# Jesus Prays
# Matthew 26:36-46

**12.18.2022**
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**Vulnerable God**

| **Reflect** | **Realize** | **Respond** |
|---|---|---|
| Outline: Recap | Points to Ponder | Questions to draw out understanding. |

## REFLECT

We don't often think of Jesus as vulnerable. Yet, time and time again, all throughout the Gospels, we see Jesus acting in ways that would be textbook examples of vulnerability. As we look at Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, we see Jesus wanting His friends to be with him in His agony and to join Him in prayer. We also see Jesus wrestling vulnerability with His Father and ultimately surrendering to God's will. It's a very powerful and important picture for us.

## REALIZE

### 1. Jesus needed relationships like we do

- **Scripture Reference;** Galatians 5:13-14
- **Leader Notes**
    - Jesus went into the garden, but he didn't do it alone. He wanted Peter, James, and John with him while he felt the stress of what was coming.
    - We live in a culture that suffers in silence, but Jesus teaches us that we need to be vulnerable enough to invite people into our pain.
- **Questions for Reflection**
    - How does this passage speak to me?

### 2. Jesus knew the pain of vulnerability

- **Scripture Reference;** Luke 22:43-44
- **Leader Notes**
    - Jesus experienced the pain of vulnerability before God as his soul is being pressed.
    - He also experienced the pain of vulnerability as the disciples he invited in let him down.
- **Questions for Reflection**
    - How does Jesus' need for community show you your need?

### 3. Jesus surrendered to God's will

- **Scripture Reference;** Hebrews 12:2
- **Leader Notes**
    - In the garden, Jesus teaches us what it looks like to be fully surrendered to the will of God.
    - We need to pray until we can say yes to the will of God.
- **Questions for reflection**

- ○ Where is God asking you to surrender your will?

- What makes you say that?
- How do you feel about that?
- How would you explain your answer to a non-Christian friend or neighbor?
- Why did God design it to work that way? Why not just do (whatever else) instead?
- What would you say to someone who disagrees with that?
- Why do we really have to do it like that? Why can't we just go (some other route) instead?