



GETHSEMANE

Young Preschool • #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>Lesson:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Laminated, magnet-backed pictures of:</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ <i>Jesus standing</i>◦ <i>Jesus praying</i>◦ <i>Peter, James & John awake in garden</i>◦ <i>Peter, James & John asleep in garden</i>◦ <i>Bushes for the garden</i> <p>Learning Activity #2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>The Beginner's Bible, Karyn Henley</i>	<p>Learning Activity #1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Printed page of Gethsemane, 1/child• Jesus praying stickers on Avery 5963 labels, 1/child• Crayons• Hole punch

*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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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 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.

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

Does your mommy or daddy sometimes ask you to do things you don't want to do? Maybe they tell you it's time to take your bath or it's time to go to bed or to eat your vegetables? Do you sometimes scream and cry and say, "I DON'T WANT TO!" Do you know that Jesus made a choice to do something very hard? It was something that was terrible for Him. But He did it because He knew it was the best thing that could ever happen for us. Listen to find out what Jesus did.

Jesus in the Garden

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

Jesus knew His enemies would come to take him away and that He would soon die on a cross. Jesus knew that it would be very terrible. He knew only God could help Him to do this work that He had come to earth to do, so He wanted to go to a quiet place to talk to His Father. Jesus took His friends to a garden. He asked His closest friends, Peter, James and John, to come and pray with Him. He was so troubled that He fell down and asked God if there was some other way that people could be forgiven for their bad choices. But He told God that even though He knew it would be very terrible He would do what God wanted Him to do. Jesus looked up from praying and his friends were sound asleep! Jesus woke them and asked them to pray with Him. 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.

Lesson Continued Lg. Group

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.

When Jesus was done praying He went back to where he left Peter, James and John. And do you know what? 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 what Jesus did.

Learning Activity#1 Lg. Group

Craft – Last 2 Days

Instructions: Give each child a printed page and some Jesus stickers. Color the pictures. 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). 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#2 Lg. Group

Read-Aloud – "Sadness"

Instructions: Read the story "Sadness" pp 482-485 OR "Jesus is Arrested and Crucified" pp 446-452 from The Beginner's Bible.

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