

In the Garden

Jesus is arrested
Matthew 26:31-75; John 18:1-8

Character Trait: Humility

(Estimated Lesson Time: 90 minutes)

Objectives:

- Children will recognize that Jesus demonstrated humility by following God's plan.
- Children will identify that the opposite of humility is pride.
- Children will share one specific way they can practice humility towards others.

Supplies:

- *In the Garden* loaded onto a tablet or phone in the *Bible App for Kids*
- Construction paper *(one piece for each child)*
- Pencils and/or pencils
- Coloring supplies
- Scissors
- Tape *(optional)*

Welcome Activity:

(5 minutes)

Welcome the children.

SAY: How do you feel when you are tired? What does it look like? *(Call on a few volunteers to share aloud. Then, invite the children to pretend they are tired. Encourage them to close their eyes, yawn, and stretch.)*

SAY: Everyone gets tired. Our bodies need rest in order to function and feel good. Our hearts need rest, too. Talking to God in prayer is one very important way our hearts can receive the help and rest that they need.

In today's lesson, we will learn about the time Jesus' heart was troubled. He knew God's plan involved suffering, so He talked to the Father in prayer. He asked His disciples to pray with Him, but guess what they did instead? *(Stretch your arms out, yawn, and pretend to fall asleep. Then, invite the children to answer aloud: The disciples fell asleep.)*

Review:

(5 minutes)

Guide the children in a brief review of the previous lesson by asking the following:

- **Who betrayed Jesus for thirty pieces of silver?** *(Judas)*
- **What did Jesus say the bread was?** *(His body)*
- **What did Jesus say the cup contained?** *(His blood)*
- **Today, Christians still follow Jesus' instructions to remember His sacrifice. What is this called?** *(Communion or the Eucharist)*

Today's Bible Story:

(10-15 minutes)

Show *In the Garden* from the *Bible App for Kids* or share the story aloud:

- After they ate together, Jesus told His disciples, "Tonight, you will abandon Me."
- "Not me!" said Peter, boldly. "I will never leave You, Jesus."
- Jesus sighed. "Before the rooster crows to greet the morning, you will say, three times, that you don't know Me."
- "I'll die with You before I do that!" Peter said.
- When they came to the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus asked His disciples to pray with Him.
- The disciples were tired. They fell asleep.
- Jesus prayed alone to the Father.
- Jesus knew His enemies wanted Him dead.
- He also knew that dying was God's plan for Him.
- "Show me another way," He prayed. "Otherwise, I will do what You ask."
- Suddenly, a light shone.
- There was shouting, and everyone woke up!
- An angry crowd approached, sent by the religious leaders.
- Judas kissed Jesus to show them which man to arrest.
- "I'm the one you're looking for," said Jesus.
- When He said this, they drew back and fell to the ground.
- Then they grabbed Jesus and took Him to the religious leaders.
- Most of Jesus' disciples fled, but Peter followed behind.
- He waited in a courtyard to see what would happen.
- "Weren't you with Jesus?" someone asked.
- Frightened, Peter said, "No!"
- Two other people asked the same thing.
- "You're wrong!" Peter said. "I don't even know Jesus!"
- Peter denied Jesus three times.
- When he heard the rooster crow, he wept bitterly.

Discussion:

(15 minutes)

Encourage the children to think more about the story by asking the following:

- **Who said they would never leave or deny knowing Jesus?** *(Peter)*
- **What did Jesus ask His disciples to do with Him?** *(Pray)*
- **What did the disciples do instead?** *(They fell asleep.)*
- **Jesus knew what God's plan was for Him. What was it?** *(Jesus knew that God's plan was for Him to die.)*
- **Who betrayed Jesus with a kiss?** *(Judas)*
- **What did Jesus do when the angry crowd approached Him?** *(He said that He was who they were looking for. Then, He allowed Himself to be taken to the religious leaders.)*
- **What did Jesus' disciples do after He was taken away?** *(Most of them fled, but Peter followed to see what would happen.)*
- **How many times did Peter deny Jesus?** *(Three times)*
- **How did Peter react when he realized what he had done?** *(He wept.)*

SAY: Jesus did not want to suffer and die. That is why He prayed to the Father. But above everything else, Jesus wanted to obey the Father's plan for His life. So, even though Jesus had done nothing wrong, He willingly went with the angry crowd who arrested Him.

