

Why is Easter important to Christians?

Learning Objective:

To learn about the events that led up to Jesus being arrested.

The Garden of Gethsemane

They came to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." He took Peter, James and John with him. Distress and anguish came over him, and he said to them, "The sorrow in my heart is so great that it almost crushes me. Stay here and keep watch."

He went a little farther on, threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if possible, he might not have to go through that time of suffering. "Father," he prayed, "my Father! All things are possible for you. Take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet not what I want but what you want."

Then he returned and found the three disciples asleep.

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He said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Weren't you able to stay awake even for one hour?" And he said to them, "Keep watch, and pray that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak."

He went away once more and prayed, saying the same words. Then he came back to the disciples and found them asleep; they could not keep their eyes open. And they did not know what to say to him.

When he came back the third time, he said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The hour has come! Look, the Son of Man is now being handed over to the power of sinful men. Get up, let us go. Look, here is the man who is betraying me."

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Why was Jesus disappointed in his disciples?
Have you ever felt disappointed in anyone?

Why do you
think Jesus
needed his
disciples to
stay awake?



How do you
think the
disciples felt?

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Peter's Denial

Peter was still down in the courtyard when one of the High Priest's servant girls came by. When she saw Peter warming himself, she looked straight at him and said, "You, too, were with Jesus of Nazareth."

But he denied it. "I don't know...I don't understand what you are talking about," he answered, and went out into the passage. Just then a cock crowed.

The servant girl saw him there and began to repeat to the bystanders, "He is one of them!" But Peter denied it again.

A little while later, the bystanders accused Peter again. "You can't deny that you are one of them because you, too, are from Galilee."

Then Peter said, "I swear that I am telling the truth! May God punish me if I am not! I do not know the man you are talking about!"

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Just then a cock crowed a second time, and Peter remembered how Jesus had said to him, "Before the cock crows twice, you will three times say that you do not know me." And he broke down and cried.

Why do you think Peter would deny Jesus when he was one of his followers?



Have you ever betrayed a friend to keep in with a crowd?

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