

Victory on the Mount of Olives
Family Worship Preparation Notes
Primary Text: Luke 22:31-62 (KJV)

Purpose

These notes are meant to help a family prepare to hear the sermon with understanding, attentiveness, and humility. The passage brings us into a solemn and holy moment. Jesus warns Peter, prepares His disciples for coming hardship, prays in Gethsemane, and then is betrayed, arrested, and denied. As a family, the goal is not merely to learn the storyline, but to see the glory of Christ, the weakness of man, the danger of temptation, and the triumph of our Lord's obedience.

As you read and discuss this passage together, keep this central truth in view: **Christ stood firm where His disciples failed, and He did so to save His people.**

Read Together

Read the following portions aloud from **Luke 22 (KJV)**:

Luke 22:31-34

Luke 22:35-38

Luke 22:39-46

Luke 22:47-53

Luke 22:54-62

If you have younger children, you may read the whole section but pause briefly after each portion to explain what is happening in simple words.

Big Idea

Jesus entered the hour of darkness fully aware of Satan's attack, the weakness of His disciples, and the suffering set before Him. Yet He submitted Himself to the Father's will, won the victory in prayer, and went forward in perfect obedience. Peter fell badly, but Christ's intercession preserved him and restored him.

This passage teaches us to distrust self-confidence, to watch and pray, to expect spiritual conflict, and to rest in the saving strength of Christ.

Setting the Scene

This is the last stretch before the crucifixion. Jesus is no longer teaching crowds in public as before. He is preparing His disciples for what is about to happen. Judas has already set

betrayal in motion. Satan is active. The powers of darkness are pressing in. The disciples are weak and confused. The cross is near.

Yet Jesus is not confused. He is not trapped by events. He is not overwhelmed by men. He is walking knowingly and willingly toward the Father's appointed will.

Truth to Notice: Satan Desires to Sift, but Christ Intercedes

In Luke 22:31-32 (KJV), Jesus says, "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not." This is one of the great encouragements in the passage. Satan is real. His malice is real. Temptation is real. The shaking of faith can be severe. But Christ's intercession is also real.

Peter would fall, but he would not finally be lost. His faith would be shaken, but not destroyed. The reason was not Peter's strength, but Christ's prayer.

For family worship, this is a precious lesson for every age. Children need to know that the Christian life includes conflict. Youth need to know that bold words are not the same as spiritual strength. Adults need to remember that perseverance is not sustained by self-reliance, but by the keeping grace of Christ.

Questions for Discussion

1. What does Jesus say Satan wants to do to Peter and the disciples?
2. What comfort do we find in the words, "But I have prayed for thee"?
3. What is the difference between faith being tested and faith finally failing?
4. Why is it dangerous to think we are stronger than we really are?
5. How does this passage encourage a Christian who has fallen into sin and is ready to repent?

After discussing these questions, remind the family that a true believer may stumble badly, but Christ does not forsake His own. That should produce both humility and hope.

Truth to Notice: Self-Confidence Is Not Strength

Peter sincerely says that he is ready to go with Jesus to prison and to death. Yet within hours he will deny even knowing Him. Peter's words were bold, but they were not matched by spiritual watchfulness. He contradicted Christ's warning instead of receiving it. He trusted his own zeal instead of trembling at the danger.

This is an especially important lesson before hearing the sermon. The greatest spiritual weakness often hides beneath loud confidence. We are safest when we are humble, watchful, prayerful, and dependent upon the Lord.

Questions for Discussion

1. Do you think Peter meant what he said when he promised loyalty to Jesus?
2. Why was Peter still wrong, even if he was sincere?
3. What are some ways people today sound spiritually confident but are not spiritually prepared?
4. How can children, youth, and adults each learn to depend on Christ instead of themselves?

This part of the passage helps families speak honestly about spiritual weakness. It is good for children to learn early that courage is not pretending to be strong. True courage begins with needing Christ.

Truth to Notice: Circumstances Were Changing

In Luke 22:35-38 (KJV), Jesus tells His disciples that the favorable conditions they once knew were about to change. Earlier, when He sent them out, they lacked nothing. Soon they would go into a more hostile setting. He was about to be “reckoned among the transgressors” according to Isaiah 53. If the world would treat the Master as a criminal, His followers should not expect easy reception.

The broad lesson is clear: discipleship includes changed circumstances, opposition, and hardship. The Christian life is not lived under the assumption that everything will stay easy. God’s people must be prepared to endure.

Questions for Discussion

1. What change was coming for the disciples?
2. Why would the treatment of Jesus affect the treatment of His followers?
3. How should Christians prepare for harder times without becoming fearful?
4. What does this teach our family about following Christ in an unfriendly world?

This is a helpful point for parents to impress upon children and teens. Following Christ is good and glorious, but it is not always comfortable. We should not be surprised when obedience costs something.

Truth to Notice: The Victory Was Won in Prayer

The heart of the passage is Jesus in Gethsemane. In Luke 22:42 (KJV), He prays, “Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.” Here we see the holy obedience of Christ in His true humanity. He does not treat suffering lightly. He does not pretend the cup is small. He feels the horror of what lies ahead. The cup is the cup of divine wrath against sin.

And yet He submits.

