

**Bible Story:** Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane

**Scripture:** Mark 14:32-42; Matthew 26:36-46; Luke 22:39-46; John 18:1

This lesson gives a look into Jesus' heart as He prayed to His Heavenly Father prior to His arrest and death. With a comparison of all four gospels, we get a better picture of Jesus' time in the garden and the actions of the disciples. It also a good exercise to understand how different Gospel accounts relate. These passages give a glimpse of the humanness of our Savior.

## **BIBLE READING**

Read through each of the Bible passages ask your children to listen and identify all people. Events and the details regarding Jesus in the garden.

## **LESSON OVERVIEW**

### **1. Kindle Curiosity**

Description: Do an experiment with water.

Supplies: Pitcher of water, big cup to fill and overflow with water, basin to catch the overflowing water, dropper, towel for any mess, Bible outfits.

### **2. God Revealed**

Description: Hear the Scripture passage, act out the story.

Supplies: Bible, any props you wish to use if you choose to act out the passage.

### **3. Personal Pursuit**

Description: Discussion activity, optional drawing/painting activity, pray. Supplies: Picture of Jesus in Gethsemane (Google Image search)

### **4. Daily Knowing**

Description: Memorize God's Word.

Supplies: Notecards with memory verse written out for each parent.

## **KINDLE CURIOSITY**

Have the cup, pitcher, dropper, and basin ready. Place the cup in the basin. Allow your child to pour a little water in the cup at a time. As they pour, ask them what they think will happen if they continue to pour after it is full. Be very careful and get the water to the very brim of the cup. Then take a dropper and allow the children to put little drops of water in until it begins to overflow. If you want, you can even use a measuring cup to measure how much water it took to make the water overflow.

**ASK:** What just happened? (The water overflowed.) Why did this happen? (Because the cup was so full.) Today we are going to enter into the hardest part of Jesus' life on earth. He knew what was going to happen to Him; He had always known. But He was very sad. His heart was so full of sorrow (deep sadness) that the Bible tells us it *overflowed* with sorrow. That is a lot of sadness, just like it took a lot of water to overflow this cup.

## **GOD REVEALED**

**SAY:** We are going to see what happened on the night Jesus was arrested. Remember that while everything that happened to Jesus was very horrible, God was in control and was with Him at every moment. Our lesson is found in Mark, chapter 14 (show them in your Bible). The Bible is God's Word. He wrote it, so we know that everything in it is true.

This is a paraphrased version of Mark 14:32-41, NIV:

Jesus took His disciples to a place called Gethsemane. He told them to sit and wait for Him while He went to pray. He took Peter, James, and John a little further. He was very, very upset and troubled. He told Peter, James, and John, "My soul is overflowing with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch." Going just a little further, Jesus fell to the ground and prayed to God the Father. He prayed that if it were at all possible, that God would allow this not to happen. He said, "Abba, Father, everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not my will, but your will be done." He prayed so hard and suffered so much that

His sweat was like drops of blood. Then He returned to Peter, James, and John and found them sleeping. He asked Peter, "Are you asleep? Couldn't you keep watch for one hour? Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The Spirit is willing but the flesh is weak."

Then Jesus went and prayed the same thing, that God would allow Him to not have to suffer and die, but for the Father's will to be done. When he came back, Jesus found the disciples sleeping again. They did not know what to say to Him. He went to pray a third time. When He came back, Jesus said, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The hour has come. Look, the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners. Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer.

*ACT IT OUT: You may choose to act this out with the children*

## PERSONAL PURSUIT

**ASK:** Does anyone know what Jesus meant when He said “not my will, but your will be done”? Let me give you some examples to help you understand.

Your mom says clean your room. What do you want to do instead? What does God want you to do? (Obey)

Wash the dishes. What do you want to do? What does God want you to do?

