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SERIES: JESUS AND THE JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Jesus Prays In The Garden

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Lesson Overview

Today we're going to learn about Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. Remember, last week we learned that Jesus was wrongly accused by some mean people and he was found guilty in court. His punishment was death on a cross. Jesus wasn't surprised by this because it was all part of the plan. But, Jesus still needed some time to prepare himself for what was to come. Going to the cross was going to mean a lot of pain and suffering for Jesus. So, he went to a garden to spend time praying and asking God for the strength to get through it. Jesus didn't want to go to the cross but he knew he had to in order to save us. Jesus loved us so much that he was willing to suffer and die for us.

Classroom Agenda

- (5 min) PLAY: Let kids start working on Activity Page #1. (Puzzle answers: Cup, Temptation, Judas, Asleep, James, Sword, Gethsemane, Will)**
- (5 min) WARM UP: What are the top 5 things you love to do on vacation? What are the top 5 things you love to do on the weekends?** (Tip: It's fun to make top 5 lists of the things we love. We're going to make another top 5 list about Jesus in our lesson today.)
- (5 min) PREVIEW: Write out the Big Idea, Memory Verse, and Key Question on a whiteboard.** Have the kids copy it down on Activity Page #1 (if applicable).
- (20 min) LARGE GROUP: Gather for songs and videos with other kids.** Then return to class to finish this guide.
- (2 min) RECAP: Read the Lesson Overview (see above).**
- (3 min) KQ: Answer the Key Question.** (Answer: **The cross meant pain and suffering.** (Death on a cross was the most painful death any person could experience. It was an awful way to die. Jesus suffered great pain on the cross. He had nails hammered through his hands and feet to attach him to the cross. And, he didn't die right away. He hung there for hours. Jesus went through all of pain and suffering for us. He did it to pay for our sins.)
 - Bonus Questions:** Why was the cross so painful for Jesus? Why did he go through all that pain? **4-5th:** How can you show thanks to Jesus for all he's done for you?
- (5 min) EXPLORE: Read Hebrews 9:28. Why did Jesus have to die for us? Where do we get to live with him some day?** (Answer: Jesus came to pay for our sins on the cross. He had to do this because our sins keep us from having a relationship with God. But, because of Jesus, our sins are forgiven and our relationship with God is fixed. That means we will get to live in heaven with him some day.)
- (10 min) PLAY: Choose a group activity from Activity Page #2.**
- (5 min) CLOSE: Share prayer requests and pray as a class.** Encourage kids to use the Family Guide at home with their parents - and remind them to go online to pursueGOD.org/kids to find this week's lesson video.

Big Idea

Jesus prayed for strength to face the cross.

Key Question

Why didn't Jesus want to go to the cross?

Memory Verse

John 3:16 | For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

Teacher instructions: Choose an activity for your classroom.

OPTION 1: MEMORY VERSE GAME

Instructions:

- Divide the class into teams of 4. Give each team a set of Memory Verse words (page 5-6).
- Have kids place the words face down on the floor.
- When you say, "Go!", have teams race to get the words in the correct order to say the memory verse. (verse is shortened for the game.) First team to do it correctly, wins.

Supplies needed:

Memory Verse words (pg. 5-6, precut, 1 set per team)

Bonus Activity: "True or False"

See who's the quickest to answer correctly.

1. Jesus prayed in a field. (F)
2. Jesus had to go to the cross. (T)
3. Our memory verse is from the book of John. (T)

OPTION 2: HIGH FIVE PRAYER CRAFT

Instructions:

- Give each kid a Handprint (page 7).
- Have kids cut out each piece. Have them glue one phrase onto a finger.
- If there is time, allow kids to color their hand.
- As they work, remind them that Jesus went to the garden to pray for strength before he went to the cross. We should pray for God's strength in our lives, too. We should pray for God to help us to be obedient and kind and we should pray for specific people in our lives.

Supplies needed:

Handprint template (pg. 7, 1 set per kid), Scissors, Glue, Crayons

Bonus Activity: "Fast Facts"

See who's the quickest to answer correctly.

