

## Connection Group Discussion Questions

For the week of March 22, 2015

Luke 22:40-46

### New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

<sup>40</sup>When he reached the place, he said to them, ‘Pray that you may not come into the time of trial.’ <sup>41</sup>Then he withdrew from them about a stone’s throw, knelt down, and prayed, <sup>42</sup>‘Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done.’ <sup>43</sup>Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. <sup>44</sup>In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground. <sup>45</sup>When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of grief, <sup>46</sup>and he said to them, ‘Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial.’

### New International Version (NIV)

<sup>40</sup> *On reaching the place, he said to them, “Pray that you will not fall into temptation.”* <sup>41</sup> *He withdrew about a stone’s throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed,* <sup>42</sup> *“Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.”* <sup>43</sup> *An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him.* <sup>44</sup> *And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.*

<sup>45</sup> *When he rose from prayer and went back to the disciples, he found them asleep, exhausted from sorrow.* <sup>46</sup> *“Why are you sleeping?” he asked them. “Get up and pray so that you will not fall into temptation.”*

**Connection Questions:**

1. Our text in Luke tells us that the disciples were grieving watching the agony their rabbi was experiencing and so they fell asleep. Talk about how the grieving process can cause us to be sleepy.
2. If Jesus is God in the flesh, discuss how seemingly he struggled with the idea of facing crucifixion.
3. Share ways that people handle grief in a negative way. Share ways that you have seen where people have handled their grief in a positive way.
4. Mike Slaughter uses the term “spiritual drowsiness” to describe why he thinks that there is a recent decline in our culture of those professing to be Christians. Do you agree or disagree with his perspective?
5. Respond to the statement: Our Christian journey is not a constant mountaintop experience.

6. How can you stay passionate about your faith without falling into the trap of thinking you have to always be on a spiritual high for your faith to be valid?
  
7. What does it mean to you to have an attitude of spiritual drowsiness?
  
8. How can we avoid being spiritually drowsy when it comes to our faith?
  
9. How does developing spiritual habits have a part in growing in our faith?  
How could spiritual disciplines be a hindrance to growing in our faith?
  
10. God is with us on our mountaintops and in our valleys and everywhere in the middle. What does this statement say about our faith development?