

**Crossroads**  
**Part 3- "Garden Grapple"**  
**March 19, 2023**

[Distraction](#) is [destructive](#) because it misplaces our priorities and allegiances which lead us down roads we were never meant to take.

**Mark 14:29-31**

Peter declared, "Even if all fall away, I will not." "Truly I tell you," Jesus answered, "today—yes, tonight—before the rooster crows twice you yourself will disown me three times." But Peter insisted emphatically, "Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you." And all the others said the same.

**Mark 14:32-34**

They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled. "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death," he said to them. "Stay here and keep watch."

"Sin is a refused relationship with God that spills out into wrong relationship with others."  
—Eugene Peterson

**Mark 14:35-36**

Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him. "Abba, Father," he said, "everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will."

Our sin is [great](#)  
God's love is [greater](#)

**Mark 14:37-38**

Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Simon," he said to Peter, "are you asleep? Couldn't you keep watch for one hour? Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

**Hebrews 12:2**

Let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

### **Psalm 139:23-24**

Search me, God, and know my heart, test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me and lead me in the way everlasting.

#### Early Christian Categories for Confession and Repentance

- [Blatant](#)
- [Deliberate](#)
- [Unconscious](#)
- [Inner Orientations](#)

“The pathway of spiritual maturity is a descent, not an ascent. A maturing community is a confessing community—not a church without sin, but a church without secrets.”

—Tyler Stanton

#### **Group Questions**

1. Would you consider yourself a distracted person? What distractions misplace your priorities and take you down roads you were not meant to take?
2. How does distraction affect your relationship with God?
3. What is your understanding of sin and how has that changed throughout the years? What are your thoughts on the statement “sin is a refused relationship with God that spills out into wrong relationship with others”? Have you thought about sin in relational terms before?
4. How was praying through Psalm 139:23-23? Were you surprised with what was revealed to you as you invited God to search your thoughts?
5. What would your life look like if you incorporated the discipline Daily Repentance into your day? Do you plan to do it? Why or why not? If so, where do you plan to do this and how often?
6. What should the role of confession be within our group? Do you feel this group is a safe place to share what is really going on? What would it look like to be a group without secrets?