

# Southwest Life Groups

*A Place to Belong...A Place to Transform*

*Focus: To compare and contrast what Jesus modeled in his prayer life with what we model for those around us and to assess our current view of what the purpose of prayer is.*

**Introduction:** We live in a post-Christian culture here in America. What used to be the norm, as far as Christ's priorities in our families, in our businesses, and even in our churches, is no longer. Begin the evening with a discussion about our culture. Allow the group to express their fears as well as their excitement about the future.

- If you could give your child/grandchild one attribute you feel is vital to becoming a disciple of Christ, what would it be? Explain.
- Evaluate how you are doing in instilling that in your children/grandchildren.

We all model things whether we want to or not. People are watching, and they learn about who we are and what matters to us much more by what we do than by what we say.

- If we were to follow you around for a week, what would we say you model?
- Compare that with what we've said we want to give our children/grandchildren.
- What did Jesus model for us and what might He say was the most important?

**Text:** Tonight we are going to focus on one thing I believe Jesus modeled extensively: a dependence on God through prayer. There are many outward acts in which we could imitate Jesus' actions, but this one goes to the very heart of God.

- What is the purpose of prayer?

Read Mark 1:35-39

- What has Jesus spent his time doing in Mark 1?
- Discuss your thoughts on why you believe Jesus needed to be alone.

Read Mark 6:45-56 (4<sup>th</sup> watch was around 3:00AM)

- Why did Jesus send the 12 away...why not take them up on the mountain?
- Assess the situation...why does Jesus continue to need to be alone?

Read Mark 14:32-42

- Evaluate the job Jesus is doing in modeling this priority for his disciples.

## **Application:**

- Compare what Jesus used prayer for vs. how we view it.
- Do you "know" God through your prayer life or just "know about him"? Explain.
- How can we move forward in owning this for ourselves?
- How can we as a group help each other with what we are modeling?

**Prayer:** Don't make a list tonight...let people pray their hearts!

