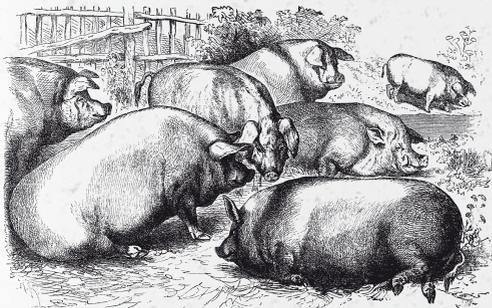


# ON GUARD

“Is not my word like a fire? Says the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces”

Jeremiah 23:29

## WARM UP



A farmer was paid a visit by one of his city relatives. Before dinner the farmer bowed his head and said grace. His sophisticated relative jeered; “This is old-fashioned; nobody with an education prays at the table anymore.” The farmer admitted that the practice was old and even allowed that there were some on his farm who did not pray before their meals. Justified, the relative remarked: “So enlightenment is finally reaching the farm. Who are these wise ones?” The farmer replied: “My pigs.”

## BACKGROUND

Jesus used Peter’s drowsiness to warn him about the kinds of temptation he would soon face. The way to overcome temptation is to keep watch and pray. Watching means being aware of the possibilities of temptation; sensitive to the subtleties and spiritually equipped to fight it. Temptation strikes where we are most vulnerable, we can’t resist it alone. Prayer and Scripture are our weapons.

## READ MATTHEW 26:36-45

### QUESTIONS FOR INTERACTION

1. *On this dreadful night Jesus asked his disciples to pray. Why?*
2. *Why is it so important for our hearts and minds to be guarded.*

3. *What is the most important thing we should pray for?*

4. *We need good models for developing our prayer life. What models do you have?*

*How can you be a good model?*

## CONSIDER THIS

“All I know is that when I pray things happen and when I don’t pray things don’t happen.”  
Dan Hayes

## WRAP-UP

Select one or two issues or needs that are in the group and pray together about them.



## IT’S TIME FOR PRAYER

### MY RESPONSE AS A PROMISE KEEPER

*Things I need to change in my prayer life.*

*I will give an extra five minutes to prayer each day this week.*