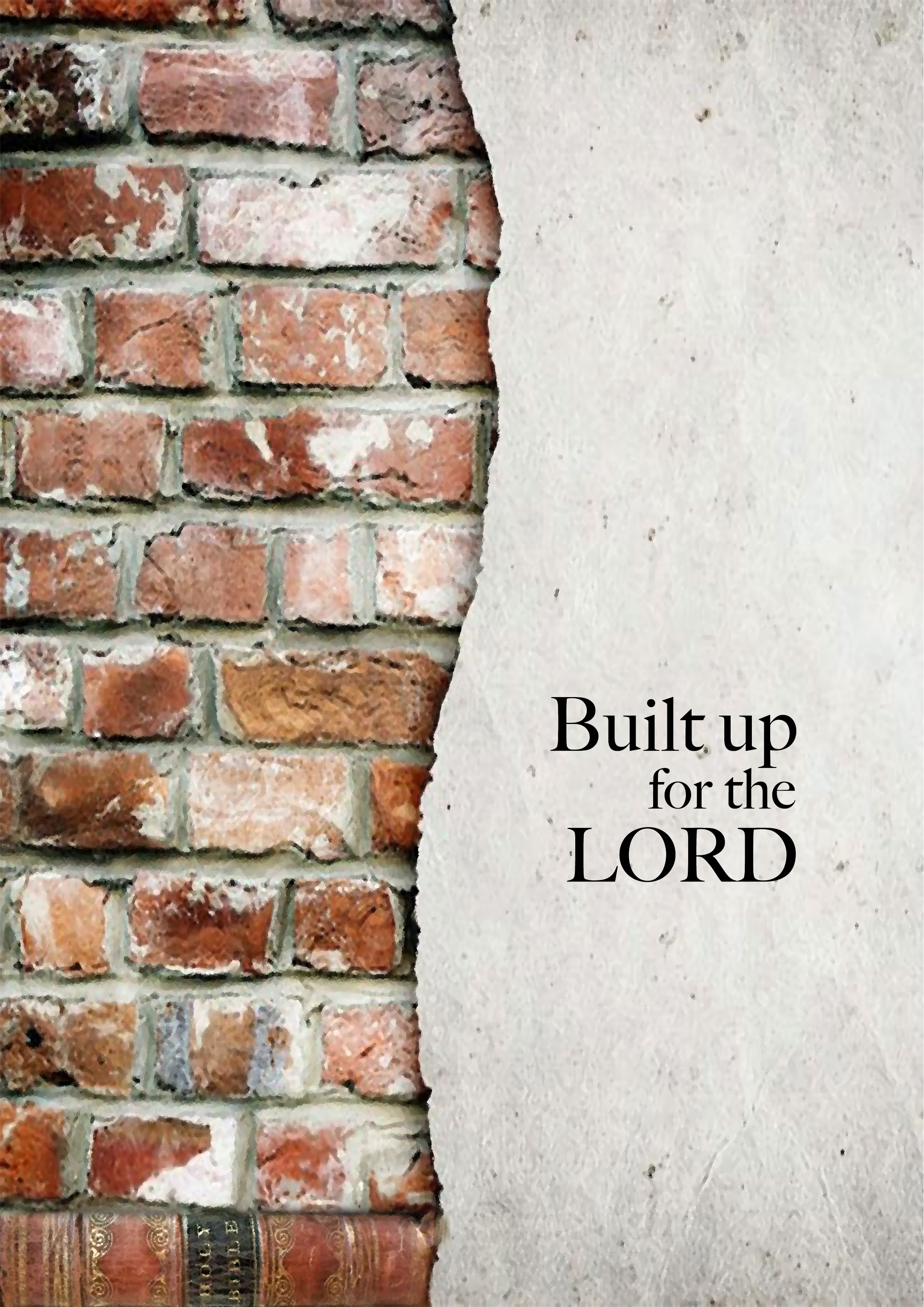
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Week 4

**Jesus’ intense struggle in Gethsemane**

**PERSONAL STUDY**

**Read Mark 14:32-42**

**OPENING REMARKS:**

From His birth, people knew that Jesus was human, but His divine power and authority is what amazed them. Here in Mark 14:32-42, we encounter a stark reminder that Jesus was fully human, as He faced the reality of His servant calling.