1. Jesus prayed in a ___(garden).
2. Jesus died on a ___(cross)
3. Our memory verse is from the book of ___(John)

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Jesus went to the _____ to _____

Next time you are afraid or stressed, be like Jesus and pray. God wants to help you and be your friend, so talk to him! Now, let's look at our next fact from this true story.

The disciples fell _____ in the garden

They were supposed to be keeping watch for Jesus while he prayed, but they fell asleep. They didn't just fall asleep once, they fell asleep 3 times! Each time Jesus left them to go pray they would fall asleep.

Jesus didn't _____ like the paintings

Have you ever seen paintings that show Jesus praying in the garden? If you look at them, they make it look like Jesus is really calm. But that's not how it was. Jesus knew he was about to go to the cross and die, so he was pretty scared. That's really important to know because even though Jesus was afraid, he still did what God wanted him to.

_____ didn't want to go to the _____

But Jesus was helped by an angel. God sent the angel to give Jesus strength. He was about to do something really hard and God wanted to help him through it. That's pretty cool, huh? We have a God that is willing to help us no matter what.

Jesus _____ to go to the cross

Nobody made him, but he knew he had to do it. He didn't go to the cross to be punished for his sins, he did to save us from ours! By dying on the cross Jesus made it so that we could all go to heaven some day.

Answers: garden, pray, asleep, look, Jesus, cross, had **Parent Signature:** _____

Questions:

1. What was your favorite part of the video? What is one thing you learned from the video?
2. Make a top 5 list of the things you love to do on vacation. Make a top 5 list of your favorite things to do on the weekends.
3. What did Jesus do when he was scared? What are some things that scare you that you need to pray about?
4. Why do you think the disciples fell asleep on Jesus? How do you think that made Jesus feel?
5. Why did Jesus have to go to the cross for us?
6. Read [Hebrews 9:28](#). Why did Jesus have to die for us? Where do we get to live with him some day?
7. How will you apply this lesson to your life this week?

Instructions: Solve the puzzles.

Gethsemane



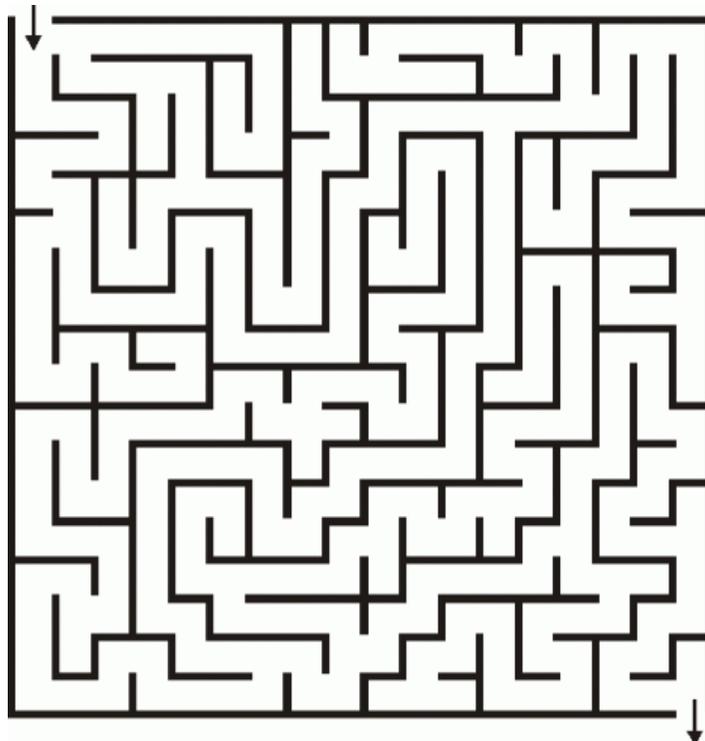
1. UCP
Jesus prayed, "Let this ___ pass from me."
Matt. 26:39
2. TITEAMONTP
Jesus warned them to watch and pray lest they fall
into _____. Matt. 26:41
3. ADJSU
The man who betrayed Jesus with a kiss.
Mark 14:43
4. ASEPEL
The disciples fell _____ twice while Jesus prayed.
Matt. 26:43
5. AMJSE
Peter, _____ and John went with Jesus.
Mark 14:33
6. OWDSR
Peter struck the high priest's servant with a _____.
Mark 14:47
7. HTNEAGEESM
The garden where Jesus prayed Matt 26:36 _____
8. WLLI
"Not my _____, but thy _____ be done." Mark 14:36

Big Idea

Key Question

Memory Verse

John 3:____ | For this is how
 _____ loved the world: He
 gave his one and only
 _____, so that everyone
 who _____ in him
 will not perish but have
 eternal life.



