

The Garden of Gethsemane

Bible Verse

Jesus prayed, “Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.” (Luke 22:42)

Teacher Enrichment

This is the fourth lesson in the *LENT* series which explores the last days of Jesus’ life. Understanding the events leading up to and including Jesus dying on the cross helps us grasp the magnitude of Jesus’ sacrifice for us. As we prepare to celebrate Jesus’ resurrection at Easter, each week will examine the significance of an event and the actions of the people involved.

After the Last Supper, Jesus knew the time of His death was near. As Jesus faced His suffering and death, we find Him praying to God in the Garden of Gethsemane. Just as we often do when faced with challenges and difficulties, Jesus asked God to “take this cup from me.” However, even knowing all that was to come on Good Friday, Jesus ultimately surrendered to God’s will rather than His own. Jesus’s choice to follow God’s will is contrasted by Judas’ choice to betray Jesus for 30 coins of silver. We do not know if Judas was motivated by greed, power, jealousy, fear or lack of faith, but we do know he did not follow God’s will. When we hear God’s voice in our life it can be difficult to follow His will and even more difficult if God’s will is challenging. There are times when we choose to follow God’s will as Jesus did and other times when we turn away from God as Judas did.

This lesson will teach children to follow God’s will and to turn to prayer and the Bible to determine God’s will and to ask God for help when faced with hard things. Children will also examine times they have turned away from God and understand how to ask for forgiveness.

Before Class Begins

- ◆ Place the Sign In sheet and a pen where parents can see it upon arrival.
- ◆ Place the Joy & Concern cards, Time & Talent cards and pens where students can see them upon arrival.
- ◆ Check that you have supplies for this lesson:
 - Arrival Activity, Praying in the Garden coloring sheet – 1 per child
 - Large Coin and Leaf Cards
 - Tree Poster Board
 - The Garden of Gethsemane Tree Outline – 1 per child
 - Green Finger Paint
- ◆ Place an arrival activity at each place on the table.

Welcome

SUPPLIES: Sign In sheet, Joy & Concern cards, Time & Talent cards, Attendance chart, stickers, pens, The Last Supper coloring sheet, crayons

- ◆ Greet each child individually as they arrive. Introduce yourself by name.
- ◆ Help children find or add their name on the attendance chart. Provide each child with a sticker to place in today's column on the attendance chart.
- ◆ Encourage children to complete a Joy or Concern card if they have a particular joy or concern they would like to express. Collect completed Joy & Concern cards.
- ◆ Encourage children to complete a Time or Talent offering card if they gave their time to God or used their talents to serve God or others during the previous week. Children should keep their own completed Time and Talent cards.
- ◆ If children bring monetary offering, they should keep it with them.
- ◆ Direct children to complete **Praying in the Garden coloring sheet**.
- ◆ Encourage conversation among the children and with you! Get to know the children in your classroom by asking about their week including school, activities and families. Introduce new children to each other and encourage friendships.

Children's Worship

SUPPLIES: Sign In sheet, Joy & Concern cards, Time & Talent cards

- ◆ The Children's Worship Leader will direct your class to come to Ruth Hall at 9:20 or 11:05.
- ◆ Bring the Sign In sheet and completed Joy & Concern cards to Ruth Hall. Hand the Joy & Concern cards to the Children's Worship leader as you arrive.
- ◆ Have children bring their completed Time & Talent cards and any monetary offering.
- ◆ If additional children arrive while in Ruth Hall, have parents complete the Sign In sheet and remind parents that pickup is in Room 107.
- ◆ Encourage children to participate in Children's Worship and provide re-direction if necessary.
- ◆ Assist the Children's Worship leader as needed.
- ◆ At the conclusion of Children's Worship, have children line up and return to Room 107.

The Lesson

SUPPLIES: Large Coin and Leaf cards, Large Tree poster board, blue tape, coin pouch, The Garden of Gethsemane Tree outlines, green finger paint, crayons

- ◆ Gather all the children in a circle on the carpet. As you are able, sit on the floor with them or use a chair as part of the circle.

SAY: Today we learned about following God's will. We heard how Jesus did what God wanted even when it was hard. We also heard how Judas did not do what God wanted. He betrayed Jesus for 30 silver coins.

SAY: Here I have a tree that would be like a tree in the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus went to pray. I also have a coin pouch that would hold the coins Judas was paid to betray Jesus. I'm going to read you some examples. If it's an example of following God's will (like Jesus did) we will tape it to our tree as a leaf. If it's an example of not following God's will (like Judas did), we will put it in our coin pouch.

- ◆ Read each Leaf or Coin card, but do not let children see the shape until they have answered.
- ◆ Have children determine if it is an example of following God's will or not following God's will.
- ◆ If it is a Leaf card, have a child tape it to the Tree poster board.
- ◆ If it is a Coin card, have a child place it in the Coin Pouch.

SAY: We filled up our coin pouch with ways we might sin and not follow God's will. When we do things like these, we need to ask God for forgiveness. Let's say a prayer to ask forgiveness for the times we have made mistakes.

Dear God, Please forgive us for our sins. We are sorry for the times we did not do what you wanted us to do. Amen.

SAY: Look at our wonderful tree full of ways we can follow God's will! It's blooming with leaves! We are going to make our own trees today.

