

11 THE OBEDIENT SON

KEY TEXT: MARK 14:32-42

CENTRAL truth

Jesus didn't go to the cross because He wanted to; He went because God told Him to. If God could have saved us another way, Jesus would have preferred that. We this know from the prayer He prayed. But **Jesus is our greatest example of obedience to God**: He loves God, and His obedience resulted in God's love expressed to us (see Rom. 5:8).

key question

How can Jesus's prayer in the garden of Gethsemane influence our own prayers?

It's easy to pray when things are going well. It's more difficult to pray when we are under pressure. Having a template to use can help. Jesus's prayer in the garden of Gethsemane reminds us to be respectful to God even when we are upset. It also reminds us that we can be open and honest with God about our wants and feelings. We must remember that God is our boss. It's our job to submit to Him, no matter what.

keep in mind

- Jesus was God but also human, and He was overwhelmed by the idea of having to be crucified. Students might struggle with the idea of God sending His own Son to die. They might wonder why He didn't come up with another plan. Explain that Jesus was the only possible plan because He was the only God-man. He had to be God for His blood to be good enough; He had to be human to die and for His blood to count for humans.
- Students are probably used to singing worship songs teaching them that Jesus's love for us is what drove Him to the cross. The idea that Jesus's love for God is what drove Him to the cross will be new to them. Help them see how this encourages us to love for God's sake and makes it easier to love people who don't seem to deserve it.

application

What elements of Jesus's prayer could you borrow in your own prayers going forward?

the win

FOR THE STUDENT: Jesus didn't always want to do what God wanted Him to do, but He still did it. Make sure students know they can tell God what they are thinking and feeling. But they have to remember He is the boss. Disobedience isn't an option if they love Him.

FOR THE LEADER: Encourage students to use prayer to resist temptation and prepare for whatever God has in mind for them. Share how prayer has helped you make good choices and gotten you ready for the challenges you've faced.