

The Hour Has Come

It's time.

Jesus and the disciples were at Bethany, just outside of Jerusalem. Both Jews and Gentiles were gathering for the festival of the Passover.

There isn't time.

Some Greeks who had heard of Jesus asked his disciples if they could talk to him. Jesus' answer put them off—temporarily. For him, the hour had come for the long week that would lead to his death and resurrection.

The timing is everything.

Jesus tried to help them understand what would happen to him with an example. "Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit."

Not this time—not yet!

When the disciples began to realize his life might be at risk, they tried to get Jesus to stay away. But he told them it was what he came for, to glorify God. Those around him heard a voice of confirmation saying, "I have glorified my name and I will glorify it again."

The time has come.

What do you do when you hear the voice of God? Pretend it was thunder? Credit an angel? Jesus assured them that hearing it was for their sake, not his, and he made a promise. "When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all people to me."

The time is here.

The ministry of Jesus, the Peacemaker, is to all people in all times and all places. Invite someone to join you as you exchange ideas for peace through the Peace Support Network.



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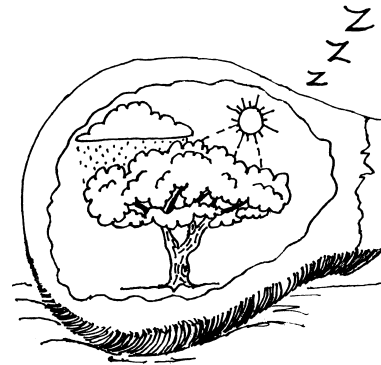
Pathways to Peace

Week 5: Time for the Journey

It was going to be a tough time for Jesus. Before it was over, he would be arrested, beaten, tried unfairly, convicted, and even put to death. But in the end, after the resurrection, things would be better than ever before.

Jesus told the disciples a story to help them understand.

"Unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit."



This picture of a seed and what might grow inside was drawn by a child in the New Walnut Park congregation to help illustrate a new family song book.

Draw your picture of what you think Jesus meant here.