



# GETHSEMANE

Preschool-K • #NT21 • March 29, 2026

## Concept

Jesus chose to die on the cross to pay for our sin.

## Goal

Children will learn that Jesus loves them so much that He chose to give His life for them.

## Passage

Mathew 26:36-46

Key Verse: "The greatest love a person can show is to give His life for his friends." John 15:13

## Planning Ahead

Lesson Supplies	Craft Supplies
<p><b>Activity Station:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Helpful Hal's Treasury Of Christian Virtues</i></li></ul> <p><b>Lesson:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Laminated, magnet-backed color pictures:</i><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ <i>Jesus standing &amp; praying</i></li><li>◦ <i>Peter, James &amp; John awake/asleep in garden</i></li><li>◦ <i>Bushes for the garden</i></li></ul></li></ul> <p><b>Learning Activity #2a:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• "Jesus in the garden" figure on green paper, 2 copies</li><li>• "Crown of thorns" on ivory paper, 2 copies</li><li>• "The Cross and the Gift" on goldenrod paper, 2 copies</li><li>• Instructions and story from Clip &amp; Tell Some More Bible Stories, 2 copies/class</li></ul> <p><b>Learning Activity #2b:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Small ball</li></ul>	<p><b>Learning Activity #1:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Printed page (2-sided) of pictures of scenes of Jesus' last 2 days, 1/child</li><li>• Jesus standing stickers on Avery 5160 labels, 1/child</li><li>• Jesus praying stickers on Avery 5293 round labels, 1/child</li><li>• Yarn, two 10" pieces/child</li><li>• Crayons</li><li>• Hole punches</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

Preschool-K • #NT21

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.” [1] Jesus knew He would be betrayed by a friend and denied and deserted by His other disciples. But this was nothing next to the overwhelming knowledge that God would forsake Him. Never had man known this kind of spiritual anguish.

“It was because Jesus was to be made sin, and bear God’s judgment on sin, that he trembled in the garden, and because he was actually bearing that judgment that he declared himself forsaken of God on the cross. The driving force in Jesus’ life was his resolve to be ‘obedient to death--even death on a cross (Phil 2:8), and the unique dreadfulness of his death lies in the fact that he tasted on Calvary the wrath of God which was our due, so making propitiation for our sins.”[2]

Jesus went back to the disciples three times, and each time He found them sleeping. With words of reproach and admonition to “watch and pray,” Jesus returned to pray. Three times Jesus prayed to the Father, and in those prayers we can see a progression. Though He experienced intense conflict during His first prayer, He prayed that God’s will be done. In His second prayer, Jesus’ will was the issue, and He agreed with God’s will that He must die. In the third prayer, He was empowered with strength and the will to victoriously carry out God’s plan of salvation. He, thus, willingly sacrificed Himself.

Additional Reading: Isaiah 53:4-5; Mark 14:32-42; Luke 22:39-46; Hebrews 5:7-8

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

[2] Packer, J.I., Knowing God, Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 1973, pp. 192, 193.

## Set Up

## Incorporation Lg. Group

## Introduction Lg. Group

## Lesson Continued Lg. Group

**The day of class:** Cut Jesus stickers apart for Learning Activity #1.

### Activity Stations:

- **Game – "Jesus Loves Us All" [1]**
  - **Instructions:** The teacher will choose children, two at a time, to join in a circle. Each time new children are chosen, the leader will say, "Jesus loves Cindy" or "Jesus loves Matthew," using the name of each child. They will all join hands and walk in a circle while singing the following song to the tune of God Is So Good: "Jesus loves us all. Jesus loves us all. Jesus loves us all. He loves you and me!" Keep adding children, two at a time, and singing the song each time until the whole group is holding hands and walking in a circle.
- **Book Corner – "Gilly Greenweed's Gift for Granny"**
  - **Instructions:** Read the story from Helpful Hal's Treasury of Christian Virtues, pp. 37-50. Talk about ways you can show love to others. Jesus showed us love when He came to earth to live with us, then died on the cross and took God's punishment for our sins. Our Bible verse today is "The greatest love a person can show is to give His life for his friends" (John 15:13).

[1] Adapted from David C. Cook, 100 More Activities for Preschoolers, ©1991 by David C. Cook Publishing Co., #35.

Do you have a friend? What is your friend's name? (Let the children name their friend.) What kind of things do you do with your friend? (Let children respond.) Have you ever done anything special for your friend? Have you ever drawn them a picture? Have you ever given them a present on their birthday? Have you ever given them a hug?

Has your friend ever done something special for you? Has your friend ever visited you when you were sick? Does your friend let you play with their toys? A friend of mine did something special for me. (Tell what a friend has given or done for you.) What do you think is the best thing a friend could do for you? Listen to find out what Jesus did for His friends.

### Jesus in the Garden

**Instructions:** Put the laminated pictures on the white board as you tell the story.

Jesus knew that it was time for him to die on the cross. He knew His enemies would come to take him away that night. He wanted to go to a quiet place to talk to God, His Father. He knew only God could help Him do what He had to do.

Jesus took His friends to a garden called Gethsemane. He asked his friends to wait for Him while He went and prayed. He asked His closest friends, Peter, James and John, to come and pray with Him.

## Lesson Continued Lg. Group

He was so bothered that He fell down and asked God if there was some other way. But even though He knew it would be very terrible, He told God that He would do what God wanted Him to do. Jesus looked up from praying and found his friends had fallen asleep! So Jesus woke them and asked them to be with Him and to pray. Jesus continued to pray. He told God that He would obey. He would die on the cross if that was the only way to pay for all the bad choices of all the people in the world.

Jesus chose to die on the cross to pay for our sin, our bad choices. He took the punishment from God that we should get. He was the only one who could do that for us. If you ask Jesus to pay for your bad choices, God will forgive you and be your friend. Jesus said in the Bible, "The greatest love a person can show is to give His life for his friends" (John 15:13). Jesus loves us A LOT. He loves us so much that He chose to die on the cross to pay for our sin. We will learn next week that Jesus didn't stay dead. He is in heaven living with God right now.

When Jesus was done praying He went back to where he left Peter, James and John. And yes, they were asleep again!

Let's pray now and thank Jesus that He loves us so much that He chose to die on the cross to pay for our sin.

## Transition

Let's make a craft to help us remember that Jesus chose to die on the cross to pay for our sins.

## Learning Activity#1 Lg. Group

### Craft – Last 2 Days book

- **Instructions:** Give each child a printed page and some Jesus stickers. Color the pictures and fold page in half to make a book. Put Jesus stickers on the "cover." Punch two holes along the left side of the book and give each child two pieces of yarn to tie through the holes. This will make it look as though it is bound. As the children work, discuss how much Jesus loves us. "The greatest love a person can show is to give His life for his friends" (John 15:13). Read the words on the pages to them and tell them they can use their book to tell others about the choices Jesus made. Best of all, Jesus chose to die on the cross to pay for our sin. He is the best friend we can have.

## Transition

If you'd like to hear about Jesus in the garden again, come join me.

## Learning Activity#2a Sm. Groups

### Clip & Tell – From Gethsemane to the Cross

**Instructions:** Use the provided patterns and instructions from Clip & Tell Some More Bible Stories, Lois Keffer, Group Publishing, pp. 102-106.

## **Learning Activity# 2a Continued**

Remember we said Jesus didn't have to die? He could have set himself free, but He chose to give His life for us so that we can have our sins forgiven and live with Him in heaven someday.

- Why would Jesus do this for us? (Because He loves us so much and knew that only He could pay the price for our bad choices.)
- Have you ever done something special for someone? What do you think is the best gift you could give a friend?

We can be thankful for Jesus' gift – that He loves us so much that He chose to die on the cross to pay for our sin.

## **Transition**

If you'd like to play a game, come join me.

## **Learning Activity# 2b Sm. Groups**

### **Game – "I'm Looking for a Friend" [1]**

- **Instructions:** Seat the children in a circle. Choose a child and give the child the ball. Have the child walk around the circle while you sing the following words to the tune of Farmer in the Dell: "I'm looking for a friend. I'm looking for a friend. Drop the ball, 1, 2, 3. I'm looking for a friend." The child drops the ball behind a friend and takes that child's place in the circle so there is a new person walking with the ball.

[1] Adapted from David C. Cook, 100 More Activities for Preschoolers, ©1991 by David C. Cook Publishing Co., #28.

## Sacrificial Love

**Cast:** Bible Guy, Mrs. Bible Guy

**Props:** Picture album with goofy pictures of people  
(Bible Guy and Mrs. Bible Guy walk in looking at the album)

**Bible Guy:** Oh, look at this one! Do you remember that day? It was so much fun ice skating until I fell through the ice. I really should learn to check to make sure the ice is solid. I am so grateful that my buddy Felix was nearby. He risked falling in to pull me out of the water. Boy was I cold!

**Mrs. Bible Guy:** Yes, I remember how cold you were. Bible Guy, did you say, "hi" to the boys and girls?

**Bible Guy:** Hi, boys and girls! Sure is good to see you today.

**Mrs. Bible Guy:** Show them that picture of you ice skating.  
(Hold book so children can see the picture)

Doesn't he look like he's having fun? Too bad he had to go through the ice. You can see how cold he was! But his good friend, Felix, was willing to risk his own safety to save the day!

Oh, look at this one. Do you remember the day my car broke down and our good friend, Horace, came to the rescue? He took the time out of his busy day to come help me and he knew exactly what to do to get my car started.

(Show page of pictures of man with car & woman with flowers)

Oh, and our dear neighbor, Isabelle, has worked so hard in her garden and she brings these lovely flowers to share with us. How kind she is.

**Bible Guy:** Boy, I didn't realize that I am so accident prone. Remember this?

(Show page with man & woman dancing & man w/ ice pack)

It was the dance at the Moose lodge. I spun you around so hard that your fist slammed me in the head. Imogene left all the fun at the dance to go to her house to get the ice pack for my head.

**Mrs. Bible Guy:** You know, Bible Guy, we sure are blessed to have so many good friends. I don't think there's a thing they wouldn't do for us.

**Bible Guy:** That's right, my dear. And you know our friends have learned how to be good friends from our best friend, Jesus. After all, Jesus did even more than help us. He died on the cross so all our bad choices can be forgiven and we can be God's friend. Yes, the Bible says, that "The greatest love a person can show is to give His life for his friends." And that's exactly what Jesus did. Let's go find someone to tell about Jesus. We'll see you later, boys and girls.

EXIT