



Life of Christ

Jesus eats and prays Luke 22:14-20; John 13:1-17

Younger Verse

Nothing is impossible with God. Luke 1:37

Older Verse

Nothing is impossible with God. Luke 1:37

Lesson Goals

Understand that prayer is very important--essential
See that prayer helps us do the right thing
Explain how Jesus gave His life for us

Welcome Time

Tell each child that you prayed for them (be sure you do it first!) Tell them how special they are to you.

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.*

All day Jesus and His friends traveled along dusty, sandy streets to get to the town of Jerusalem. Many people were traveling here to celebrate a special holiday called the Passover. Jesus asked His friends Peter and John to go ahead to get a room and prepare the supper.

The meal they prepared was different from anything we would eat for a holiday. They made special flat bread, bitter herbs, applesauce, and lamb.

After sunset Jesus arrived with the rest of His friends. They sat on cushions as they ate and talked.

Jesus explained to them that He was going to die. He also told them He would live again. He told them that the bread and juice would remind them of what He did for them. The bread was a picture of His body and the juice was to remind them of His blood.

Jesus also told His friends that one of them would betray Him. Jesus knew that His friend, Judas, would turn Him in to be killed.

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. 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 with God the emotions He was feeling. He knew that it was almost time for people to hurt Him and arrest Him. Jesus told God that He would 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 then asked them to pray while He went away for a 2nd time.

Again when He came back, His friends were asleep. So He left them and went away to pray a 3rd time.



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 be crucified. His friends did not understand.

Remember that Jesus took time to pray when times were hard. He kept doing what was right even though hard things happened. We must do the same thing. We must keep doing the things that God wants us to do no matter what happens. We must pray in the good times and the hard times. We must also go to Bible study regularly and read our Bible.

The most important lesson from this story is the incredible love that Jesus had for us. He willingly died in our place. He took our place, 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

Make a puzzle with the verse and let the group put it together. Talk about how God can do things that we think are impossible.

Prayer Time

Just as Jesus prayed, we must take time to pray. It's our way of talking to God and listening to what He wants to tell us.

Snack Time/CleanUp

Serve some fun snacks. Remind the kids of upcoming events and activities for Easter.



Planning for March 31st
 Jesus is alive!
 John 18:1—20:18

Preschool Lesson

Jesus eats and prays

All day Jesus and His friends traveled along dusty, sandy streets to get to the town of Jerusalem. Many people were traveling here to celebrate a special holiday called the Passover. Jesus asked His friends Peter and John to go ahead to get a room and prepare the supper.

The meal they prepared was different from anything we would eat for a holiday. They made special flat bread, bitter herbs, applesauce, and lamb.

After sunset Jesus arrived with the rest of His friends. They sat on cushions as they ate and talked.

Jesus explained to them that He was going to die. He also told them He would live again. He told them that the bread and juice would remind them of what He did for them.

After Jesus ate supper with His friends, they went to a garden called Gethsemane (Geth-sem-a-nee). (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 with God the emotions He was feeling. He knew that it was almost time for people to hurt Him and arrest Him. Jesus told God that He would do whatever God wanted.

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.

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

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 scared or confused, we must stop what we are doing and pray to God asking for His help. God WILL help us.

The most important lesson from this story is the love that Jesus had for us. He willingly died in our place. He took our place, 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!!



Hands-on Activities for Jesus eats and prays

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. Make up a Scavenger Hunt. Give children clues like “Go to the place where we sing songs to God.” When they get there, they will hunt for a note maybe inside a plastic egg. Inside the egg is a prayer request. Stop and pray for that request and then lead them to another place in the church to find another clue.

For preschoolers, cut out garden/park pictures from magazines. Let them glue these pictures onto a piece of construction paper labeled “This is where Jesus prayed.” Take time to show them how to pray and pray with them. Even 2 year olds can learn!

Make a prayer place. Bring boxes or blocks and let the children build an enclosure—a special place to pray. Take time to pray in the “closet.”

Make Prayer Bells. Attach a small jingle bell to a piece of yarn. Remind each person to pray for someone when they hear the bell ring. Encourage them to put the bells on their doors so that they will jingle at least once a day.

Make the Vineyard Grapes as a fun way to remember the story.

Bring a bag and fill it with objects from the lesson: towel, grapes (possibly imitation ones), crackers or matzo, little cup of applesauce, etc. Let each child take one item out of the bag. Let them share what it has to do with the lesson today.

Preschoolers can sing this little song to the tune of “Mary had a little lamb.”

Jesus is God’s special Son,
Special Son, special Son.
Jesus is God’s special Son.
He ate a special meal.
He served His friends bread and juice
bread and juice, bread and juice
He served His friends bread and juice
And shared some special news.