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**Introduction**

The Resurrection is the foundation of our faith. We should never forget that, yet sometimes as we approach our celebration of the resurrection, we rush through the events that led to the cross. Over the next 5 weeks we want to linger in the story and get a clearer picture of Jesus and reflect on him during these Stations of the Cross.

**Discussion Questions**

1. Are you familiar with the term or practice of the Stations of the Cross? How can reflecting on these events lead us closer to God or develop our faith?
2. Read Matthew 26:36-40 What does it mean to you that Jesus asked if this “cup” could be taken from him? How is it possible to ask for a different way, yet ask for God’s will?
3. Read Matthew 26:41-45 How does Jesus’ prayer change? Do you see any parallels with the Lord’s Prayer? Can you describe a time when your will seemed different than God’s so you had to pray/act differently?
4. Read Matthew 26:47-56 Why was it necessary (or was it) for Judas to kiss Jesus? What kind of personal sting do you think Jesus experienced there?
5. Peter tries to defend Jesus with a misguided sword attack. Why does Jesus tell him to put it away? Any application for that today?
6. How can watching Jesus faithfulness in a lonely, suffering help us develop a faith that trusts God even when the outcome of a circumstance is unclear?
7. How could you respond to someone who was considering leaving the faith because of suffering? Does a clear view of what Jesus endured help? Why or why not?

**Shaping Your Mind –** ***“****…then all the disciples deserted him and he was alone.” Matthew 26:56b*

**Moving Forward –** The value in the Stations is a twofold confession. First, life is sometimes dark, painful, and brings endings. That reality did not go away even for Jesus. Second, God does some of His best work in the darkness as we persist in the journey…the journey reminds sets the darkness as a basis to celebrate the light.