

## Mark 14:27-52 – Faithful under Pressure

Have you ever been overconfident in a situation? What happened? Why?  
(If you're in a group, share!)

In this passage of Mark's gospel, we see 'the hour' arriving for Jesus' betrayal, leading to his crucifixion. And through the narrative the attitudes and reactions of the disciples are powerfully contrasted with Jesus' own attitudes and behaviour. Whereas the disciples are overconfident and complacent, leading to failure under pressure, Jesus stands firm because he watches and prays against temptation.

### Read Mark 14:27-31

Why is Jesus sure that the disciples will fall away?

Why are Peter and the other disciples so sure they won't?

What does this tell us about the value of 'feeling confident' that we will do the right thing?

### Read Mark 14:32-42

What does Jesus ask God to do? Why?

What does that tell us about...

- ⇒ Jesus?
- ⇒ What he has come to do?

Consider Jesus' prayer, "*Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.*"  
What the difference between praying this and...

- ⇒ fatalism? (assuming that what will be will be and there's no point fighting it)
- ⇒ hedonism? (seeking personal happiness as the ultimate goal in life)
- ⇒ stoicism? (telling yourself that your circumstances, desires and feelings don't matter)

What does Jesus challenge the disciples to do? (v34 and v37-38)

How does this relate to Jesus' teaching in Chapter 13:32-37?

How do you think the failure of the disciples to 'watch and pray' relates to their confidence in verses 27-31?

What does it look like for us to watch and pray so we don't fall into temptation? Why is it so important?

How is this kind of prayer different to 'shopping list' prayer?

### **Read Mark 14:43-52**

Imagine you were one of Jesus' disciples with him in the garden, how would you feel watching Judas kiss Jesus and the men seizing him?

Compare Jesus' reaction to what happens with the reaction of the disciples... what stands out to you?

What do you think lies behind these different reactions?

### **Reflection**

Do you think you are 'watching and praying' against temptation? Why / why not?

What are the pressures you are likely to face that you need to bring before God in prayer?