On the night of Jesus’ arrest, while Jesus was in the garden and before Judas arrived, Jesus spend time in prayer with His Father. Looking at the timing of this event, it seems as though only Jesus really knew what was coming. The remaining eleven disciples don’t appear to act in a way that made this night significant. This night marked the next step towards the ultimate goal of the cross. But during the night before His death, Jesus faced what may have been His greatest challenge.

Jesus’ vulnerable and humble request to His Father is in sharp contrast to Peter’s earlier bold statements (Mark 14:29,31).

**STUDY QUESTIONS:**

Read Mark 14:32. When the group arrived at Gethsemane, Jesus asked the group to do something. What did they have to do?

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Read Mark 14:33-34. Which disciples did Jesus take with Him? What did Jesus ask them to do?

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How does Jesus describe his state of mind to his disciples? {Also refer to Psalm 42: 5(a) and 11(a)} How would you describe Jesus’ emotions and state of mind in your own words?

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Read Mark 14: 35 What does Jesus do next?

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Read Mark 14: 36. Jesus then begins praying. How does Jesus refer to God and what are the 3 basic components of prayer that Jesus offers?

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Jesus knew the scriptures and He knew that God has the ability to do anything. What does the following verses teach us about God’s ability?

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| Genesis 18:14 |  |
| Jeremiah 32:27 |  |
| Mark 10:27 |  |

What does the “cup” that Jesus is asking to be taken away, refer to?

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Read Mark 14:37. Jesus then takes a break in His praying. What does He do? What questions does Jesus ask Peter?

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Read Mark 14:38. Jesus gives two commands for the group to follow. What are these commands?

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Jesus also explains the reason it is difficult to follow these commands. What is the reason? Describe it in your own words.

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Read Mark 14:39-40. Jesus went back to pray and when He came to them again, he found them asleep. Why did they find it so difficult to stay awake? How did they respond to Jesus finding them asleep?

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Read Mark 14:41-42. Jesus went to pray on his own again and when He came back to them for the third time, he found them asleep. What did Jesus say to them?

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Jesus then announced that the time has come. What would happen next? Do you think Jesus was prepared for what was coming?

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**Closing remarks:**

In Gethsemane Jesus faced a soul struggle that was as great, if not greater, that the suffering His body would endure on the cross. Jesus did not dread death, but rather that moment when the sins of the world would be placed on Him. (Refer to 2 Corinthians 5:21 and Hebrews 5:7-8)

When Jesus prayed in Gethsemane, God already knew Jesus was in anguish and that He was suffering. God knew that Jesus would make this request. But God also knew what was in Jesus’ heart – because it was in His heart as well. The whole Godhead designed this event to be an example of the love they had for you, me, and the rest of humanity. It is in this short, four sentence prayer where Jesus re-volunteers for the role of Saviour-Messiah for humanity.

God does not appear to answer Jesus’ request to take the cup of suffering away. However, when looking at this prayer from an eternity perspective, everything was on the line. God did not grant Jesus’ request because of His love for you and me. He wants us with Him for eternity. God answers prayers with an eternity perspective, and sometimes that even means saying “No” to His own Son!

Jesus deferred to God’s will and perspective in that moment, and because of that, we now have the opportunity to accept salvation as a gift.

Jesus, by His example, teaches us that it is legitimate to pray that God would provide us with an “alternative route” and would allow us to avoid the encounter with trial, if it is possible. But, having made that request, we must go on to say with our Lord, “Not my will, but your will be done.” In other words, we must accept God’s will, submit to it, and trust in His grace to bring us through the trial.

**GROUP DISCUSSION**

**Prayer**

**Reflection:**

Share with the group members how God worked in your life during this week.

**Scripture Reading:**

Mark 14:32-42

**Discussion questions**

Read Mark 14:32-34. Where did Jesus take the disciples? Whom did He take further with Him and what did He ask them to do?

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Read Mark 14:35-36. Jesus was in anguish (verse 34). How did he cope with it?

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Describe the prayer that He prayed. Explain and discuss the meaning in the group.

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What lessons can we learn about obedience from the prayer of Jesus?

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Read Mark 14:37-38. What did the disciples do while Jesus was praying? What did Jesus say to them about this? What lesson can we learn from verse 38? Discuss.

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What lessons do we learn about prayer support for fellow believers?

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Do you face the same struggles as the disciples did? In what kind of situations? How can we be victorious even when our flesh is week? Discuss.

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What can you do to ensure that the next weeks are a time for you to “watch and pray”. Discuss a plan of action with the group – hold each other accountable.

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**Close in prayer**