

JESUS PRAYED IN A GARDEN



TRANSITION/GROUP TIME

SNACK

Include the children in the distribution of the snack. Ask for one or more volunteers to pray. Lead the boys and girls to clean up after the snack. Thank them for their help.

MOVE TO GROUP TIME

Play or sing a song about Jesus and encourage the children to follow you to the group-time area and while singing.

INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

JESUS PRAYED IN A GARDEN—BASED ON MARK 14:32-40; LUKE 22:39-46

- » Encourage the children to close their eyes and listen to you pray. Mention that Jesus and His helpers ate a special meal together to celebrate a holiday called Passover. Tell that our story today is about what happened next. Challenge the preschoolers to listen to the hear what Jesus told His disciples to do.

SUMMARIZE THE BIBLE STORY

- » Jesus walked to a garden to pray. His disciples followed Him. He told His disciples to stay and pray.
- » Jesus walked a little further and knelt down to pray. He asked His Father to stop what was going to happen. Then He told God he would do whatever God wanted.
- » An angel came to help Jesus. Then Jesus got up and went back to the disciples. They were sleeping!
- » Jesus said, “Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray.” Jesus wanted them to be ready for what was going to happen.

REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

- » Where did Jesus go to pray?
- » What did He ask God to do?
- » Who came to help Jesus?
- » What did Jesus tell His disciples to do when He found them sleeping?

EMPHASIZE THE LIFE POINT

- » Tell the children that God hears and helps people.

ROOM

YOUR TEACHING PARTNER(S)

DATE OF USE

LEVEL OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

God hears me when I pray.

LIFE POINT

God hears and helps people.

UNIT VERSE

When we pray, God hears us. *1 John 5:14*

WEEKLY VERSE

We can ask God to help us. *Psalms 30:2*

SING TOGETHER

Sing to the tune of “God Is So Good”:

*God hears our prayers,
God hears our prayers,
God hears our prayers.
He hears when we pray.*

**Substitute: God wants to help, God wants to help,
God wants to help. He hears when we pray.*

SAY THE BIBLE VERSE

Say today’s verse: “We can ask God to help us. Psalm 30:2.” Lead them to point up when they say “God” and to make a thumbs up sign when they say “help.” Repeat the verse again.

PRAY

Remind the children God wants to help us. When we pray God hears us. Ask if there is someone they would like to ask God to help.

BIBLE-LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Emphasize: God hears and helps people.

- 1. Play out the story.** Suggest the children play out the story. Provide Bible times clothes if available. Assign one child to be Jesus, one to be the angel, and others to be disciples. Open the Bible to Mark 14 and look at the teaching picture (if available) with the children. Help the boys and girls play out the story as you retell it. Assign new parts and play again if the children are interested. Comment that God heard Jesus and helped Him. He sent an angel. God wants to help you too. You can talk to God and tell Him what you need. He will always do what is best for you.
- 2. Play an action game.** Invite the children to play an action and listening game with you. Tell them to listen and then do what you say. Give instructions such as, “lift hands up high; touch your head; stand on one leg.” Be sure to include “kneel on the floor.” The last instructions should be to “sit on the floor.” Comment that Jesus knelt down on the ground to pray. God listened to Jesus. Remark that we can talk to God too. God hears and helps people.

3. Listen to a book. Read books about Jesus. Ask questions to see if the children are listening. Remind the preschoolers that God hears and helps us. God is listening to us. Show the teaching picture (if available) and review the Bible Story. Comment that Jesus knew God would listen to Him. He asked God to help Him. God sent an angel to help Jesus. God wants us to talk to Him and ask Him for help. God does what is best for us.

4. Paint with watercolors. Cover the table with a tablecloth or newsprint. Lay sheets of white paper on the table near watercolor trays. Provide small cups of water and brushes. Encourage the children to paint a flower garden. Write their names and *God hears and helps people* across the lower edges of their papers. Remind the children that Jesus went to a garden to pray. He talked to God. Open the Bible to Psalm 30:2 and repeat the verse: “We can ask God to help us.”

CLEAN UP

Sing the “Sing Together” song and move about the room encouraging the children to clean up while they sing.

ROLL A BALL AND ANSWER A QUESTION

Gather the children in a circle and tell them you are going to roll the ball to someone then ask him a question about the Bible story. Once the question is asked, tell the child to roll the ball back to you. Roll the ball to another child and ask a different question. Repeat questions if necessary or ask the children to say the Weekly Verse if you need more questions. Continue rolling until all children have a chance to answer a question and roll the ball. Mention that God hears and helps people.

DISMISS

Help children gather their papers and belongings. Thank them for coming. Remind parents to review the Bible story on the Kids Activity Page.