- ◆ Show children the sample Garden of Gethsemane tree craft.
- ◆ Read the words on the paper.
- ◆ Have children move from the carpet to seats at the tables.
- ◆ Give each child a Garden of Gethsemane tree outline.
- ◆ Direct children to color the tree.
- ◆ Using the green finger paint, help children place finger prints on the tree as leaves.
- ◆ If children finish early, they can add additional trees, flower and bushes to expand their "garden."

Closing

- ◆ Lead the children in a closing prayer. You may say your own prayer, ask one of the children to say a prayer or use the one below.

God,

Help us remember to follow your will. Help us do the things you want us to do, even when it's hard.

Amen

- ◆ If time remains before parents arrive, encourage children to return to their Praying in the Garden coloring sheet if they did not complete it. Also encourage conversation between children and with you. This is another opportunity to build relationships with the children in your classroom!

Telling Someone
About God

Donating to
Food Pantry

Praying

Going to
Church

Playing with a
New Friend

Reading the
Bible

Doing Chores

Helping Someone
Who is Sick

Lying to
Parents

Fighting
With
Brother

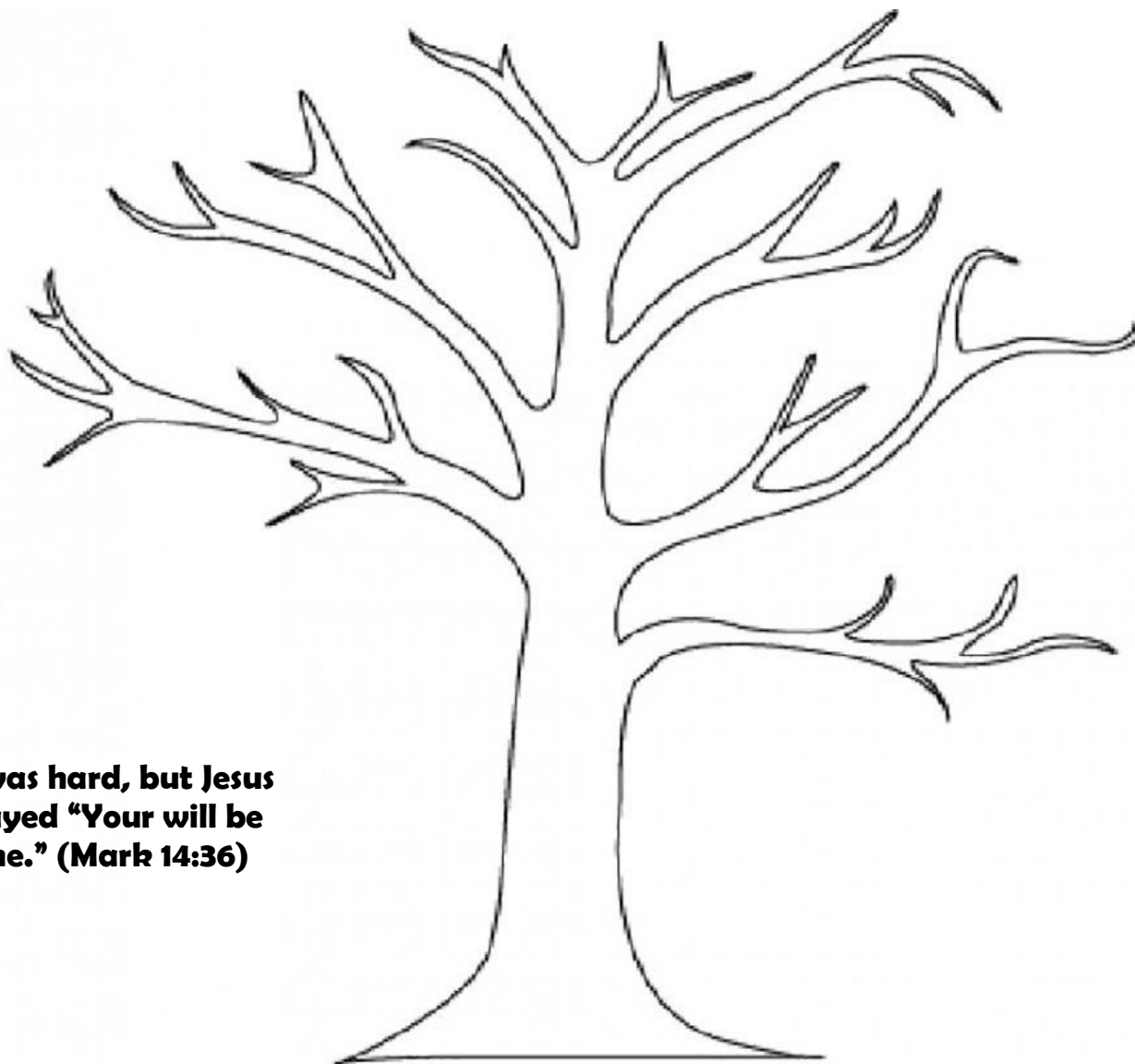
Stealing
A Toy

Ignoring
A Friend

Teasing a
Classmate

Not
Listening
to Teacher

The Garden of Gethsemane



**It was hard, but Jesus
prayed "Your will be
done." (Mark 14:36)**