

Jesus Cares: Jesus Prays in the Garden

Bible Verse

After Jesus said these things, He looked toward heaven and prayed. (John 17:1)

Teacher Enrichment

This is the fourth lesson in the *Who Do You Say I Am: Jesus' Life* series. This series follows the moments from Jesus' life which will be depicted on the stained glass windows in the new chapel. Each week will explore how those moments define different aspects of Jesus and our relationship with Him.

Hours before He was to be arrested, Jesus went to the Garden of Gethsemane with His disciples. Much of His time in the garden is spent praying. Jesus prayed for many things during this time, but in the end, He prayed for people. Jesus prayed that His disciples would be delivered from evil and made one with God. He also prayed for all the Christian followers to come in the future. He prayed for us. As Jesus faced His own arrest and death, His concern was with our well-being. Through this act of prayer, Jesus shows His great love and care for us.

In this lesson, children will learn that Jesus cares about them. They will understand that Jesus showed how much He cares for us when He prayed for our safety and happiness. Children will learn that prayer is a way to help others.

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, Jesus Heals coloring page – 1 per child
 - Black construction paper – 1 per child
 - Window template – 1 per child
 - Praying hands template – 1 per child
 - Paper shapes
- ◆ 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, Jesus Prays coloring page, 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 **Jesus Prays coloring page**.
- ◆ 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 105.
- ◆ 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 105.

The Lesson

SUPPLIES: Black construction paper, window template, praying hands template, paper shapes, glue stick

- ◆ 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.

ASK: Today in Children's Worship we talked about how we care for our pets. Now I want to talk about how we care for people. When we care about people we want to help them. Can you tell me about a time when you helped someone? Maybe you helped your mom with a chore around the house or perhaps you helped a friend find something she had lost.

Allow a few children to share a time they helped someone. If children struggle to come up with examples, use the following:

- ◆ Helping parents with chores
- ◆ Helping a hurt (or sad or lonely) friend

- ◆ Helping find a lost pet (or toy or favorite item)
- ◆ Helping a classmate, teammate or neighbor
- ◆ Standing up for someone being bullied or teased
- ◆ Donating to a food or clothing drive

SAY: When we help someone, it makes everyone happy. The person needing help is glad for the assistance. And we feel good about doing something nice for someone. Sometimes we might need to ask someone else to help a friend. We might need to ask a doctor to help make our sister better when she is sick. Or we might need to ask a parent to help a friend who fell off their bike.

SAY: There is another great way to help others – praying! We can ask God to help.

ASK: Have you ever prayed for someone else? What did you pray for and why?

Allow a few children to share a time they prayed for someone. With each example, reinforce that they prayed for that person because they love and care for them.

SAY: Today we learned that Jesus prayed and asked God to help His friends. Jesus knew He wouldn't be on earth forever and He wanted to make sure His friends had the help they would need. Jesus also prayed for us! Jesus asked God to keep His friends and us safe and happy. Jesus loved His friends and He loves us. Jesus prayed for us because He cares for us.

SAY: Today we will make a craft to help us remember that Jesus prayed for us.

- ◆ Show children the sample craft. Read the words "Jesus Prayed for Us."
- ◆ Give each child a piece of black construction paper, a window template and a praying hands template.
- ◆ Direct children to glue the window template to the black construction paper and the praying hands template to the window.
- ◆ Make paper shapes available to the class.
- ◆ Direct children to glue paper shapes to their window, around the praying hands, creating a stained glass window.

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,

Thank you for sending Jesus to earth. We are happy Jesus cares about us. We are glad He prayed for us. Thank you for listening to Jesus' prayer.

Amen

- ◆ If time remains before parents arrive, encourage children to return to their Jesus Prays coloring page 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!

