed out or just need to relax and enjoy the presence of God? If you don't have one, why not find or create one? Have you ever tried praying through tense situations at work? Close your eyes and imagine yourself with God in the space that brings you the greatest delight. Now pray your prayer to God.

**Tuesday** - *Read Mark 14:34.* In this passage, we see the human side of Jesus as he wrestles in agony. What words does your Bible use to describe his emotional state? I have found that often I am moving so fast it is difficult for me to be in touch with how I am feeling. And yet, Jesus shows us that he was in touch with his emotions and dealt with them. Can you express your emotional state today? Like Jesus, consider being honest before God about how you feel through prayer. In other words, share your heart with God today.

**Wednesday** - *Read 14:38.* In The Message translation of the Bible this verse reads: "*Can't you stick it out with me a single hour? Stay alert; be in prayer, so you don't enter the danger zone without even knowing it. Don't be naïve. Part of you is eager, ready for anything in God; but another part is lazy as an old dog sleeping by the fire.*" Jesus was teaching the disciples that we have a natural propensity to sin. He was teaching them that only the Spirit of God, through prayer, could help them avoid sin. *Read 1 Corinthians 10:12-13.* What inside of you makes you act like "a lazy dog sleeping by the fire"? It might be helpful for you to think in terms of that something inside of you that keeps you from following God when you know you should. Make this your prayer to God today. Start with something like this: "God, I struggle so hard to..." Ask God to show you a way out. Conclude by thanking God for being faithful to show you a way out.

**Thursday** - *Read Matthew 26:43-45.* Jesus in the Garden appears not only in Mark 14:32-42, but also in Luke 22:39-46 and Matthew 26:36-45. It was late at night when the Jesus and the disciples enter the garden to pray and clearly they were tired. Jesus was agonizing over his decision and needing his friends support, but they let him down. Yet, Jesus didn't just throw up his hands in disgust and leave them in the garden as he goes to face his death. Do you stick with people even though they stumble and let you down?

Even though he was disappointed, Jesus recognized that this was an opportunity for God to usher in a brighter future. Do you see the shortcomings of your spouse, children, boss, coworkers, and neighbors as an opportunity for God to usher in a brighter future? Who in your circle of influence needs the bright possibilities of God to shine on them today? Ask God to bless them with encouragement and hope today. How can God use you to extend it?

**Friday** - *Read Mark 14:35-36.* This is Jesus prayer of relinquishment and surrender. John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, used a phrase in his covenant prayer: *"I am thine, O Lord, and you are mine. Put me to what you will."* If you were relinquishing your life to God, what would you need to let go of? Are you ready to let go? Why or why not? In your prayer time, search your heart and describe to God why you find it challenging to let go. Conclude by thanking God for loving you right where you are and then, thank God for helping you to get where God would like for you to be.