



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 11: Willing

Suggested Week of Use: November 12, 2023

Core Passage: Mark 14: 32-42

News Story Summary

Artificial intelligence (AI) has grabbed a lot of attention lately. One of the main questions about this advanced technology is how well it can mimic human emotions. By nature, the emotions felt by people and emotions displayed by AI are fundamentally distinct. Human emotions arise from a complex interplay of biological, psychological, and social factors. They are subjective, even irrational at times, and can fall on a broad spectrum from profound joy to profound sorrow. In contrast, AI “emotions” are synthetic and generated through algorithms designed to predict and simulate what humans might feel or do. AI lacks the underlying biological elements and personal experiences that inform human emotions. While AI can be trained to recognize and respond to certain emotional cues, it lacks the “stuff of life” that defines being human and that gives human emotions their depth and complexity.

For more about this story, search “Guide to AI emotion.”

Engage

To supplement Engage, encourage adults to share what they know about artificial intelligence (AI). Record responses on the board. Share the story about the distinctions between human emotions and the emotions generated by AI. Ask: *Based on that information, what sets human emotions apart from AI emotions?* Discuss responses. Point out that one important element left out of the AI article was humanity’s need for a connection with God. Say: *AI responds to its creators. Similarly, we are wired to have a relationship with our Creator. We are creatures who display emotion because our Creator has emotions.* Share that this session highlights emotions Jesus experienced on the night before His crucifixion. Challenge adults to examine the emotional side of Jesus and how that played into His mission as Savior. Encourage them to find comfort in knowing that our God understands how we feel.

Challenge

To supplement Challenge, remind the group of the story about emotions and artificial intelligence. Encourage a few volunteers to share how they felt when another person understood their emotions in a key moment. Ask: *How can understanding the feelings of others open the door for conversations about Jesus?* Discuss responses. Urge adults to silently identify someone they know who needs someone else to understand their emotions. Pray that God will help them connect with those individuals and that they will follow God’s leadership in pointing them toward Jesus.