God's Bigger Story:

(5 minutes)

SAY: God's way may not always be easy, but it is always right. The pain Jesus felt was very hard. He even asked God to show Him another way. But Jesus was willing to obey God no matter what. We benefit from Jesus' obedience to God. By trusting Him, we can receive the free gift of forgiveness that He offers. We can also learn from Jesus' example to be obedient to God always.

Memory Verse:

(10 minutes)

"My Father *(praying hands, looking up)*!
If it is possible, let this cup of suffering *(draw tears down face with your finger)*
be taken away from me *(pretend to push something away)*.
Yet I want your *(point up)* **will to be done,**
not mine *(place hands on chest, and shake head)*."

Matthew 26:39b (NLT)

Activity:

(10 minutes)

Designate one area *(or corner of the room)* as "true" and another area *(or corner)* as "false." Explain that you will make statements about the Bible story. The children are to run to the area *(or corner)* based on whether the statement is "true" or "false." For statements that are false, call on a volunteer to point out *(or correct)* what was false. Use the statements below or create your own:

- **Jesus' disciples stayed awake and prayed with Him.** *(False)*
- **Jesus knew His enemies wanted Him dead.** *(True)*
- **Jesus knew that dying was God's plan for Him.** *(True)*
- **Jesus ran away when the angry crowd came for Him.** *(False)*
- **Judas betrayed Jesus with a hug.** *(False)*
- **Judas denied knowing Jesus.** *(False)*

Response Activity:

(10 minutes)

SAY: When Jesus' heart was troubled, He went to the Father in prayer. Jesus did this as an example for us. When we talk to God in prayer, our hearts can find rest.

Provide each child with a piece of construction paper and instruct them to fold it in half like a card. Demonstrate how to lay your hand on the folded paper, so that the little finger is along the fold, and then trace the outline of your hand. Tell the children to complete this step. Then, demonstrate how to carefully cut the hand out while the paper is still folded. Provide scissors and tell the children to complete this step. *(When completed successfully, the result should be two hands that are still connected and can be opened and closed as if pressed together in prayer.)* Lastly, provide writing and/or coloring supplies and invite the children to write about or draw some pictures of things that they would like to talk to God about on the inside of the hands.

For younger children...
The folded hands can be cut out in advance of the activity, or the children can simply cut out two hands and then tape them together side-by-side.

For older children...
Make the activity more challenging for older children by encouraging them to write a portion of the memory verse on the outside of their paper praying hands. The words "I want your will to be done," can be written on the outside of one hand. Then, the words "not mine." Remind the children that God is always in control, not us. So, just like Jesus did, we can pray to and trust in the Father's plan.



Character Trait: Humility

(10 minutes)

SAY: Humility means putting others first. It is the opposite of pride. Humility means not thinking too highly of ourselves. Jesus showed humility by submitting to the Father's plan. Jesus allowed the guards to arrest Him and take Him away.

Encourage the children to think more about humility by asking the following:

- **Why is practicing humility important?** *(Answers will vary but should include that practicing humility helps us to remember to be grateful, to not think or feel that we are more important than others, and to remember that God is in control, not us.)*
- **What are some specific ways that you can practice humility in your relationship with God?** *(Answers will vary but may include asking God for forgiveness, choosing to be baptized, and asking for His help and guidance.)*
- **What is the opposite of humility?** *(Pride)*
- **What are some specific ways that you can practice humility in your daily life?** *(Answers will vary.)*



Connect with Others:

(5 minutes)

SAY: Thank you for being humble during the activity. Being teachable and following instructions are both ways to show humility instead of pride. Turn to someone next to you and share one specific way you can practice humility towards others in your life. *(Allow a few minutes for the children to turn and share with a partner. Call on a few volunteers to share their answers.)*



Closing:

(2 minutes)

SAY: Practicing humility is not always easy, but it is always right. Jesus' humility even unto death brought all of us the great blessing of forgiveness from our sins. Our response to His gracious gift can be humble, too. We can express our gratitude to God by choosing to practice humility towards God and those around us.



Prayer:

(2 minutes)

SAY:

Dear God,
Thank You for practicing humility and obedience to the Father's plan. Help me to practice humility in my daily walk with You and towards others.
Amen.

Notes