

Life of Christ

Jesus Prays

John 17:1-26

Younger Verse

The way to have eternal life--to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ. John 17:3

Older Verse

And this is the way to have eternal life--to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the one you sent to earth. John 17:3 (NLT)

Bible Story

The following is a summary of the Bible story to help supplement your preparation. In your personal study time, use this summary as a guide, and make notes to help you remember your plans for the lesson. Please do NOT read to the children.

Who can tell me about our lessons the last couple of weeks? When did Jesus ride into Jerusalem on a donkey? On a Sunday, Palm Sunday, the last week of His life. What did Jesus do with His disciples in an upstairs room on Thursday of that week? They ate supper and Jesus washed their feet and taught them how to serve. What did Jesus do after the supper? He and His disciples left the upstairs room and walked through the city. Jesus shared some very important things with them. Jesus repeated Himself many times. Jesus really wanted His disciples to remember these last things He was sharing with them.

Who remembers what kinds of things Jesus shared as they were walking? Jesus talked about vines and branches and told His followers to stay close to Him. Jesus talked about loving Him, and that love for Him is shown through obeying Him. Jesus even reminded them, over and over again, that it was almost time for Him to go away, to go back to God. But Jesus told them that He wouldn't leave them alone. He would send a Helper, someone just like Him, to teach them and counsel them and remind them of the things He said. Jesus told them not to worry about what would happen; He had already won the battle!

On the outskirts of the city, Jesus prays. He looks up to heaven and talks to His Father, God. After the many times that He has talked about it not "being time" yet, He agrees with God that it is time, now. Jesus knows that it is time for Him to die and He is ready. But talking to God about His death makes Him think about the life that people can have if they will believe in Him. God has given Jesus the power to give eternal life, life that lasts forever. This life is for those who believe and choose to follow God the Father and Jesus the Son, the One sent from heaven. Jesus has done everything God sent Him to do and He's made

Lesson Goals

Realize that prayer was important to Jesus.
Understand that Jesus prayed for all believers before we were ever born.
Believe that prayer is important for us as well.

God look good in the process. He only and always did what was pleasing to God, what would make people want to know Him more. Jesus wants God to do that for Him as He gets ready to hang on the cross.

Jesus continues talking to His Father. In these last hours, He talks to Him, not about everybody in the whole world, even though He came to give everyone an opportunity to know Him, but about His followers, all but Judas who was betraying Him. He prays for these followers in particular because they are a gift from God. Jesus knows that these followers really understand. They had heard the word of God from Jesus. They accepted the message and understood it. And as they understood His message, they believed it! He had kept them safe while they were together and He was asking God to do the same as He readied to leave. Jesus also asks God to help them get along with each other. Jesus knows that things will be difficult for them after His death.

And then Jesus does an amazing thing! He starts talking to God about other people. Jesus prays for the people who will one day believe because of the message His followers will share. Let's just look at one of His followers - Simon Peter. We can look to the future a little by looking at the book of Acts. It tells many stories of Peter's life after Jesus returned to heaven. In just one day, 3,000 people believed in Jesus and chose to follow Him. Those people told other people who told even more people. The Bible was written so that we could read it for ourselves. Do you believe that Jesus is the Son of the one true God? (Choose one of your students who answered positively.) How did you hear about Jesus? Did someone tell you a story from the Bible? Then you heard about Jesus from the message that Jesus' followers shared! That means that the end of this prayer that Jesus is praying, He is praying for you! He is also praying for me and for everyone else who has or will one day believe in Him! Isn't that amazing? Over 2,000 years ago, Jesus prayed for you! He prayed that you would get along with others who believe in Jesus. He even said that this is how people who don't believe can believe - when we get along and work together!

Maybe you haven't believed in Jesus, yet. You can. You have heard God's word today. Do you understand it? If you do, will you believe it and choose to follow Jesus today?

On construction paper or computer paper, make a road sign that points "up" or "straight ahead." Write the memory verse on the road sign. These road signs can then be cut into puzzle pieces. Practice the verse as puzzle pieces are fit together.

**Memory Verse
Activity**

Preparing for Next Week

Lesson 39
Jesus is Arrested
John 18:1-14

Preschool Lesson

I Can Pray Like Jesus!

Sing: to the tune of “He Has Done Great Things”

I can pray like Jesus,
I can pray like Jesus,
I can pray like Jesus,
Because He showed me how.

Teach: In our Bible we read “Jesus prays.” Jesus prayed in a garden. Jesus prayed on a mountain. Jesus prayed in church. Jesus prayed in people’s homes. When Jesus prays, it means He talks to God. He talks to God because God is the big God who created amazing things. God takes care of everything. Jesus knows that God can do anything and is a powerful God. Do you know that God is the big God who can do anything? There isn’t anything God can’t do!

Just like Jesus prayed in different places, He also prayed different things. On the night that Jesus prayed in our Bible lesson, He prayed for Himself. He prayed that God would help people see that He was being obedient. If Jesus prayed for Himself, and if you can pray like Jesus, then you can talk to God about yourself. You can ask God to help you obey. What else can you ask God to help you do?

After Jesus prayed for Himself, He prayed for His friends. Jesus prayed that God would keep His friends safe. Jesus also asked God to help His friends get along with each other and not fight. If Jesus prayed for His friends, and if you can pray like Jesus, then you can talk to God about your friends. What kinds of things can you ask God to do to help your friends?

After Jesus prayed for Himself, and after He prayed for His friends, He prayed for other people. Jesus prayed that the other people would want to know about Him. He prayed that these people would get along with each other, too. Jesus even said that other people would want to know about God if they see us helping each other and not fighting. If Jesus prayed for other people, and if you can pray like Jesus, then you can pray that other people will want to know about God. And if you obey Jesus, other people will want to know about Him.

Pray: Thank you, God, for making me, me. Thank you for my friends. God, help other people want to know about you.

Activities

- Provide coloring pages and word puzzles that will enhance what you have taught today.
- Make a paper plate clock. Label the face of the clock in normal fashion, 1, 2, 3, etc. Make chunky hands for the clock and label them "I Can Pray Anytime."
- Make a praying hands booklet. Fold a piece of construction paper vertically. Trace a student's hand onto one side of the folded paper, lining the length of the thumb up with the folded side of the paper. Cut out the booklet. Write prayer requests inside the booklet.
- Make a word puzzle from John 17:8. Talk about the sequence that leads to belief: receive, understand, believe.
- For math lovers: Talk about the transitive property of equality using John 17:17. The transitive property of equality states that if $a=b$ and $b=c$, then $a=c$. Applying John 17:17 yields

A=B	John 17:17	Your Word is Truth
B=C	John 14:6	Jesus is Truth
A=C	John 1:1	Jesus is the Word of God, His message lived out
- Play games that will teach prayer and reinforce the lesson. Several are available in game books as well as on the internet.