



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Series: Jesus Gave Himself For Me  
Winter Year 1, Lesson 45

# Jesus Prays in the Garden

**Bible Event:** Matthew 26:36-46

**Take Home Point:** \*JESUS GAVE HIMSELF FOR ME –  
*Jesus gave his all.*

\*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson. The leader will say the first part of the phrase (*CAPS*). The children respond with the second part of the phrase (*italics*).

**Jesus Link:** Just as Jesus prayed to God, we can pray to him as well.

**What kids will learn about God in this worship experience:**

- Children will learn that before Jesus went to the cross to forgive our sins, he prayed to God, his father. He knew that dying on the cross would be painful, but God told Jesus that that was the only way our sins could be taken away. Like Jesus, we should pray to God when we have problems. But we should also be grateful that Jesus was willing to give his life for us. Kids will learn the take home point: **\*JESUS IS MY SAVIOR – *Jesus died and rose for me.***
- Children will respond to God's love as they pray to him, thanking him for loving them and forgiving them. They will offer him their songs of worship, their offerings, and their actions of love, as they actively learn God's Word.

Kids Church Year 1 - Lesson 45 - 1



## Welcome Zone: (15-20 minutes)

**Purpose:** While kids arrive give them a simple learning readiness activity that requires minimal supervision. This might include a video, games, blocks, or puzzles.

**Video Suggestion:** *Beginner's Bible: Story of Easter.* Sony Music Entertainment Inc. 1995.

**Activity Suggestion:** Blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons.



## Opening Worship: (10-15 minutes)

Children can bring forward the cross, candles, Bible, offering plate, and treasure box. The treasure box contains the props used to tell or dramatize the Bible event. Open with a simple prayer having the children repeat after you. Collect offering and talk about how God will use it.

## Praise Songs:

Choose two or three songs and list them here.

## Bible Event: A Visit from a Dramatized Character

A costumed adult presents the Bible event by telling it from a first person point of view. This person should be introduced by asking children to put on their imagination hats so they imagine that this really is the person in the Bible event.

### Peter Tells About Jesus' Prayer in the Garden

**The presenter:** Here in God's Word we read about Jesus praying in the garden. It happened late at night right before Jesus was arrested and then taken the next day to the cross. It's about a special time that he had praying to his father. Today let's listen to find out what happened.

To tell us, we have one of Jesus' closest friends, Peter. Now let's all put on our imagination hats so that we can imagine this special actor is really Peter who lived a long time ago in Jesus day.

**Peter:** Hello, boys and girls. (Takes a big yawn.) Oh, excuse me. I'm still a little bit tired. You see I had to stay up very late when Jesus was praying. Let me tell you what happened. I'll begin with a special meal we had with Jesus. Now, I am one of Jesus' special friends. My name is Peter. But he had twelve very close friends called disciples. Jesus knew that his heavenly father wanted

him to go to the cross to die for the sin of the world. So Jesus wanted to have a special time with his twelve disciples. That's when he took us to a room where we could be alone. There we had a last meal together. We call it the Lord's Supper. I think you learned about it last week. We had bread and wine that always reminds us that Jesus gave his life for us.

After our special meal, Jesus said, "Let's go to the Garden of Gethsemane." That was one of his favorite places. He liked to go there to pray to his father. He wanted us to go with him, as well. We were happy as we walked along the streets of Jerusalem, outside the city walls, and up the hill to the garden. My friends and I sang songs from the Bible because we knew God was with us. We were all so happy to be together with Jesus.

But when we got in the garden, Jesus began to look troubled. He explained that he really needed to pray to his heavenly father and that he needed us to pray, as well. We said we would. Then Jesus took James and John and me with him deeper into the garden. We were three of his closest friends. When he looked at us again, we saw that his face seemed troubled. He said, "I have something very hard to do tomorrow. I need to pray about it. Will you stay awake here and pray for me. I'm going to go a little farther into the garden to pray to my heavenly father." "Sure," we said, "we'll pray for you." And, we meant to but it was so late and we'd had such a tiring day. It was so peaceful and before long (Snoring sound, closing eyes, pretending to be asleep.) we were asleep.

