

Bible Study – March 10, 2021
When You Feel Abandoned by God – Matthew 26:36-44

³⁶Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” ³⁷He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. ³⁸Then he said to them, “I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me.” ³⁹And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want.” ⁴⁰Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, “So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? ⁴¹Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” ⁴²Again he went away for the second time and prayed, “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.” ⁴³Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. ⁴⁴So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words.

There are some friends we know will always be there for us. No matter what happens, all we need to do is reach out and they will come to help us. We have a friend like that in Jesus. But there are times in our lives where he may feel distant from us.

In today’s session, we will see that Jesus was forsaken so that we could be brought near to God. Because of what Jesus endured for us, we will never be far away from God.

DISCUSSION

Our sins separate us from God. But, because of Jesus, we can know God and be sure that he hears us when we pray. Jesus was separated from God for us – he took the punishment that we deserved so that we could be forgiven.

- 1. What does it mean to be forsaken? Why did Jesus go to the cross?**
- 2. When Jesus was praying in the Garden of Gethsemane, he felt scared and alone. What do you do when you feel scared and alone?**

Sometimes, when we feel scared or alone, we behave in ways that we should not. In Matthew 26:47–54 we see that Jesus’ disciple became afraid when Jesus was being arrested and began to hurt the people around him.

3. **When you feel afraid, what could you do to remind yourself that Jesus is in control?**

Even when we feel scared and alone, we can be sure that God is with us. Jesus will never forsake us.

4. **What would it look like for you to trust in Jesus when you are having trouble or are scared?**

LAST WORD

Jesus was forsaken so that we could be accepted by God. Jesus took our place so that we would never have to feel the punishment for our sin. That is good news! It is a free gift, but a gift that we must choose to accept.

NOTES:
