LIFE GROUP LEADER DISCUSSION GUIDE

Depending on God When We Are Weak

Mark 14:26–52 • Nov 8, 2026 • 35 minutes

Aim See Jesus' faithful obedience amid his disciples' failure and learn to face temptation through prayerful dependence.

Before you lead

Read Mark 14:26-52. Follow the movement from confident promises to Gethsemane, betrayal, and flight. Keep Jesus' obedience at the center. Mark does not identify the fleeing young man. Allow 6 minutes to welcome and read, 7 for Head, 10 for Heart, 9 for Hands, and 3 for prayer.

Ask the main questions first. Use the follow-ups when the group needs help going deeper; the leader notes are for your preparation. Give people time to answer, and ask them to point to the verses behind their observations.

Suggested timing Welcome, prayer, and reading 6 min • Head 7 min • Heart 10 min • Hands 9 min • Closing prayer 3 min

HEAD

Understand the passage

Read Mark 14:26–52 aloud from the ESV. Keep the passage open throughout the discussion.

1. How do Peter and the others respond to Jesus in verses 26-31?

Follow-up: What promise does Jesus give even as he predicts their failure?

Leader note: Notice both their confidence and his promise to go before them to Galilee after rising.

2. What do Jesus' prayers and instructions reveal in verses 32-42?

Follow-up: How does he bring his distress to the Father?

Leader note: Jesus expresses real anguish and submits to the Father's will. The sleeping disciples need watchfulness and prayer.

3. How do the people around Jesus act during his arrest in verses 43-52?

Follow-up: How is Jesus' response different from theirs?

Leader note: Trace betrayal, force, Jesus' appeal to Scripture, and abandonment. Avoid inventing identities or motives not given.

HEART

Examine our motives

Choose a follow-up when it helps someone explain an answer. Allow people to share honestly without pressing them to disclose more than they are ready to share.

4. When have you been too confident in your own strength?

Follow-up: What did that confidence keep you from asking for?

Leader note: Help people speak honestly about weakness without competing over dramatic failures.

5. How do you usually handle distress before you bring it to God?

Follow-up: What in Jesus' prayer helps you speak honestly?

Leader note: Prayer can include a sincere request for relief and submission to God. Distress itself is not disobedience.

6. Where are you most tempted to distance yourself from Jesus when following him becomes costly?

Follow-up: What are you afraid of losing?

Leader note: Connect the disciples' flight with our own fears while keeping Jesus' faithfulness in view.

HANDS

Put the passage into practice

7. What recurring temptation do you need to pray about more intentionally this week?

Follow-up: When could you pray before you face that temptation?

Leader note: Choose a specific situation and a simple practice of asking for help.

8. Who could you invite to support you in that struggle?

Follow-up: What would you ask them to do?

Leader note: Seek trustworthy support that is practical and appropriate. Do not require public disclosure of private details.

Close in prayer

Thank Jesus for remaining faithful when his followers failed. Bring our weakness and distress to the Father, and ask for help to pray, obey, and support one another.