Jesus prayed and prayed in the garden. Jesus knew he would have to give his life for the sin of the world. He knew he would have to give up everything so our sins could be forgiven. He would have to give all for us. Could he do it? Would he do it? He was praying for God's strength. He came back to see James, John and me. Do you know what he found? (Snoring sound) Kids do you want to snore with me? Yes, he woke us up and said, "Please stay awake an hour and pray for me." He went back into the garden but we couldn't stay awake for even one hour.

I woke at Jesus' voice again. His face was worried. Still he said, "Wake up. You must stay awake and pray because my soul is very troubled. I'm going back to pray

right now.” I don’t think we understood what Jesus was going through. You see, Jesus knew that the next day he would take the punishment of all the sin of the whole world on himself when he would die on the cross. He was asking his heavenly father if there was any other way to have sins forgiven for people, instead of having him take their punishment. But his father said, “No, the only way is for you to take all of their punishment on yourself.” Then, Jesus said, “Whatever you want me to do, I will do. It’s not just what I want, it’s what you want.”

Then Jesus came back to us again. And do you know what he found? Do I hear any snoring out there? (Snore along with them.) Yes, we were asleep again. But Jesus woke us up and said, “The hour has come, now some bad people will come and arrest me. But this is part of God’s plan. Let’s go.”

So we got up and left the garden. On our way out there was a great commotion and ... wait, I don’t think I can tell you now. I’ll tell you what happened next week, when I will tell you about something I did – something I’m very ashamed of. I’m just glad that **\*JESUS GAVE HIMSELF FOR ME – *Jesus gave his all.***

Pray with the children, having them repeat each phrase.

**Dear God,** (repeat)  
**Thank you for sending Jesus.** (repeat)  
**Thank you for the cross.** (repeat)  
**I know he died for me.** (repeat)  
**Help me to tell others.** (repeat)  
**Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!** (repeat)  
**Amen.** (repeat)



## Action Zones: (20-30 minutes)

**Purpose:** Children move at their leisure to the activities according to their interest. Adults are assigned to oversee each of the zones watching for safety, assisting any activity, and helping the children connect to the lesson of the day. All zones are introduced at the beginning of Zone Time. Some suggested zones are included below. It is usually best to have all children go to the Snack Zone first. Sing a blessing song or say a snack prayer together before dismissing to the zones.

During the Zone Time, children may arrive from mid-service dismissal if this is an option at your church. Be prepared to welcome the children and invite them to choose a zone.

**Snack Zone:** Townhouse (or other oval shaped crackers) crackers and squeeze cheese. Give children two crackers. Squeeze cheese onto one cracker and have the children fold the crackers together to represent praying hands.

**Drama Zone:** Create a “prayer garden” with real or plastic plants, flowers, rocks, etc. Have children pray for special needs they have, or for a special need of someone they know.

**Felt Zone:** Use felt board materials to reenact the story.

**Craft Zone:** Children will create praying hands. Provide different colors of Tempura or Biocolors paint for children to paint handprints onto a blank sheet of paper. Place the handprints so that when the paper is folded in half, it appears that the handprints are praying. Place a pre-made label on the sheets – “Jesus Prays in the Garden.”

**Quiet Reading Zone:** Basket of books.

**Coloring Zone:** Use coloring page, “Jesus Prays in the Garden.”

**Safety and Security:** Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.



## Closing Worship: (20 minutes)

**Purpose:** As you empty the zones and clean up, begin the music so the children can start wandering over.

### Worship Songs:

*Choose one or two songs and list them here.*

### Bible Application with Puppet Presentation:

**Purpose:** The puppet demonstrates the need that will be met in today's lesson. The scripts are not written verbatim, but give a story line in which the group leader can interact with the puppet.

**Supplies:**

- A Bible – Matthew 26:36-46
- Bubba, the puppet

Show the brief video of Jesus praying in the garden. Bubba then comes on stage with a question.