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2nd-
3rdPursueGOD.org**HE****SON****GAVE****SO****HIS****THAT****ONE****EVERYONE****AND****WHO****ONLY****BELIEVES**

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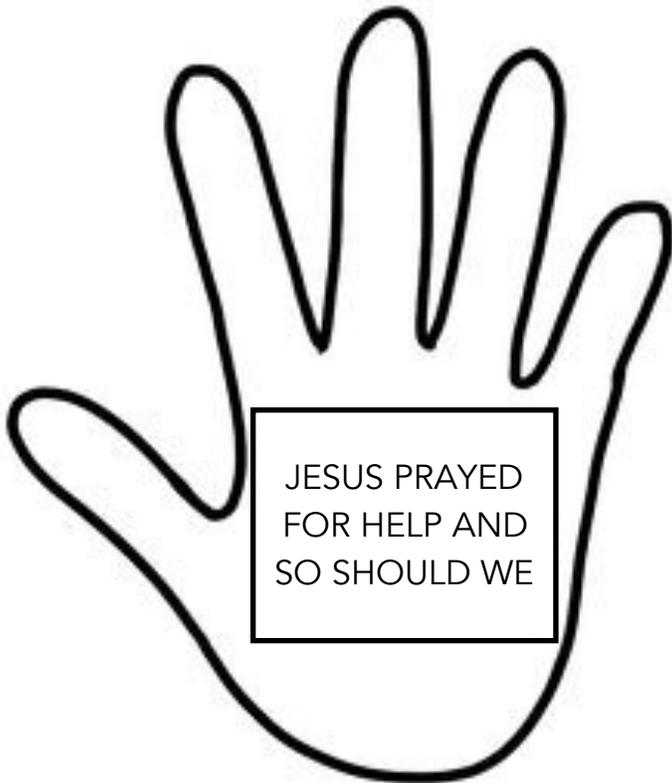
2nd-
3rdPursueGOD.org**IN****HAVE****HIM****ETERNAL****WILL****LIFE****NOT****JOHN****PERISH****3:16****BUT**

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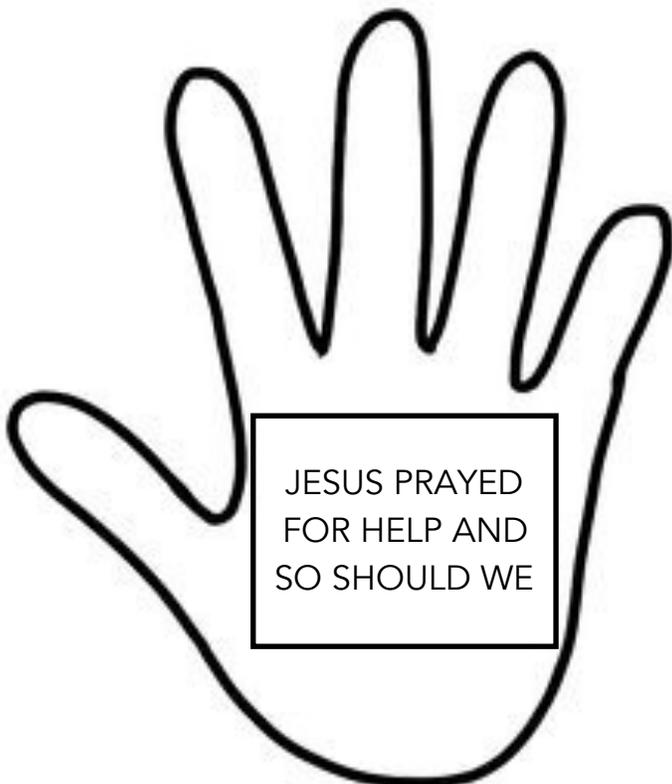
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- BE HELPFUL
- TO OBEY
- BE NICE
- FOR FAMILY
- FOR FRIENDS



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