

## +++LIFE LESSONS – Making it Live

David Welch | Destination: The Garden of Gethsemane | Matt. 26:36-46; Jn 18| Apr. 2-3

### *Born to Die*

**Can you share a time when you felt you were a victim?** We have all claimed to be the victim in one situation or another. It is our human side that wants to place blame on someone else for our pain and suffering. **Discuss:** If we were to look at the days that led to Jesus' death, how could we say that He was a victim? Arrested for a crime He didn't commit; betrayed by friends; beaten, brutalized, tortured and crucified. How was Jesus not a victim? He chose to die for you and me. He chose the nails so that you and I would not have to bear the pain of this world alone. Read and discuss how **John 3:16-17** fits this topic.

### *Prayer*

**Imagine yourself moments before being separated from the ones you love. How do you handle those moments? What do you say? What do you do?** Jesus chose to pray. He didn't pray for Himself. His prayer included more than just the apostles; it included you. What does it mean to you that moments before His suffering in a garden with the Father He prayed for you? You were on His heart. **Read: John 17:20. Discuss:** Where is your heart? Are you looking to God, our Father, to direct your path? How are you praying for His will? How do you pray for others in the midst of your suffering?

### *Suffering*

**What would your reaction be if you had to suffer for something someone else did?** How might the pain caused by another person have jaded you or someone you love and caused torment? Jesus knows that pain. **Discuss:** He didn't choose the cross because He was fighting for a cause. He didn't die to prove a point. He suffered for the sins of the world; the sins we committed last year, last month, yesterday, today and the sins we will commit tomorrow. He bore God's wrath on the cross. He became the perfect sacrifice that we could be forgiven; so that you and I could be free from sin; so that you and I could choose life over death.

### *Power in the blood*

**How do you define power?** There is talk daily on power. Everywhere you turn someone is fighting for some kind of power; national power, corporate power, financial power; it is everywhere. How does worldly power only lead to destruction? **Discuss:** We become uncaring and unconcerned but not Jesus. His power doesn't destroy hearts; it heals them. He didn't use His power to condemn people He used it to save them. **Read and Discuss: John 18:4-6**

### *Love did it*

**What does love mean to you? Does it mean sacrifice?** Jesus stepped forward and took charge of His own arrest. Knowing what waited ahead, Jesus' love was courageous. He had the arresters repeat twice that the orders were for Him alone, not for His disciples. Jesus' love protects. It is His love for us that held Him on the cross not the nails. **Discuss:** How can you go about sharing what Christ did for you this week?

*Written by Misty Miller*