

# Life Group Discussion Questions

Week 27: March 22-29

Mark 14:27-72

The Gospel of Mark is an account of the life of Christ told primarily from the perspective of Peter. However, all four Gospels record both the prediction Jesus made that Peter would deny Him three times and the fulfillment of that prediction. In Mark's account, sandwiched between that prediction and fulfillment, we see three important events leading us to the cross. Verses 32-42 record Jesus praying in the garden with His disciples. Verses 43-52 record the arrest of Jesus in the garden. And verses 53-65 record the interrogation of Jesus by the high priest.

## Read Mark 14:27-31

<sup>27</sup> "You will all fall away," Jesus told them, "for it is written: 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.'"

<sup>28</sup> But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee."

<sup>29</sup> Peter declared, "Even if all fall away, I will not."

<sup>30</sup> "I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "today--yes, tonight--before the rooster crows twice you yourself will disown me three times."

<sup>31</sup> But Peter insisted emphatically, "Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you." And all the others said the same.

1. What was the bad news that Jesus predicted in verse 27?
2. What was the good news that Jesus predicted in verse 28?
3. How confident was Peter about his loyalty to Jesus? (14:29-31)
4. **Read Luke 22:31-32.** What was Jesus doing to help Peter through this time of testing?
5. What can we do to help one another stay committed to Jesus in the face of testing or suffering?

Mark Moore observes,

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<sup>1</sup> R. Kent Hughes, *Mark* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2015), 366.

18. Who followed Jesus as He was being led away? How? (14:53-54)

19. Why did the Sanhedrin have such a difficult time convicting Jesus? (14:55-59)

Kent Hughes notes,

Presiding was Joseph Caiaphas, high priest and president of the Sanhedrin. He was an unusually powerful high priest who would serve for nineteen years, far beyond the average term of four years. His surname, "Caiaphas" or "inquisitor," fit him well, as he was now presiding over the most infamous inquisition in history. Though the assembly had all the trappings of a legal proceeding, it was not legal, for according to its own rules it was not to make final judgments at night, nor was it to do so outside its sacred chambers in the Temple, nor was a capital offense to be determined during Passover—to name just a few illegalities. Nevertheless, they began their charade, looking first for the unanimous evidence from two witnesses which was necessary for conviction of a capital offense.<sup>1</sup>

20. Why do you think Jesus was silent for most of the trial? (14:60-61)

21. When did Jesus finally answer the high priest? What did He say? (14:61-62)

Jesus answered the high priest with a clear and undeniable declaration of His deity. Allen Black writes,

Jesus answered this question directly and forcefully. He not only frankly admitted being the Christ, the Son of God, but he went on to add to the offense, bringing together allusions to Ps 110:1 and Dan 7:13 to assert that the Sanhedrin members themselves would one day see him enthroned at the right hand of God.<sup>2</sup>

22. How did the high priest respond to the words of Jesus? (14:63-64)

23. How did the people in the courtroom abuse Jesus after He was sentenced to death? (14:65)

<sup>2</sup> Allen Black, *The College Press NIV Commentary: Mark* (Joplin, MO: College Press, 1995), 260.



On the east side of the Kidron Valley, next to the “Church of All Nations,” there is a very old olive grove. This is believed to be the location of “Gethsemane” (Mark 14:32). Some of these olive trees are estimated to be over two thousand years old.

8. What emotions was Jesus feeling? (14:33-34)

Dr. Luke is the only Gospel writer to describe the sweat of Jesus as “drops of blood” (Luke 22:44). Alexander Metherell MD, PhD, explains how extreme stress can cause this medical condition,

This is a known medical condition called hematidrosis. It’s not very common, but it is associated with a high degree of psychological stress. What happens is that severe anxiety causes the release of chemicals that break down the capillaries in the sweat glands. As a result, there’s a small amount of bleeding into these glands, and the sweat comes out tinged with blood.<sup>3</sup>

9. What did Jesus do in response to His deep sorrow? (14:35-36)

10. How did Jesus instruct the disciples to prevent themselves from falling into temptation? (14:38)

11. What did Jesus find each time He returned to the disciples after praying? (14:37-41)

12. What can we learn about prayer from Jesus’ example?

<sup>3</sup> Lee Strobel, *The Case for Christ: A Journalist’s Personal Investigation of the Evidence for Jesus*, Updated, Expanded edition (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2016), 211.

### Read Mark 14:43-52

<sup>43</sup> Just as he was speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, appeared. With him was a crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests, the teachers of the law, and the elders.

<sup>44</sup> Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: “The one I kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard.”

<sup>45</sup> Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, “Rabbi!” and kissed him.

<sup>46</sup> The men seized Jesus and arrested him.

<sup>47</sup> Then one of those standing near drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear.

<sup>48</sup> “Am I leading a rebellion,” said Jesus, “that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me?”

<sup>49</sup> Every day I was with you, teaching in the temple courts, and you did not arrest me. But the Scriptures must be fulfilled.”

<sup>50</sup> Then everyone deserted him and fled.

<sup>51</sup> A young man, wearing nothing but a linen garment, was following Jesus. When they seized him,

<sup>52</sup> he fled naked, leaving his garment behind.

13. Who accompanied Judas to Gethsemane? Why? (14:43)

14. How did Judas greet Jesus? Why? (14:44-46)

15. How did one of Jesus’ disciples react to the arrest of Jesus? (14:47 see also John 18:10)

16. How was Jesus’ response to this situation different from that of His followers? (14:48-52)

Dr. Luke is the only Gospel writer that records the miraculous healing of the severed ear. Mark Black comments,

Jesus quickly rebukes them (“No more of this”) and heals the man. Luke may be subtly making two points here. First, Jesus does good to those who hate him (6:28). Secondly, miraculous signs have no effect on those whose hearts are hard and who do not want to believe.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Mark C. Black, *The College Press NIV Commentary: Luke* (Joplin, MO: College Press, 1996), 362.

