



# GETHSEMANE

Life & Ministry of Jesus • U8#3 1st-3rd Grade • Mar.10, 2024

## Concept

Jesus sacrificially showed His love for all people by dying on the cross (submitting/trusting the Father).

## Goal

Students will understand that Jesus voluntarily submitted to His Father's will to die on the cross. Because He gave His life out of love for them, they will be encouraged to submit to His will for their lives.

## Passage

Matthew 26:36-46

Key Verse: "My Father! If this cup cannot be taken away until I drink it, your will be done." Matthew 26:42 (NLT)

## Planning Ahead

Lesson Supplies	Craft Supplies
<p><b>Activity Station:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Garden Game worksheet, 1/every 2 students</li><li>• String, 4'/every 2 students</li><li>• Large marshmallows, 1/student</li><li>• <i>Sammy's Incredible Travels with Jesus &amp; His Friends</i>, 2 copies</li></ul> <p><b>Lesson:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Bible Stories for Children</i>, Horn &amp; Cavanaugh</li></ul>	<p><b>Activity Station:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Printed cardstock with "Jesus" and scripture on pentagons, 1/student</li><li>• Scissors</li><li>• Markers</li></ul>

### \*TEACHERS PLEASE NOTE

For clarity, the italicized areas in the Planning Ahead section indicate supplies that are in—and should be returned to—your classroom SHARED SUPPLY bag.

# Background Information/Teacher Helps

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After The Passover meal Jesus took His disciples to the garden of Gethsemane. Jesus withdrew from them about a stone's throw. As He struggled in prayer, His disciples, overcome with exhaustion, fell asleep. Just as in His wilderness conflict, Jesus was again alone as He began this last contest with Satan. Anguish engulfed Him. Jesus threw Himself on the ground. "My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done," (Matthew 26:42).

What was this cup? According to J. Oswald Sanders, it included three ingredients:

- A renewed attack by Satan. In the wilderness, Satan was unsuccessful in tempting Jesus to turn on God and use His divine powers to meet His own needs. This was His last attempt to overthrow Jesus, a struggle to the death between Light and darkness.
- Jesus' anticipation of taking upon Himself all the sins of the world. "The Lord laid on him the iniquity of us all" (Isaiah 53:6). "Our sin [was] imputed to Christ, and Christ [was] made sin and a curse for us. He drank a cup of wrath without mercy, that we might drink a cup of mercy without wrath. The agony was not the fear of death but the deep sense of God's wrath against sin that He was to bear." [1]
- Knowing that His Father's face would be turned from Him. To be forsaken by God because He was being "made...to be sin for us" (2 Corinthians 5:21) was an agonizing thought that caused Jesus to sweat great drops of blood.

Jesus, who had never sinned, would take upon Himself all the sins of the world. On this night, Jesus, "who had been utterly honest, absolutely pure, completely just, He who knew no hate, no bitterness, no selfishness, no jealousy--who would be submerged, saturated, and stained with such sins--was horrified by the prospect. Just the thought of it was so abhorrent to His impeccable nature that in anguish He literally fell flat upon His face in agony." [2] Jesus knew He would be betrayed by a friend and denied and deserted by His other followers. But this was nothing next to the overwhelming knowledge that God would forsake Him. Never had man known this kind of spiritual anguish.

[1] Sanders, J. Oswald, "The Soul-Anguish of Christ," The Incomparable Christ. Moody Press, 1971, p. 132.

[2] Keller, W. Phillip, Rabboni, Old Tappan, New Jersey: Fleming H. Revell Company, p. 239.

**Activity Stations:**

- **Game – Garden Game [1]**
  - **Instructions:** If time allows, students can play this just-for-fun game. The object of the game is to connect the dots and form as many squares as possible.
- **Craft – Cross**
  - **Instructions:** Give each student a printed sheet of cardstock. Cut out each pentagon along the solid lines. Color or decorate each piece if desired. Show the children how to fit the pieces together to make a cross. Each card tells why Jesus decided to do God's will and depend on God for the strength to follow through. The result of His decision was the cross. Because Jesus went to the cross we can be friends with God. They can use their crosses to tell others about Jesus' love.
- **Game – Swinging Marshmallow [2]**
  - **Instructions:** Play this game as a "get-to-know-you" activity. Make sure you pair students who either don't know each other or don't know each other very well. Pair the students (player A and player B) and give each pair a 4' piece of string and 2 marshmallows. At the signal the pairs will tie one marshmallow on each end of the string. Player A in each pair holds one marshmallow in her mouth while standing facing the front of the room. Player B stands to the side of Player A at an arm's length, looking toward player A. Moving only her head, player A begins to swing the string back and forth like a pendulum while player B attempts to catch the swinging marshmallow in his mouth. No hands allowed, player B may move only his head.
- **Seek & Find**
  - **Instructions:** Find the items on the "Jesus is Betrayed" pages in Sammy's Incredible Travels with Jesus & His Friends

[1] Shining Star Publications, 1990, A division of Good Apple, Inc., p. 35.

[2] Play It Again, Rice & Yaconelli, 1993, Youth Specialties, Inc., p. 94.

Use the story below or think of another scenario where a student wouldn't want to follow a parents' directions.

I know this girl named Sally whose neighbor had been sick for several days. One morning Sally's mom talked to the neighbor and found out that she was feeling sad. Sally's mom asked her to take some cookies to the neighbor to cheer her up. But Sally was in the middle of her favorite video game and had a chance of getting the highest score ever if she could play for ten more minutes.

