

Parent Passage Guide

Mark 14:1–52

The Big Idea

Amidst the deep sorrow of Gethsemane and the heartbreaking betrayal by His closest friends, Jesus remains completely obedient to God's plan to save us. His unwavering commitment to the cross shows us that true faith requires surrendering our own comfort and will to the Father, even when it costs us everything.

Younger Children (Ages 0–12)

Read

32 They went to the olive grove called Gethsemane, and Jesus said, "Sit here while I go and pray." **33** He took Peter, James, and John with him, and he became deeply troubled and distressed. **34** He told them, "My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me." **35** He went on a little farther and fell to the ground. He prayed that, if it were possible, the awful hour awaiting him might pass him by. **36** "Abba, Father,"* he cried out, "everything is possible for you. Please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine." **Mark 14:32–36**

Ask:

- When Jesus was in the garden, He was deeply troubled and crushed with grief—what did He ask His Father to do?
- Can you think of a time when you felt really scared or sad and had to do something very hard? How does it make you feel to know that Jesus felt those exact same big emotions, and we can pray to God for strength just like He did?

Do:

- **"The Heavy Cup" Challenge.** Have everyone stand and hold their arms straight out to their sides for as long as they can. When their arms begin to feel heavy and they want to drop them, talk about how Jesus' heart felt incredibly heavy with grief in the garden, yet He chose to hold on and do the hard thing for us.

Older Children & Teens (Ages 12–18)

Read

27 On the way, Jesus told them, "All of you will desert me. For the Scriptures say, 'God will strike the Shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.' **28** But after I am raised from the dead, I will go ahead of you to Galilee and meet you there." **29** Peter said to him, "Even if everyone else deserts you, I never will." **30** Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, Peter—this very night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny three times that you even know me." **31** "No!" Peter declared emphatically. "Even if I have to die with you, I will never deny you!" And all the others vowed the same... **50** Then all his disciples deserted him and ran away. **Mark 14:27–31, 50**

Ask:

- Peter boldly declared that he would rather die than deny Jesus, yet he completely abandoned Him when the real danger arrived. In what ways is it easy to talk confidently about your faith at church or at home, but difficult to actually live it out when you face pressure from your friends or the culture around you?
- Jesus warned His disciples that the "spirit is willing, but the body is weak," proving that good intentions aren't enough to withstand testing. What specific comfort, pride, or desire for social approval do you need

to surrender to God right now so you don't compromise your faith when it gets hard?

Do

- **The "I Will" Statement:** Challenge your teen to create their own action step this week. Have them fill in the blanks: "Because of what we read, I will _____ this week."