17. What can we learn from the example of Jesus in this passage?

Paul Miller writes,

Jesus performs a ballet of love—protecting, defending, touching, healing, rebuking—one move rapidly following the other, while those around him are pretending, running, striking, betraying, and murdering. He is as beautiful as they are ugly. The soldiers arrest him, binding the hands that just touched Malchus. The disciples flee into the night, captive to their fears.<sup>5</sup>

### Read Mark 14:53-65

<sup>53</sup> They took Jesus to the high priest, and all the chief priests, elders and teachers of the law came together.

<sup>54</sup> Peter followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. There he sat with the guards and warmed himself at the fire.

<sup>55</sup> The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death, but they did not find any.

<sup>56</sup> Many testified falsely against him, but their statements did not agree.

<sup>57</sup> Then some stood up and gave this false testimony against him:

<sup>58</sup> "We heard him say, 'I will destroy this man-made temple and in three days will build another, not made by man.'"

<sup>59</sup> Yet even then their testimony did not agree.

<sup>60</sup> Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, "Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?"

<sup>61</sup> But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer. Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?"

<sup>62</sup> "I am," said Jesus. "And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."

<sup>63</sup> The high priest tore his clothes. "Why do we need any more witnesses?" he asked.

<sup>64</sup> "You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?" They all condemned him as worthy of death.

<sup>65</sup> Then some began to spit at him; they blindfolded him, struck him with their fists, and said, "Prophecy!" And the guards took him and beat him.

Like many of Satan's schemes in which he intends to harm the individual, God uses Peter's failure for purifying and perfecting him. Thus, God answers Jesus' prayer in behalf of Peter.

Although Peter fails, his faith does not. His faith leads him to repentance, his repentance leads him to strength, his strength spreads throughout the Christian community and continues to this day. Peter models for most of us the hope of forgiveness, reconciliation, personal improvement through faith, love, and perseverance. We see in Peter our own pilgrimage.<sup>6</sup>

### Read Mark 14:32-42

<sup>32</sup> They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray."

<sup>33</sup> He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled.

<sup>34</sup> "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death," he said to them. "Stay here and keep watch."

<sup>35</sup> Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him.

<sup>36</sup> "Abba, Father," he said, "everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will."

<sup>37</sup> Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Simon," he said to Peter, "are you asleep? Could you not keep watch for one hour?"

<sup>38</sup> Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak."

<sup>39</sup> Once more he went away and prayed the same thing.

<sup>40</sup> When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. They did not know what to say to him.

<sup>41</sup> Returning the third time, he said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The hour has come. Look, the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.

<sup>42</sup> Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!"

6. What did Jesus tell the disciples to do in verse 32?

7. Who did Jesus take with him to pray? (14:33)

<sup>5</sup> Paul E. Miller, *Love Walked among Us: Learning to Love Like Jesus* (Carol Stream, IL: NavPress, 2014), 224-25.

<sup>6</sup> Mark Moore, *The Chronological Life of Christ* (Joplin, MO: College Press, 2007), 572.

24. What is the example that Jesus set for us to follow in this passage?  
(see also 1 Peter 2:21-23)

**Read Mark 14:66-72**

<sup>66</sup> While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came by.

<sup>67</sup> When she saw Peter warming himself, she looked closely at him.

"You also were with that Nazarene, Jesus," she said.

<sup>68</sup> But he denied it. "I don't know or understand what you're talking about," he said, and went out into the entryway.

<sup>69</sup> When the servant girl saw him there, she said again to those standing around, "This fellow is one of them."

<sup>70</sup> Again he denied it. After a little while, those standing near said to Peter, "Surely you are one of them, for you are a Galilean."

<sup>71</sup> He began to call down curses on himself, and he swore to them, "I don't know this man you're talking about."

<sup>72</sup> Immediately the rooster crowed the second time. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken to him: "Before the rooster crows twice you will disown me three times." And he broke down and wept.

25. How did Peter respond the first time the servant girl accused him of being a follower of Jesus? (14:66-68)

26. How did Peter respond the second time the servant girl accused him of being a follower of Jesus? (14:69-70)

27. Why did the people standing nearby conclude that Peter was lying? (14:70)

28. How did Peter respond to the third question about whether he was a follower of Christ? (14:71)

29. How did Peter react when he realized what he had done? (14:72)

In Luke's account, it says that Jesus "turned and looked straight at Peter. And Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken." (Luke 22:61)

30. Why are Christians sometimes afraid to identify themselves as believers in Christ? How can we overcome that fear?

**Sermon Notes 3/22/20**

**"When the Rooster Crows"**

**Mark 14:27-72**

How can we get through the darkest times in life?

1. Remember that God has a \_\_\_\_\_ for this.

Mark 14:27-28

Romans 8:28

2. Continue to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ .

Mark 14:37-38

Luke 22:31-32

3. Follow Jesus with \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ .

Mark 14:53-54

Acts 4:12-13

1 Peter 3:15

4. Let go of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ on God.

Mark 14:30-31

1 Corinthians 10:12-13

Romans 8:35-39

**Sermon and Bible Reading Schedule**

Date	Sermon	Bible Reading
3/22/20	"When the Rooster Crows"	Mark 14:27-72
3/29/20	"The Trial of Jesus"	Mark 15:1-20
4/5/20	"The Death and Burial of Jesus"	Mark 15:21-47
4/12/20	"The Resurrection of Jesus"	Mark 16