



Life of Christ

Jesus prays

Matthew 26:36-46

Younger Verse

Ask and it will be given to you. Matthew 7:7

Older Verse

Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. Matthew 7:7

Lesson Goals

Understand that prayer is essential to help us do the right thing
 Explain reasons why we pray
 Know that God will listen and answer our prayers

Welcome Time

What are some things that you do with your best friend? (wait for responses)
 When we pray we are talking to God. Do you talk to Him like a best friend?
 Let's look at the story and learn reasons why we should pray.

Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

Teachers:
 We studied part of this lesson at Easter. This time we are focusing on prayer and the importance of talking to God about all things.

After Jesus ate supper with His friends, they went to a garden called Gethsemane. (It was kind of like a park.) Jesus asked His friends to sit down while He went to pray. His heart was hurting and He wanted to talk to God. Jesus took Peter, James, and John along with Him. He became very sad and asked Peter, James, and John to pray with Him.

Going a little farther, He prayed with His face to the ground. He shared with God the emotions He was feeling. He knew that it was almost time for people to hurt Him and arrest Him. Jesus asked God if there was any other way for Him to help us. He did not want to die, but He was willing to do whatever God wanted.

When he returned to His friends, He found them asleep! He asked them why they couldn't pray with Him. He asked them to pray so that they wouldn't be tempted to do wrong. Jesus said this to His friends because He knew that God would help Him and His friends make the right choices only if they talk to God and do what He said.

He then asked them to pray while He went away for a 2nd time. Again Jesus prayed asking God if there was any other way to help us.

When He came back this time, His friends were asleep, again. So He left them and went away to pray a 3rd time. Again, He asked God for help.

Sure enough, when He came back, they were still asleep!

When He woke them up, He explained that people were coming to accuse Him and arrest Him. Jesus tried to help them see that soon He was going to die. His friends did not understand.

Remember that Jesus took time to pray when times were hard. He knew that God was His best friend and would listen to his requests and needs.

He gave an important reason to pray—so that we would not be tempted. Three



times, Jesus asked God for help. God listened and knew the emotions Jesus was feeling. He encouraged Him but also knew that He would have to die for a crucial reason.

Jesus shows us several reasons why we need to pray. Jesus helps us see that praying is our way of talking to God and growing closer to Him. God can be our best friend. He will listen to all our needs and answer. God may answer “yes,” “no,” or “wait.” In this case, Jesus asked if He had to die. Jesus was willing to do whatever God wanted. God encouraged Him, but let Him know that this was the only way to help us.

Jesus had an incredible love for us. He willingly died in our place. He took our place for all our mistakes, so that we can go to Heaven and be with God if we trust Jesus and believe in Him. Would you like to do this? It’s the best thing you could ever do!!

Learning Activities

Here is a list of activities. Use the one(s) that will help your children understand the lesson.

Memory Verse Activities

There is a prayer record in the material for the kids to record prayers and remember the verse.

Prayer Time

Jesus knew that God would hear His prayers. He prayed for His needs and the needs of His friends. He knew that God would listen and help Him make the right choices. Thank God and tell Him your needs today.

Snack Time/CleanUp

Serve some fun snacks.

Planning for May 19th
What do I pray?
The Lord’s Prayer
Luke 11:1-13

Preschool Lesson

Jesus prays in the garden

Tell the story from a little bird's point of view. Bring a little stuffed bird or picture to show as you tell the story.

Hi! I am a little bird and I want to tell you about what I saw one night in a special garden while I was in my nest.

Jesus and His friends went to a garden called Gethsemane (Geth-sem-anee). (It was kind of like a park.) Jesus asked His friends to sit down while He went to pray. Jesus took Peter, James, and John along with Him. He became very sad and asked Peter, James, and John to pray with Him.

He went a little farther and prayed with His face to the ground. He shared His sad feelings. (Make a sad face) He knew that it was almost time for people to hurt Him and arrest Him. Jesus asked God for help.

When he went back to His friends, they were asleep! (You may want to make snoring sounds) He asked them why they couldn't pray with Him. He then asked them to pray while He went away for a 2nd time. (show 2 fingers)

Again when He came back His friends were asleep. (Make snoring noises) So He left them and went away to pray a 3rd time. (show 3 fingers)

Sure enough, when He came back, they were still asleep! (Make snoring sounds)

Then He woke them up. (Surprisingly and lightly shake a person by the arm. You may want to say "Wake Up!") He told them that people were coming to arrest Him even though He had done nothing wrong. Jesus tried to help them see that soon He was going to be put on the cross. His friends did not understand.

What did Jesus do when He knew something hard was about to happen? He prayed. We can too. If we are sad or hurt, we must stop what we are doing and pray to God asking for His help. God WILL help us.

Jesus also prayed because He knew God would listen and understand what He was feeling. He knew that God would help Him do the best thing.

God will help us when we pray to Him. Let's pray and ask God to help us do things His way.



Hands-on Activities for Jesus prays

Make a stoplight and share how God can answer our prayers in different ways. Sometimes He will say “yes” which is the green light. Other times He will answer “no” which is the stop light. He also will say “wait” which is the yellow light. Talk about the lesson and ask which answer God told Jesus.

Act out the story. Choose 3 people to be Peter, James and John. Be sure that they snore loudly to show that they are asleep. You may have Jesus come back and say “Wake Up!!” The kids will love acting it out.

Emphasize the importance of prayer. There are different reasons why we pray: to grow in our friendship with God, to ask for help for ourselves, to ask for help for others. Let the kids write down reasons to pray. Count the answers and then hide them in different places. Now, let the kids try to find the answers and share. (This also goes with part of the verse about “seeking and finding”.)

Go on a nature walk. Talk about what it must have been like to go to a park and pray with friends. If appropriate, take time to pray along the trail.

Sunday is Mother’s Day. Do something fun for the mothers today.