

May 12th Discussion Guide- When God Says “No” Week 3

1. Everybody does things from time to time that they dread. What’s one of those things for you? If you were in complete control of your life, would you ever do things that you dread?
2. Read Matthew 26:36-39. Jesus very much dreaded facing the cross, but he chose to face it any way. According to this passage, why did He do that?
3. Jesus was God, and He was 100% in alignment with the will of God. In contrast, we are sinful. How does that affect the way we understand and follow the will of God?
4. Read Matthew 26:40-44. As we look at the way Jesus prayed, his prayers were centered around being alignment with God. How does this differ from the way most of us tend to pray?
5. What does praying to align ourselves with God look very different than praying self-centered prayers?
6. What does Jesus mean when he says “The Spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak” in verse 41? What does that mean for us? (LEADER NOTE: This is Jesus acknowledging their [and our] humanity. It is essentially Jesus showing that even when we have a direct command from God, and the good intent to carry it out, sometimes we will have an epic fail. You’ll notice that after all of this, Jesus doesn’t disown his friends, and after the resurrection continues to use them greatly.)
7. Read Matthew 26:45-56 - The disciples ran away when things were clearly out of control. This can also be seen in “escapism”- when we run away from life when it doesn’t go our way. What are some ways that we try to “escape” from things we dread- and why do they ultimately not work?
8. Peter cutting off the high priest’s servant’s ear was Peter trying to control the situation- and failing. What are some ways that we try to control our lives- and fail?
9. PRAYER TIME - Have “popcorn” prayer time for anyone who wants to pray out loud confessing your sinful heart of trying to be in control, and confessing to Jesus that He actually is in control. (LEADER NOTE: Encourage those who don’t feel comfortable praying out loud to pray silently)