

The Seven-Mile Miracle Leader Guide

Session 4: Abandonment

Mile 4- The Garden of Gethsemane

“Open our eyes to the persistence of His presence.”

The fourth mile of our journey leads us to the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus sweated drops of blood as He prayed and anguished over the abandonment He would soon experience.

The relationship we have with God through His salvation and forgiveness comes at an immeasurable price- the forsaking of Jesus by His Heavenly Father.

“The greatest moment of agony that anyone could ever experience.”

In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus prayed in anguish as He stared down that coming events that would ultimately take His life. His agony was so great that He sweated drops of blood as He prayed to have this cup pass from His hands. Jesus, who had lived in perfect union with His Heavenly Father, was about to be separated from Him very source of life.

“The only way to get the anointing of God to flow from a life is to press it.”

Gethsemane literally means “olive press.” Interestingly enough, the Mount of Olives is where Jesus often went to pray to God. The only way to get oil from an olive is to press it. Jesus was pressed as He faced the abandonment of His Father, but the pressing resulted in an eternal flow of God’s grace.

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“We may journey seven miles down the road, but He’s been with us all along.”

Everyone feels an abandonment from God in times of despair. But these are just moments that God uses to bring us to the point of our salvation. We can’t skip these moments, for God wants to reveal to us that He has been with us for our entire journey.

“Jesus was forsaken so that you won’t have to be.”

Jesus was separated from His father for a moment so that you would have the opportunity to be with Him forever. He prayed in the garden that He wouldn’t have to face the separation from His Father, but He then said, “Nevertheless, not my will, but Your will be done.” Jesus endured a moment of abandonment so that you would never have to believe that you were alone again.

Read John 14:15-21. For deeper study read Matthew 1:23 and Revelation 1:8.

Discussion Questions:

1. What thoughts and feelings do you have as you watch Pastor Furtick standing and speaking in the actual Garden of Gethsemane?
2. What did you learn from Pastor Furtick’s comments in session 4? What stood out to you about the abandonment that Jesus faced?
3. How did Jesus anguish over His calling in the Garden of Gethsemane? Describe a time when you anguished over a decision (big or small) in your life.

4. How did Jesus actually experience abandonment in Matthew 27:46? What makes this the greatest agony hat anyone could experience? what makes Jesus' statement in the garden, "Yet not my will, but yours be done," so significant?
5. What is your response to the statement, "Jesus was forsaken so that you wouldn't have to be"? what does Jesus' abandonment teach you about forgiveness?
6. Have you ever experienced abandonment? Personally, what did that feel like? How did this make you feel toward God?
7. Pastor Furtick said, "That only way to get the anointing of God to flow from a life is to press it." What blessings has God brought about in your life as a result of your pressing moments of abandonment? How did the pressing prepare you to receive that blessing?
8. Identify one person who you know is in the middle of a season of pressing or abandonment. How can you encourage him or her this week with your story?