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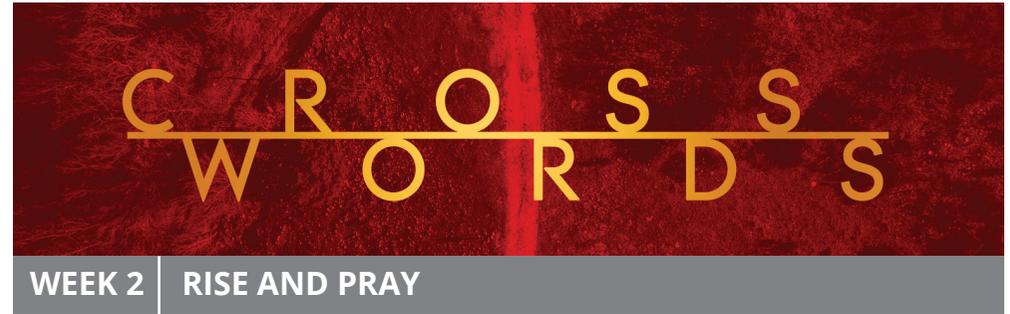
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WARM UP

Are you a morning person or a night owl? Why?

WORD

Read **Luke 22:42-51**

In Gethsemane, the night before Jesus is crucified, he cries in utter emotional, spiritual and even physical anguish for strength from the LORD to carry out the plan that was laid before him. In the process, Jesus receives strength from an angel. The strength though had purpose: to be strong enough to endure what was to come.

NOTES

1 Don't Shrink Back

⁴⁴And being in agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. ⁴⁵And when he rose from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping for sorrow, ⁴⁶and he said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation."

Luke 22:44-46 (ESV)

³⁸And, "But the righteous one will live by faith. And I take no pleasure in the one who shrinks back." ³⁹But we do not belong to those who shrink back and are destroyed, but to those who have faith and are saved.

Hebrews 10:38,39 (ESV)

Jesus was in agony, and his agony drove him to pray even more deeply, despite being under such severe stress that he perspired blood-fused drops. Yet he would arise and move towards the call to lay his life down for humanity, despite being tempted to shrink back from carrying out the Father's plan for him.

- Have you ever been tempted to shrink back from plans and commitments you've made, upon encountering difficulty and overwhelming obstacles?
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2 Friends, How Many of Us Have Them?

⁴⁷While he was still speaking, there came a crowd, and the man called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He drew near to Jesus to kiss him, ⁴⁸but Jesus said to him, "Judas, would you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?" ⁴⁹And when those who were around him saw what would

follow, they said, "Lord, shall we strike with the sword?" ⁵⁰And one of them struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear. ⁵¹But Jesus said, "No more of this!" And he touched his ear and healed him.

Luke 22:47-51 (ESV)

Apart from Judas who had been scheming to betray Jesus, the disciples of Christ were oblivious to what was about to happen to him within the next 24 hours, despite them being prepared by Old Testament prophecies and by Jesus himself. Sometimes when God's plan is executed in our lives, there may not be a fullness of understanding from well-meaning friends and family. We must be resilient in our obedience to Jesus in carrying out what he has called us to do.

- Has there ever been a time when well-meaning friends or family have not fully understood you carrying out a decision that you felt was for the best, or what you've sensed God has called you to do? How did you respond?
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PRAYER

- Pray that God will give us grace to obey him, especially when it is hard and when we may not fully understand the situation that calls for our obedience.