

THE GARDEN PRAYER

For the week of August 30, 2020

Matthew 26:36-46

Full message available at highpoint.church/currentseries

GET GOING

- Pastor Ed Stezer shared, “Jesus’ anguished prayer can be an example and a hope for us.” In what circumstances do you find yourself praying the most (e.g. gratitude, trial, question, decision point, etc.)? What does your pattern reveal about your prayer life?
- To learn and talk about prayer is one thing. To actually pray, is quite another! As you reflect upon this weekend, what are some real life burdens and challenges you are carrying? Take a moment by yourself, family, or your group and bring those items before Jesus! You can trust that He hears you right now.

KEEP GROWING

- At times, we may not want to press in to the reality that Jesus Himself was tempted (Matthew 16:39). What principles from Matthew 26:36-39 and Hebrews 4:15-16 encourages you to utilize prayer as an effective way to overcome temptation?
- The word translated as “temptation” in Matthew 26:41 literally means “test, trial, and temptation.” In what ways have you experienced prayer helping you overcome a test, trial or temptation?
- The act of committing to prayer is challenging! What part of Philippians 4:6-7 is hardest for you to believe in or live out? Why?
- Jesus asked the Father 3 different times (Matthew 26:29, 42, 44) for a different outcome. How do you receive and respond when God provides an outcome you do not like or prefer? How does Jesus’ response model for us a new way forward in following God’s will, decision, or desire?
- Is there an area of your life right now that you need to submit to God’s will, decision, or desire?
- Pastor Ed Stezer ended the message with the following principles: 1) “Prayer brought the resolve to meet the challenge of the cross.” and and 2) “Prayer aligns our hearts with God.” Which of these two applications sticks out to you more? Why?

Memory Verse

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths” (Proverbs 3:5-6).

Bonus Challenge

Choose one area of your life e.g. spiritual walk with Jesus, family, growth group, relationships, work...), and answer:

- what is going right about _____?
- what is going wrong about _____?
- what is confusing about _____?
- what is missing in my _____?

Utilize the “right, wrong, confusing, missing” prompt to engage in the 1-1-1 initiative this week.

