



Prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane

Matthew 26

God Statement: Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life

KEY VERSE: “Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

(John 14:6, NIRV)

CHECK-IN

Classroom Teacher

(until 15 minutes after the start of each service)

As kids check-in, please have them wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before entering your classroom. Then they can participate in the various activities and games in your classroom. 10 minutes after the start of your service time, ask the kids to clean up their activities and toys so you can begin the Explore Activity at 15 minutes after the start of service.

EXPLORE ACTIVITY

Classroom Teacher

(15 minutes)

The Explore Activity is a chance to get the kids thinking about the upcoming Bible story for the day. Encourage your kids to engage with the activity as they prepare for the lesson.

DISCUSS: Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life

In today’s lesson, we are going to learn about how Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life!

SAY:

Raise your hand if you have a friend who you like to tell everything to. Turn to the person next to you and tell them that friend’s name! We all have people we like to share things with, and the more we talk to them, the closer we get to them. Do you know who we can talk to anytime and anywhere? **Let kids respond – God!** We can talk to God anytime and anywhere, just like we talk to our friends. He wants to talk to us actually!

Today, we're going to talk about the importance of prayer – prayer is really just talking to God because He is our friend.

Who remembers what our God Statement is right now? **Let kids respond.** Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. Last week, we learned about the very special dinner that Jesus had with His disciples called the Last Supper. Today, we're going to see where Jesus went after that... And guess what He did – He prayed! Prayer must be important if Jesus prayed right before He went to the cross. Let's do an activity to help us learn more about it.

MAKE:

To get the kids thinking about the lesson, they can do this activity!

Prayer Cup

Supplies: cups, paper strips, stickers, markers

Say: *Jesus tells us and shows us how important it is to pray. Today we get to learn more about prayer! First let's make a craft to help remind us to pray for others.*

Directions: Pass out one cup per child. Have them decorate their cups with the stickers and markers. Give each child 5-7 strips of paper. Help them write or draw pictures of those who they can pray for.

LARGE GROUP

(25 minutes)

Each week, Large Group will consist of an introduction, worship, the Bible lesson, worship response, and the blessing.

WORSHIP & LARGE GROUP RULES

Worship Leader & Host

WORSHIP

While the video is playing the opening worship songs, encourage the kids to sing and dance along. Don't forget to set the example by participating alongside them!

Feel free to modify your worship time for what works best for your age group. You can find different ways to encourage the kids to participate by giving them instruments or showing them simple hand motions. You can also limit how many songs you choose to play, if it seems like the kids are not able to stay focused the entire time.

TODAY'S WORSHIP SONGS:

- The Way

- This Little Light

LARGE GROUP RULES

Once everyone has found their seat, play Large Group Rules video in the PowerPoint provided. If needed, reinforce the rules after the video plays.

**** After Worship & Large Group Rules, transition the PowerPoint to the Mail Time & Wardrobe of Wonder slides.****

MAIL TIME & WARDROBE OF WONDER

Host

MAIL TIME!

Find the Mail Time envelope in your curriculum supplies.

Pick one child to hide the envelope and another child to find it. Give the first child about 30 seconds to hide the envelope while the other child closes his/her eyes. After the envelope is hidden, the second child can search for the envelope while the class says “hot” or “cold” to give them clues if they’re getting closer or further away.

Have the two kids stand in front of the class and hold the verse page (inside the envelope) so everyone can see it.

Use the Key Verse Motions Video on Plex (or sent in weekly email) to learn the motions prior to Large Group.

**“Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’”
(John 14:6, NIRV)**

WARDROBE OF WONDER

The Wardrobe of Wonder is an opportunity to get the younger kids engaged in the lesson by playing a guessing game to determine what the “What’s It” is inside the wardrobe each week.

Choose one child to “spy” on the What’s It by peeking inside the wardrobe. Remind the other children to look away and to not peek. Have the peeker whisper the identity of the What’s It in the host’s ear to ensure he/she saw it correctly.

What’s It: PRAYING HANDS

Now, invite the class to raise their hand and guess the identity of the What’s It by asking yes-or-no questions about it. Allow the child who peeked to help answer the questions. Once the children have guessed correctly, retrieve the What’s It from the wardrobe and allow the class to look at it/pass it around. Thank the volunteer and allow them to sit back down.

ASK:

Hmm... What do these look like? They are hands, but what are they doing? They are **praying hands**, you're right! Who are we talking to when we pray? God! I wonder what this has to do with our story today. Let's find out! Do you know what time it is? It's time for us to dive into God's Word together!

**** After the Mail Time & Wardrobe of Wonder, Younger Kids classes transition to the Bible Story video where the kids will hear about the lesson for the day.****

BIBLE STORY

Lesson Video

Remind the group before starting the video to follow the expectations for Large Group.

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: Prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane

Encourage kids to listen and engage with the lesson as they watch the teaching video.

****After the video finishes, turn on soft worship music (with or without lyrics) to transition into Worship Response. This should be background music to help set the tone for a quiet reflection time with God.****

WORSHIP RESPONSE

Host

Worship Response is an opportunity for the kids to apply what they just learned and to respond to what God is doing in their life. *Have the kids sit in a place where they can be still and reflect independently.* Then read through the Worship Response prompts below as you lead the kids through this time.

