

What was so important about choosing the twelve?

(They were to be the leaders of the early church, carriers of the gospel, and Jesus's closest companions.)

Just as Jesus faced weighty decisions, we also encounter difficult choices in life—who we'll befriend, how we'll spend our time, who we'll invest in. **What are some of the biggest decisions you've made in your life? How did you make the decision?**

How was God involved in your decision-making?

When faced with a serious decision, do you seek God's counsel first? Why do you think that is?

What does it look like to ask for and listen to God's guidance? What do you do when you need God to guide you?

How might silence and solitude be part of seeking God's counsel?

Read Luke 21:37–38. **If you glance before and after these verses in your Bible, where do these verses fall in the story?** (They fall right before Jesus is arrested and killed.)

Read Luke 22:39–46. According to verse 39, Jesus made it a habit to go up to the Mount of Olives during His time in Jerusalem. **Why do you think Jesus chose that place? How might have praying at the Mount of Olives prepare Him for what was going to happen?**

Jesus knew that He would suffer and die to bring salvation to many. He went to the place He knew He would be betrayed and taken—He knew that place would be important. **What did He pray on the Mount of Olives?** (He prayed for God to remove the cup of suffering from Him. He then prayed that God's will would be done, not His.)

In this prayer, Jesus commits Himself fully to God's plan. **Why do you think it was important for Jesus to pray right before His death? How did those prayers prepare Him for what was to come?**

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Jesus shows us that we need to take time away to be

with God. Even though Jesus was fully God, He still needed to be strengthened, guided, and sustained by the Father. **How has Jesus’s example shaped the way you view solitude with God?**

Mark talked about finding a specific place where God speaks to you. **Do you currently have a place you can go and be alone with God? Where is that place? When can you go there?**

As we saw in Jesus’s story, a specific place isn’t always necessary to hear from God—Jesus communed with Him all over Israel. What mattered was His intentionality in taking time to be alone with the Father. **What keeps you from spending time with God? How could you fight against the temptation to not spend time with Him this week?**

Leader: *If you feel led, now might be a good time to talk about how you spend time with God. Explain the difficulties of forming a habit, what you’ve learned, and how to accept grace when you fall short.*

When you do spend time with Him, what does that time look like? What’s one thing you could do this week to spend intentional time alone with Him?
