



In Between Community & Abandonment

March 29th, 2026

LEAN IN

- Have you ever experienced a moment where you felt deeply alone—even if people were around you? What did that feel like, and how did you respond?

LOOK UP – Observation, Interpretation, Application (OIA)

Read Together: Matthew 26:36-46

OBSERVATION – What Does the Text Say?

- What stands out to you about Jesus' emotions and actions in this moment?
- What do you notice about the disciples' response?
- What repeated patterns or phrases do you see in Jesus' prayers?
- What are you curious about in this passage?

INTERPRETATION – What Does the Passage Mean?

- What does this passage reveal about the humanity of Jesus?
- Why do you think Jesus invites His disciples into this moment, even knowing they will fail Him?
- What do you learn about prayer from Jesus in Gethsemane?
- What might “not my will, but yours be done” really mean in this context?

What do you learn about God?

- What does this passage show about God's character in moments of suffering?
- How does God respond (or not respond) to Jesus' prayer?

What do you learn about humanity?

- What does this reveal about our limitations or weaknesses?
- How do you see yourself reflected in the disciples?

APPLICATION – What Is My Response?

- How are you encouraged, challenged, or convicted by Jesus' example of honest prayer?
- Where in your life are you tempted to hide your true feelings from God?
- What would it look like for you to practice surrender in a current situation?
- **What is one “in-between” area of your life where you are waiting on God right now?**
- **How might God be inviting you to trust Him, even if nothing changes immediately?**

Reflect & Grow

- Read Psalm 22:1–5. How does this Psalm help you understand Jesus' cry on the cross and God's faithfulness in seasons of silence?
- Read Philippians 2:6–8. How does Jesus' surrender shape the way you think about obedience and trust in your own life?

Scripture References

- Matthew 26:36–46
- Luke 22:44
- Psalm 22:1–5
- Philippians 2:6–8

Prayer

- **Honesty before God:** Take a moment to silently bring your real emotions to God—fear, doubt, loneliness, or frustration.
- **Surrender:** Pray, “Not my will, but Yours be done,” and name a specific situation where you need to trust Him.
- **Presence in silence:** Sit quietly for a minute together, acknowledging that God is present even when He feels silent.
- **Intercession:** Pray for others in your group who are walking through an “in-between” season.
- **Trust:** Thank God that through Jesus, we are never alone in our suffering.

STEP OUT – Practice This Week

1.

Practice Being in Scripture this week by following along in the Easter reading at Gateway

- 2. Be Present with Someone Else by inviting them to your campus Good Friday Service and/or Easter Sunday**