So her thoughts went something like this:

## Introduction Continued

### Lesson Lg. Group

"My neighbor is going to lecture me about ruining her flowers that I accidentally ran over with my bicycle. And then there's that nasty Alice who will make fun of me if I'm nice to that mean old neighbor. And besides, what about her dog? It might bite me." Sally thought, "I don't want to go. So I won't. I really want to stay and finish this awesome game."

If you were Sally, what would you choose to do? When you want to do something different from what your parents ask, how do you decide whether to do what you want to do or what your parents want you to do? We usually decide to do what we want. We don't very often choose to do what is best for someone else if it means it will cause a problem for us or we won't get what we want. Today we will learn about a huge decision Jesus made in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Review the Passover Meal from last week. At this Passover meal, Jesus told His disciples that someone would betray Him that night. He knew that Judas was going to betray Him and that He was going to be the sacrificial lamb, killed to pay for their sins. The disciples wanted Jesus to be their King NOW so He could save them from the Roman government. But Jesus had a plan much greater than anything they could imagine. Immediately after Jesus and His disciples finished the Passover meal, they went out to the Garden of Gethsemane, just outside of the city of Jerusalem.

**Read pages 293-294, beginning with paragraph 5 "Near the Mount of Olives..." of Bible Stories for Children.**

Jesus had a decision to make. Would He take the punishment for the sins of all people? Or would He refuse to do that since He had never sinned and didn't want to be crucified. He did not want to receive the horrible anger from His Father for our sins, sins He never committed. As Jesus struggled in prayer He said, "My Father! If this cup cannot be taken away until I drink it, your will be done" (Matthew 26:42). When Jesus said "this cup," He meant God's anger and wrath, His judgment. He said, "My Father! If your anger cannot be taken away unless I die on the cross, I'll do it." Jesus did not want to go through that horrible punishment. But He loved us so much that He was willing to take the punishment we deserve because it was the only way that we can be God's children. On the cross Jesus took the punishment for the sin of all mankind for all time.

As the disciples continued to sleep, Jesus continued to struggle in prayer. This pain and horror of what was to come was very hard for Jesus to bear. (Describe the physical and emotional pain he would suffer).

## Lesson Continued

Worst of all He knew He would suffer the most horrible kind of spiritual pain, as He was to take upon Himself all the sins of all the people in the whole world and bear the punishment of God's judgment for those sins. Because He had never sinned, Jesus was horrified at the thought of becoming sin. He knew that He would be separated from and punished by God. When Jesus was on the cross, He was totally rejected by God. But Jesus trusted God while he prayed, he said "My Father! If this cup cannot be taken away until I drink it, your will be done" (Matthew 26:42). Jesus was willing to go to the cross. He wanted us to be able to become God's children. He loved us that much!

I'd like to take a moment to pray and thank Jesus for going to the cross. (Teacher, pray briefly, especially to ask the Spirit to show His great love to those who don't know Jesus.)

### Transition

Let's get up and move around. The disciples couldn't stay awake while Jesus prayed. Let's play a game of Sleep Tag and pretend we are the sleepy disciples.

### Learning Activity#1 Lg. Group

#### Game – Sleep Tag

**Instructions:** Pick several students to be "it." When an "it" tags another player, the tagged player becomes an "it" and the first "it" pretends to go to sleep for the remainder of the game. Continue the game until nearly all the players are "asleep." The last players to stay "awake" are the winners.

**Rationale:** To remember content of the lesson through an experience/dramatic play/activity

### Transition

Let's get in groups and talk some more about how/why Jesus decided to follow through with God's will.

### Learning Activity#2 Sm. Groups

We all fight with our parents when we don't want to do what they want us to do. And not only do we fight with our parents, we fight with God about doing what He wants us to do. (Reference back to the story about Sally and how it was hard to want to do what her parents wanted. Talk about some other situations that might be hard.)

It's important to think often about Jesus. He sacrificed His life for us and wants us to become like Him. When I think about the cost of His amazing sacrifice, I can thank Jesus that His death on the cross paid for my sin. I can ask Him to change me to be more like Him. I can depend on God to give me everything I need to do His will. And little by little He changes the way I think and helps me to choose to care about other people more than I care about myself. I begin to make choices that are in His will and my life becomes very exciting.

## Learning Activity# 2 Continued

(Talk about how we feel when we do make a good decision or help someone).

Jesus struggled with God. He told God how He felt and then chose to make a huge sacrifice for us. After Jesus made that huge sacrifice, His body died and His spirit went back to heaven to be forever with God. God gave Him the place of greatest honor. And everyone who admits that they sin and asks for Jesus' death to pay for their sin will also go to heaven to be with God and Jesus forever. Even though our bodies will die, we can live forever with Jesus. If you don't know God you first need to think about God's will for you. Jesus died on the cross to pay for our sins so we can live forever with Him. God's will for you is to ask Him to forgive your sins. Then you will be in God's family, know God's love and learn to depend on Him.

**Mission Prayer:** Talk about and pray for Oasis Giving campaign.

Let's pray. Let's pray for God to help us remember that He loves us so much that we can always trust that His will is always good, even when it's hard. Let's thank Him that He will give us everything we need to do His will and let's ask Him to help us learn to depend on Him.

## Extension

Game – Sleep Tag, Return to Activity Stations