Jesus Prays in the Garden

Matthew 26:36-46;
Mark 14:32-42;
Luke 22:39-46

After eating together, Jesus and the disciples went to a garden on a mountain. Jesus prayed.

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Talk about what Jesus might have felt when he saw his disciples sleeping.

When Jesus shared the bread and cup with his disciples, they were confused. They didn't know what it meant for Jesus' body to be bread or for the wine in the cup to be his blood. The disciples didn't understand how sharing bread and the cup would remind them of Jesus. They became even more confused when Jesus said, "One of you will be disloyal to me. One of you will betray me." Jesus knew someone close to him who would tell the temple leaders where to find him.

When the meal was over, Jesus and the disciples walked to a garden called Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives. It was evening and the disciples were tired. Jesus said, "Stay here and stay awake. Wait for me while I pray." Jesus walked on. He was extremely upset. Jesus prayed to God, "Please stop what is going to happen to me. But if this is what you want and what has to happen, I will do it."

The disciples had fallen asleep.

The Lord's Prayer

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My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you.
John 17:20-21 (NIV)

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Jesus is Arrested

Matthew 26:47-56;
Mark 14:43-52;
Luke 22:47-52;
John 18:1-8

While Jesus was praying in the garden of Gethsemane, soldiers arrested Jesus. The disciples ran away.

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Why do you think the disciples ran away?

Jesus was frightened of what was about to happen to him. While he was praying, Judas Iscariot, one of Jesus' disciples, came. Jesus loved Judas. Jesus ate with Judas. Jesus washed Judas' feet. Jesus shared the bread and cup with Judas.

Soldiers with swords and torches followed Judas. Judas already told them, "The man I kiss is Jesus, the one you want." Judas came close to Jesus, greeted him and kissed him.

Immediately the soldiers arrested Jesus even though Jesus had done nothing wrong. Now the disciples who had been sleeping woke up. They ran away.

In the morning, the chief priests and temple leaders had a meeting. They decided to take Jesus to Pontius Pilate, the government's leader. Pilate listened to their complaints about Jesus, but he did not think Jesus had done anything wrong. Pilate thought the temple leaders were jealous of Jesus.