
Matthew Chapter 26

☐ 1. Warm-up (5-10 min)

Choose one:

- a. Are you a tightwad, a spendthrift or are you somewhere in between? Why do you think that is? Do you wish you handled your money and other resources differently than you do? Explain.

- b. Have you ever been betrayed by a friend or acquaintance? How did it make you feel? Is there anything you can do to keep yourself from ever being betrayed again? Why/why not?

☐ 2. Engaging the Chapter (15-20 min)

This chapter revolves around Jesus betrayal and arrest. It is interesting to note that Jesus has coolly anticipated it all. He has been telling His disciples it was coming for some time. At the last supper He predicted Peter's betrayal before it happened and then in the garden when approached by a mob of armed gangsters Peter tries to start a battle by chopping a guy's ear off to which Jesus responded by healing the ear and by stating that those very events were fulfilling prophecy. Jesus completely calmed and controlled the circumstances around His own arrest. He could have called thousands of angels or disappeared but deliberately chose not to.

What role do you think Jesus' agonizing prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane played in preparing Him to be so cool and in control during the actual event?

Do you think Jesus was just putting on a cool exterior or do you think He really had a deep peace as He went through this time? Explain how that would be possible.

Do you think it's possible for you to experience the same peace during difficult times that Jesus did? Why/why not?

3. Applying the Chapter to Your Life (5-10 min)

Think about one of the most difficult times you have personally been through. Discuss the details of what happened with your group. Do you think that a deeper closer relationship with Jesus/God/Holy Spirit could have been helpful? Why/why not? Discuss ways that you can implement that deeper/closer relationship with Jesus and how it may help you the next time you face a difficult situation.

Talk about the role that baptism plays in your relationship with Jesus. If you haven't been baptized yet talk to your parents, youth leaders and parents about what baptism means and talk about weather you'd like to study for baptism.

4. Prayer Time (3-5 min)

Pray and ask Jesus to help you learn what it means to pray without ceasing. Pray and ask Jesus to send you the Holy Spirit in a powerful way.

5. Prayer Time (3-5 min)

Ask your pastor about starting a prayer ministry at your church where you can take prayer requests and pray for people in difficult/stressful situations on a regular basis. Try putting a box for anonymous requests somewhere in your church and make announcements from the front as well. Be sure to assemble a team that will pray faithfully for the requests and make it a part of your Sabbath School and Pathfinder club meetings if possible as well.