This is the triumph of the Mount of Olives. Before the arrest, before the cross, before the mocking and the nails, the Son yields Himself fully to the Father’s will. That is why this passage is so sacred. Here we behold the Savior embracing the suffering necessary for our redemption.

Questions for Discussion

1. What is “the cup” Jesus is speaking about?
2. What does this prayer teach us about the humanity of Christ?
3. What does it teach us about the obedience of Christ?
4. Why is “not my will, but thine, be done” such an important statement?
5. How should we pray when God places a hard path before us?

After this discussion, it would be good for the family to sit quietly for a moment. This part of the passage should not be rushed. It calls for reverence, gratitude, and worship.

Truth to Notice: Jesus Told the Disciples to Watch and Pray

Jesus told His disciples to pray that they enter not into temptation. Instead, they slept. That contrast matters. Jesus prayed in agony. The disciples slept in weakness. Jesus was ready when the trial came. The disciples were not.

This is one of the simplest and strongest applications in the whole text. Many falls begin long before the visible sin. Prayerlessness is often the path to spiritual collapse. Temptation rarely overcomes us all at once. We drift, neglect watchfulness, trust ourselves, and then fall.

Questions for Discussion

1. Why did Jesus tell the disciples to pray?
2. What does it mean to “enter into temptation”?

3. How can prayer help us resist temptation before it gains power?
4. What are some temptations our family should be praying against right now?

This is a wise moment for parents to gently apply the text in age-appropriate ways. For younger children, that may mean truthfulness, obedience, and kindness. For youth, it may include peer pressure, purity, pride, anger, and compromise. For adults, it may include fear, bitterness, self-confidence, or spiritual dullness.

Truth to Notice: Jesus Remained in Complete Control

When Judas came with the multitude, Jesus was not panicked. He rebuked Judas. He stopped the sword. He healed the servant's ear. He exposed the evil of the leaders. And He identified the moment plainly: "this is your hour, and the power of darkness" (Luke 22:53, KJV).

Yet even here, darkness is not ultimate. Men act wickedly, but Christ is not defeated by them. He is giving Himself according to the will of the Father. His arrest is not the failure of the kingdom. It is the path to the cross and, through the cross, to victory.

Questions for Discussion

1. How do we see that Jesus was in control even during His arrest?
2. Why did Jesus stop the use of the sword in this moment?
3. What does this passage show us about the difference between Christ's kingdom and worldly power?
4. Why is it comforting to know that Jesus was not overtaken unwillingly?

This section helps the family see that the passion of Christ is not merely tragedy. It is the obedient advance of the Redeemer toward the work His Father gave Him to do.

Truth to Notice: Peter's Fall Was Real and Bitter

Peter followed, but he followed afar off. He sat among Christ's enemies. Then came the three denials. Finally the cock crowed, and Peter remembered the word of the Lord. When Jesus looked upon him, Peter went out and wept bitterly.

This is one of the saddest moments in the Gospel narrative, but it is also one of the most instructive. Peter's fall did not begin with the denial itself. It began with pride, resistance to Christ's warning, failure to pray, impulsive action, and placing himself in a dangerous setting while spiritually weak.

Families should see the progression. Major spiritual falls often begin with smaller neglected sins.

Questions for Discussion

1. What steps seem to lead Peter toward his denial?
2. Why is it important that Peter remembered Christ's words?
3. What do Peter's bitter tears show us?
4. What is the difference between worldly regret and godly repentance?
5. How does Peter's story give hope to believers who have sinned seriously?

End this section by emphasizing that Peter's tears were not the end of his story. Christ had already said he would be restored and would strengthen his brethren. Grace would have the final word.

What to Listen for in the Sermon

As your family listens to the sermon, pay attention for the following themes. Listen especially for how each one reveals both Christ's glory and our need.

The warning about Satan's desire to sift the disciples.

The comfort of Christ's intercession for His own.

The danger of pride and self-confidence in Peter.

The meaning of watchfulness and prayer.

The significance of Jesus' submission in Gethsemane.

The contrast between Christ's steadfast obedience and the disciples' weakness.

The lessons we should draw from Peter's denial and restoration.

After the sermon, come back and ask which of these truths stood out most clearly.

Simple Summary for Younger Children

Jesus knew hard things were coming.

Peter said he would never fail, but he did fail.

Jesus prayed and obeyed His Father perfectly.

Jesus was arrested, but He was still in control.

Peter cried because he had sinned.

Jesus is the strong Savior for weak sinners.

That summary can help younger children stay engaged without losing the main point of the passage.

Prayer Focus for Family Worship

Before the sermon, spend a few minutes praying as a family. Thank the Lord Jesus for His obedience in Gethsemane. Ask God to keep your faith from failing. Confess pride and self-confidence. Ask for watchfulness in temptation. Pray for repentance wherever there is sin. Ask that the sermon would make your family more humble, more alert, and more thankful for Christ.

You might pray in words like these:

“Father, thank You for giving Your Son to obey where we have failed. Thank You that the Lord Jesus prayed for His people and went willingly to the cross. Keep us from pride. Teach us to watch and pray. Guard us from temptation. Restore us where we have fallen. And help us listen to Your Word with faith, humility, and love. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

Closing Encouragement

This passage is weighty, but it is full of hope. It shows us how weak disciples can be, but it shows us an even stronger Savior. The family that prepares for this sermon well should come ready to hear not only about Peter’s failure, but about Christ’s victory.