He watched the video and he knows that today's lesson is about Jesus praying, but he wants to know why he was praying. The presenter explains that Jesus knew that it was almost time for him to go to the cross, so he was praying to his heavenly father to see if there was any other way that it could be done. Bubba asks, "For what to be done? Why did Jesus have to go to the cross in the first place?" The presenter explains that Jesus had to go to the cross in order to take away everyone's sin.

**You see, we've all done things that were wrong. Jesus had to die on the cross to take the punishments for all of those bad things that you and I have done. He knew that the cross was going to be scary and that it was going to hurt, so he was praying to his father to see if there was any other way that people's sins could be forgiven without him having to go to the cross. God answered his prayer and said, "No, there isn't any other way." So Jesus said, "Okay, I will do whatever you want me to." And that's why Jesus had to go to the cross.**

Bubba thinks that sounds pretty sad. The presenter tells him that it was sad that Jesus had to die on the cross, but it was also very happy. Bubba wonders how that could possibly be happy. The presenter explains that if you believe that Jesus did this for you, then you are forgiven for all of the wrong things we have done. The presenter asks Bubba if he's ever done anything wrong. Then he asks the kids if they have ever done anything wrong.

**So, you see, Jesus died on that cross so that you and I will be friends forever with Jesus and God. That made Jesus very happy – to know that he died to forgive our sins. And it should make us very happy, too.**

Bubba thinks it's pretty awesome that Jesus would do that for him, and for all of us. The presenter assures him that it is pretty awesome! Remember: **\*JESUS GAVE HIS LIFE FOR ME – Jesus gave his all.**

## **Prayer Time:**

**Purpose:** Allow children to contribute their own prayers. This will teach them to turn to God in both good times and in times of trouble. End with the Lord's Prayer.

### **"Children Pray" Options:** (select one from the options below)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Prayer Train Option:** Children line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone and speak their brief prayers of thanksgiving.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Prayer Chair:** Children stand in a circle around one child sitting on a chair in the middle. All children in the circle will lay a hand on the child sitting in the chair as they say a prayer together.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and taps children on the head to stand and speak their prayer.

**Lord's Prayer:** Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire Prayer along with you.

## **Blessing:**

May God, who is all around you,  
pour his love upon you.

*(Beginning at the bottom of the circle, slowly make large circle with your hands. Finish by bringing your hands down and wiggling your fingers to resemble rain.)*

And Jesus, his life a sacrifice,  
walk right there beside you.

*(Slowly make a large sign of the cross. Then move your hands out to the sides.)*

And may God's Holy Spirit,  
the one who lives inside you,

*(Cross hands over your heart.)*

keep you strong,  
comfort, lead and guide you!

*(Move to a "strong man" position. Then cross your arms with your hands on corresponding upper arms to communicate comfort. Bring one hand forward with "lead" and the other with "guide" to complete the blessing.)*

## Song of Sending:

*Choose one song and list it here.*



## Closing Zones:

**Purpose:** *Children go to an activity zone such as, the coloring zone, quiet reading zone, and children's Christian music video zone, as they wait for their parents.*



# Supplies:

## *Welcome Zone:*

- *Beginners Bible-The Story of Easter* –order from: <http://www.e-cdrom.com/cd7793.html> or from: [http://www.kidsclick.com/descrip/begbible\\_easter.htm](http://www.kidsclick.com/descrip/begbible_easter.htm)
- blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons

## *Opening Worship:*

- costume for Peter

## *Action Zones:*

### *Snack:*

- round crackers
- squeeze cheese

### *Craft:*

- Tempera/Biocolour paint
- sheets of paper
- labels; “Jesus prays in the garden”

### *Drama:*

- plastic, silk or real: flowers, rocks plants

### *Quiet Reading:*

- basket of books

### *Coloring:*

- coloring page
- markers and crayons

### *Felt:*

- materials to reenact story

## *Closing Worship:*

- Bible
- Bubba, the puppet

## *Closing Zones:*

- colored pencils
- paper
- basket of books