

Victory By Surrender: The Gospel of Mark

A study for Community Groups to use the week of September 13th

To prepare for your group discussion each week, group members should use the **Series Guide** below along with the foundational questions we ask each week.

Week 31: Mark 14:27-52

Overview

Mark doesn't just tell us what Jesus did; he shows us who Jesus is in a way that forces us to rethink the world we're living in and the stories we're being sold every day.

"Perhaps Jesus spoke specifically to Peter in verse 37 because Peter had boasted that he would never deny Jesus (vv. 29, 31). Jesus' use of the name "Simon," Peter's original name, may imply his natural weakness. Peter was not living up to the meaning of his new name; he was not behaving like a rock. "True friendship as we experience it—the sharing of inmost thoughts, the exchange of feelings, hopes, sorrows, joys—was a reality that Jesus seems not to have enjoyed, with any continuity, with the Twelve."" – **Constable's Notes**

Questions

*In the Series Guide you will find basic questions we want all to use as they begin to look at the passage. Questions such as; *Who have you had the opportunity to BLESS this week? What does this passage reveal about God? About people? About the life He has planned for us?* These additional questions relate to the passage specifically for your benefit.

1. Peter insists, "Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you" (v.31). What does Peter's response reveal about where he believes his strength will come from? Where are you most tempted to rely on your own ability, preparation, or strength instead of depending on God?
2. Jesus honestly tells the Father what He wants, but ultimately prays, "Yet not what I will, but what you will" (v.36). What does Jesus' prayer teach us about what genuine surrender looks like? Where might God be inviting you to trust Him even when His way is different from what you would choose?
3. Jesus tells His disciples, "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak" (v.38). What does this passage teach us about the difference between good intentions and dependence on God? What practice of prayer or dependence could you begin building into your life now so that it shapes how you respond when difficulty comes?