GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

* **What is the most difficult decision you’ve ever had to make? What made it so difficult?**
* **What kinds of factors do you weigh when making difficult choices?**

**Main Point**

Jesus gave Himself fully to the will of God in order to save sinners who could not save themselves.

For most of us, the bigger the decision, the longer the time it takes to make it. We weigh out options and alternatives, carefully examining the fallout of the choices we are about to make. For the Christian, one of the questions we must ask in every decision regards the will of God. But even if we know what the will of God is in a given situation, we might choose an alternative, particularly if the will of God seems difficult. Thankfully, though, Jesus never strayed from God’s will, though He was tempted to do so. Above all, He was committed to carrying out the plan of God: His own death.

Have a volunteer read Luke 22:39-62.

* **Why do you think Jesus asked His friends to stay awake with Him? Was their presence for Jesus’ benefit, or their own benefit?**
* **How does understanding that the cross was the will of God impact the way we view the crucifixion? How does it impact the way we view Jesus’ prayer in the garden?**

These verses provide a moving glimpse into the humanity of Jesus. Jesus knows anxiety. He knows the difficulty of aligning our desires with the will of God. The Father had given Him a cup of suffering and death. The Son, in obedience and subjection, would drink it. Jesus courageously gave Himself over fully to the will of God. Jesus didn’t approach the cross glibly. He was realistic about the physical, emotional, and spiritual pain He was about to endure. Though He was tempted to avoid pain, as we all are, Jesus was confident in the plan and goodness of His Father.

* **What emotions might Peter have felt in that moment when he realized Jesus’ prophecy of his denial came true?**
* **When have you felt like Peter? What do we learn about Peter from his response to his denial (v. 62)?**
* **Unlike Judas, Peter repented of his sin against Christ and went on to be used by God for service to the kingdom. What does this tell us about the need for and value of repentance?**

Peter blatantly denied his relationship with Jesus, and if we’re being honest, we know that we’ve done the same. Maybe we’ve never come right out and said we don’t know Jesus, but just because we’ve never said it out loud doesn’t mean we haven’t communicated the same thing with our lives at times.

Have a volunteer read Luke 22:63-71.

* **How is the concern of the elders and priests in verses 67-70 different from the concern that they brought to Pilate (see Luke 23:2)? Why might they have given different reasons to different audiences?**
* **How did Jesus’ response to the Sanhedrin show He was trusting in His father and not the leaders of His day? How can we show that we are trusting in the father and not the power of men when faced with hard situations?**

To the Sanhedrin, Jesus’ claim to be God’s Son was blasphemy, and it was all the justification they needed for His execution. The Sanhedrin needed no other witness against Him, for they had achieved their purpose. Not realizing they stood before the One who would judge the universe, these human judges rendered a verdict of “guilty.” They sought to humiliate Jesus, but what they did would lead to His being exalted and glorified on the cross and in the heavenly throne room.

**Application**

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

* **How specifically can you be more conscious this week of Jesus’ sacrifice on your behalf?**
* **How does Jesus’ obedience in going to the cross encourage us to be obedient in sharing about Him with others?**
* **Jesus was preparing to make the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of you and I. What sacrifices does God ask of us today, and what influence should the cross have on our response?**

**Pray**

Praise Jesus this week for His faithfulness to the will of God. Thank Him for remaining strong, despite the temptation He faced. Ask God to continue to open your heart more and more to appreciate the greatness of Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross.