



# Life of Christ

## Jesus eats and prays Matthew 26:17-40

**Younger Verse**

God loved the world so much that He gave His one and only Son. John 3:16

**Older Verse**

God loved the world so much that He gave His one and only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

**Lesson Goals**

Tell how we can remember how much Jesus loves us (bread and juice)  
See that prayer helps us do the right thing  
Explain how Jesus gave His life for us

**Welcome Time**

Can you remember what you ate for lunch yesterday? What about last week? Most of us can't remember! Today, Jesus had a special supper with His friends. We still celebrate part of that supper as a way to remember how much Jesus loves us. Let's see what they had for supper.

**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 there to celebrate a special holiday called Passover. Jesus asked several of His friends to go ahead to a man's house 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 (like pita bread), bitter herbs, applesauce, and lamb.

After sunset, Jesus and His friends arrived. They sat on cushions as they ate and talked. Jesus told His friends that one of them would betray Him. That means that instead of being a friend, the person would be mean and hateful. Jesus knew that His friend, Judas, would turn Him in to be killed.

Jesus told them that the bread and juice they were eating would remind them of what He would do for them. The bread would be a picture of His body and the juice would be a reminder of His blood. He prayed and thanked God for them and they ate.

After they ate supper, 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 on a cross. 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. Try food activities to show them how much Jesus loved us.

**Memory Verse Activities**

Sing the John 3:16 song. Share how much Jesus loves them!

**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 April 20th  
 Jesus is alive!  
 Matthew 26:47-28:10

## **Preschool Lesson**

### **Jesus eats and prays**

(Teachers: this is a long lesson. You may want to do two separate teaching times or focus on the lesson that is needed.)

All day Jesus and His friends traveled along dusty, sandy streets to get to the town of Jerusalem. Many people were traveling there to celebrate a special holiday called Passover.

After sunset, Jesus and His friends sat on cushions and ate supper. The meal they ate was different from anything we would eat for a holiday. They made special flat bread, bitter herbs, applesauce, and lamb meat.

Jesus told His friends that He loved them very much. He gave them bread to eat and thanked God for it. He told them that when they ate it, they would remember how much Jesus loved them. Then He gave them juice to drink. He thanked God and again told them that when they ate it, they would remember how much Jesus loved them.

After they ate supper, they 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 with God His feelings. 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!")

Jesus prayed and talked to God. He knew that God loves us and cares for us. Jesus loves us too!

Sing, "Jesus loves me."



## 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!

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.

Take time to bring pita bread and grape juice to share. Explain why this meal is so important for us to remember how much Jesus loved us. (Several years ago, one teacher even cooked lamb so that the kids could try it!!)

Preschoolers love to pretend. Let them pretend to cook Jesus’ meal. As they bring “food” to you, pretend to eat it. Be sure to make eating noises.

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.