Supplies: none

Jesus knew what was about to happen to Him – He was about to be taken and put on the cross. Something awful and painful. But even though He knew this was about to happen, what did Jesus do? ***Let kids respond.*** He went off by Himself to pray.

Jesus shows us how important it is to pray! What are we doing when we pray? ***Let kids respond.*** We're talking to God, it's that simple! Jesus talked to God about how He felt about what was about to happen, and God comforted Him. God wants to do the same for us. All we have to do is talk to Him.

BE STILL & PRAY ACTIVITY:

Let's practice doing what Jesus did – finding space to be by ourselves and pray. We have this whole room to spread out in. Find a spot where you can be by yourself without distractions. ***Give kids a few moments to get situated in spots by themselves – remind them they can lay down, close their eyes, or sit up.***

Okay, now let's all take a deep breath in and out. ***Repeat the deep breaths for 4-5 times slowly to allow kids a moment to calm their physical body before they enter into quiet time. Then, pray to invite God into this time.***

As you lay/sit there with your eyes closed, you can just be still and listen to God or you can tell God what's on your mind like Jesus did.

Let kids sit quietly for 1-2 minutes or as long as possible. Even if kids start to get squirmy, don't rush the time.

Thank you all for sitting so quietly as we listened and talked to God. Would anyone like to share what they heard or what they talked to God about? ***Let kids respond.***

The coolest part is God hears it all because He is with us! Thank you, Jesus!

Close time in prayer.

******After Worship Response, transition the power point to the Compassion & Offering slides.******

COMPASSION & OFFERING

Host

Before closing large group, take a moment to highlight and discuss each campus' Compassion sponsor child. Explain a little about the Compassion child's life and the impact their offering has for this child (info should be provided on cards in classroom). Then remind kids that if anyone brought offering, now is the time to come forward to donate.

Ask a child to come up and pray for the offering and their Compassion child.

******After Compassion & Offering, transition the power point to the "Announcement" slide. The host will discuss any current announcements.******

ANNOUNCEMENTS & SPECIAL MISSIONS FOCUS – Give A Goat with Compassion International

Host

Take this opportunity to cover any announcements and special missions focus for the kids, such as upcoming events or reminders, like bringing food donations for Feeding Families. Use the slides provided in the Power Point to display important announcements.

From now until April 30, Woodmen Kids is focused on raising money to help give goats to people around the world through Compassion International. Do you know why people around the world might want a goat? Well, let's check out this video to see what impact a goat can have on a family in poverty/who is poor.

Show the Compassion Goat video provided in the PowerPoint.

Wow, a goat can give so many things to a family in poverty! It's not just a fun pet to have. It's a way to help show God's love to our friends all over the world!

Each goat costs \$100, and we've set a goal to raise ____ goats for our campus! (**RR – 6 goats, MO – 4 goats, WH – 4 goats, SW – 2 goats**) Do you think we can meet our goal this month?

What are some ways you could earn/raise money to donate to our Give a Goat project? **Let kids respond.** I can't wait to see how God shows up as we raise money! Each week, you can bring your donations/offering to large group time and we will track as our goats get closer to their new home (**reference poster on the wall**).

Invite a kid to come up and pray for the families who might receive a goat through our giving.

*****After Announcements, transition the power point to the "Blessing" slide. The host will lead the class in receiving the blessing for the day.*****

BLESSING

Host

Read the verse and blessing over the kids before closing Large Group. Encourage the kids to stand and open their hands to receive the blessing as a truth that they can take with them this week and hide in their hearts.

May you know that God always hears you when you call to Him. He will bring you comfort because He loves you!

SMALL GROUP

Classroom Teachers

(10 minutes)

Younger Kids:

This time is optional for younger kids, depending on if you feel like the kids are still listening and participating well.

1. **What did you learn about God from our story today?**
2. **Read/ Recap today's story: Matthew 26 Jesus Prays in Gethsemane**
 - a. **What did Jesus tell His disciples to do while he prayed?** (To keep watch)
 - b. **What did Jesus tell his disciples to do instead of sleep?** (Keep watch and pray)
 - c. **What did Jesus ask God for while He prayed?** (To take this cup of suffering away. To not have Him be crucified. Etc.)
3. **Do you think Jesus was afraid when He was going to die for our sins? Why do you think He died for us?** (Because He loves us!)

Close small group in prayer.

RESPOND ACTIVITY

Classroom Teacher

(10 minutes)

DISCUSS:

If you have extra time at the end of your lesson and small group time, the kids can participate in this activity.

PLAY: Prayer Cube

Supplies: 2 prayer cubes

Directions: Have children get into two groups with one LIT or leader in each group. Roll the dice in the middle of the circle. Have children take turns praying for those listed on the prayer cube. If they do not want to pray out loud the leader can pray out loud for the item/person listed. Have children take turns rolling the dice and praying until each child has had a turn.

Say: *Jesus shows us how important praying is! He is the way! Praying is so important and is a way for us to talk with God. Today we get to play a dice game and pray to God!*

CHECK-OUT

Classroom Teacher

(end of service)

As parents arrive for check-out, the kids can continue participating in the Respond Activities or the classroom games and toys.