(Obey) Time for church! What do you want to do? What does God want you to do? (Obey)

**SAY:** What you want to do is your *will*. What God desires for you to do is His *will*. Jesus was fully human. Just like we would not have wanted to die, Jesus did not want to die. His will was to not die. God’s will was for Him to be obedient, to die so that we may be forgiven of our sins. Jesus chose to be obedient to God the Father, even though He did not want to. We can never be perfectly obedient to God like Jesus, and because He died in our place, we do not have to. When we trust in Him for our salvation, we receive His perfection (righteousness) as our own. So we can stand before God as if we never sinned before, with pure hearts.

**ASK:** Did you know Jesus was so sad, so sorrowful? Did you know He did not want to die? (Discuss. Jesus was fully human, so He had sadness and sorrow just like we do. Then show a picture of Jesus in Gethsemane.)

**SAY:** It is an amazing sacrifice that Jesus made! He knew He would have to suffer a lot of pain. Jesus never sinned; He was not guilty and did not deserve to be hung on a cross like a criminal. He knew that He did not have to die. But He did! He was perfectly obedient to the point of death. This should cause our hearts to overflow with love for Him! Let’s praise God together now and show Him how much we love Him!

## DAILY KNOWING

**SAY:** Jesus was fully human, just like you and me. He experienced pain just like you and me. He became human so that He might break the power of sin and death! This means that when we trust in Him for our salvation, we are cleansed or freed from our sins! This means we can have a relationship with God! And this means that though we all may die, we will not stay dead but will live eternally with God! This also means that Jesus can comfort us perfectly when we are in pain because He experienced deep sorrow and pain while He was here on earth.

**SAY:** It is very important for us to know God's Word because it allows us to know His will. It also helps us to remember what Christ did for us and why it is important. Today we are going to memorize Mark 14:36, "And he said, 'Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.'" (ESV)

Remind the parents how important it is for them to help their children review their verses all throughout the week. Encourage them to memorize the verse with their children. Provide each parent with a notecard that has Mark 14:36 written on it.

## MEMORY VERSE

Mark 14:36 ESV

*And he said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will."*

## REVIEW QUESTIONS

Several important things happened at the Garden of Gethsemane that night.

1. **Jesus prayed.** We see Jesus' humanity and a glimpse inside the trinity in this prayer. Being God, he knew what he was getting ready to go through. But he prays to the Father and asks him to not let him go through the suffering if possible. And then he utters the famous words that are a model of our submission to God: "Yet not as I will, but as you will." (Matthew 26:39)
2. **Jesus asked Peter, James and John to keep watch.** His disciples knew something was up. Jesus had been predicting his death for some time, and just before they left the upper room where they had dinner, he predicted that Judas was going to be betray him. Then Judas gets up and leaves the room!
3. **The disciples couldn't stay awake.** Three times Jesus came back from praying by himself and found the disciples sleeping. Sometimes we think the disciples were super-human. And with the power of the Holy Spirit they did some pretty amazing things in the early days of the church. But they were also regular guys. Guys who got tired and fell asleep on one of the most important nights in human history.

## WHERE IN THE BIBLE

Give a list of points from the accounts and see if the children can identify which gospel that information was found.

1. The name of the Garden. Matthew and Mark
2. Name of disciple Jesus brought close to Him. Matthew and Mark
3. Warned them about falling into temptation. Mark and Luke
4. Sweat drops of blood. Luke
5. Garden over ravine of Kidron. John
6. Jesus spoke to disciples about falling asleep. Matthew, Mark, and Luke
7. Jesus says, "Spirit willing but flesh weak"? Matthew and Mark
8. Jesus is described being in agony. Luke
9. Jesus mentions betrayer coming. Matthew and Mark
10. Jesus asks for cup to possibly pass over. Matthew and Mark (Luke says removed).
11. Mentions Jesus having an angel strengthen Him. Luke

## ACTIVITES

1. Word Find
2. Crossword
3. Coloring Sheet



The Garden of Gethsemane

"WATCH AND PRAY SO THAT YOU WILL NOT FALL INTO TEMPTATION"  
Mark 14:38

"Could you not keep watch with me for one hour?"