



# HOLY WEEK

**Date: 4.6.25 | Title: Jesus' Prayer and Arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane |  
Scripture: Matthew 26:36-56; Mark 14:32-50; Luke 22:39-53 and John 18:1-11**

## LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

### Middle School Students:

- Jesus is fully God and fully man, and He is altogether Holy.
- Jesus lived for the glory of the Father and taught that we should do the same through lives of worship.
- Jesus is the only way people can connect with God.
- Because Jesus is God, He had the power to perform miracles.

### High School Students:

- From the beginning, God planned that Jesus would save people from their sins.
- Jesus is fully God and fully man, and despite being tempted while on earth, remained altogether free from sin.
- Because of Jesus, we who were once separated due to sin are now accepted into His presence due to Christ's righteousness.
- Whereas many claim that Jesus was a good man or a great teacher, the truth is that Jesus is God.



### MEMORY VERSE

**"If you confess (declare) with your mouth that  
Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God  
raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."**

**Romans 10:9**



# HOLY WEEK

## INTRODUCTION TO THE LESSON

What is a difficult task you have been given? Why was it difficult? Did you complete it? Why or why not?

Today we will learn that Jesus spent time praying in a garden because He was about to face an extremely difficult time in His life.

## BACKGROUND INFO FOR LEADERS

After Jesus and His disciples finish their meal in the upper room, they leave and head to the Mount of Olives, to a garden called Gethsemane, which means “oil press” (Mark 14:26). Jesus takes Peter, James, and John—His closest friends—deeper into the garden to pray. He tells them that He feels overwhelmed with sorrow because He knows He is about to suffer and die for the sins of the world (Mark 14:34).

Jesus then steps away by Himself to pray. He asks God if there is any way to avoid the suffering He is about to face (Mark 14:35-36a). Jesus is honest about His fears but still chooses to submit to God’s plan (Mark 14:36). Three times He returns to His disciples and finds them sleeping instead of praying. Eventually, Jesus tells them that the time has come for His betrayal and suffering to begin (Mark 14:41).

At that moment, Judas arrives with an armed crowd sent by the religious leaders. These leaders have wanted to arrest Jesus for a while but feared how the people would react (Mark 14:1-2). Judas, one of Jesus’ disciples, secretly left the meal earlier (John 13:27-30) to tell them where to find Jesus at a quiet time, away from the crowds. Judas signals to them by greeting Jesus with a kiss—something normal for a disciple to do to show respect to his teacher.



# HOLY WEEK

**As the guards move in to arrest Jesus, Peter tries to defend Him by pulling out a sword and cutting off the right ear of Malchus, a servant of the high priest (John 18:10), but Jesus tells Peter to stop and heals the man's ear (Luke 22:51). Jesus chooses to follow God's plan, not fight back (John 18:11). When Jesus is arrested and tied up, all His disciples run away in fear (Mark 14:50).**

**Jesus' betrayal and arrest are some of the saddest moments in the Bible. Even though He was completely innocent, He was abandoned by His closest friends and knew He was about to suffer and die. But Jesus was never surprised—He knew everything that was going to happen and willingly went to the cross to save us.**

**Jesus had already warned His disciples that He would be betrayed—not just by Judas but also by the others who would run away in fear. Yet, even knowing they would fail Him, Jesus forgave them and kept moving toward the cross. He remained faithful to God's plan and never lost trust in His Father.**

**This trust was clear in the garden. While Jesus prayed and poured His heart out to God, the disciples fell asleep instead of supporting Him. Even so, Jesus stayed committed to saving humanity.**

**Jesus knows all of our weaknesses, sins, and failures, yet He still loves and pursues us—just as He did with His disciples. Our faith in Jesus isn't about being perfect followers; it's about trusting in His perfect obedience to God. He knew our sins, yet He chose to save us anyway. Even when we don't know what the future holds, we can trust the One who never fails: Jesus.**



# HOLY WEEK

## LOCATE THE SCRIPTURE & TELL THE STORY

**Introductory Activity:** What is a difficult task you have been given? Why was it difficult? Did you complete it? Why or why not?

Today we will learn that Jesus spent time praying in a garden because He was about to face an extremely difficult time in His life.

**Locate the scripture in the Bible:** Matthew 26:36-56; Mark 14:32-50; Luke 22:39-53 and John 18:1-11

Remind your group that we are now studying the New Testament. The first four books, the gospels, tell the story of Jesus' time as a man on earth from the voice of different authors.

**Tell the story:**

Jesus' disciples were His closest friends on earth. They traveled with Jesus, ate with Him, talked with Him, and listened to His teachings for three years. Today we will learn that when times got hard and Jesus faced an angry crowd who came to arrest Him, His disciples abandoned Him.

At the Last Supper, Jesus told His disciples that one of them- Judas Iscariot- would betray Him. Then Jesus said the disciples would abandon Him, just like the prophet Zechariah said.

Peter spoke up, "Everyone else may leave You, but I will never leave You!" Jesus said, "I tell you the truth: Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." "I won't," Peter said. "I will follow You, even if I have to die with you."

Then Jesus went with His disciples to a garden called Gethsemane. He said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." Jesus took three of His disciples into the garden, and Jesus became very sad and troubled. Jesus told the three disciples to stay there, and He went a little farther. Jesus fell facedown and prayed, "Father! If it is possible, spare Me from this. But I want to do Your plan."

Jesus came back and found the three disciples asleep. He asked Peter, "Couldn't you stay awake with Me for one hour?" Jesus went away and prayed a second time.



# HOLY WEEK

Then He found His disciples sleeping again. He said, “Are you still asleep? Get up, for it is almost time. Someone is going to betray Me.”

Jesus called His disciples to pray, and yet they chose to sleep. Jesus knew what was coming and He chose to pray to the Father for strength. He desired to do God’s will. Jesus is faithful and perfect. The disciples were unable to stay awake to pray, much less save themselves from sin.

Suddenly Judas arrived with a large crowd carrying swords and clubs. Judas kissed Jesus so the crowd would know which man was Jesus. The men grabbed Jesus and arrested Him. Peter pulled out his sword to fight the men, but Jesus told Peter to put away his sword. Jesus said, “Isn’t this what God planned all along?” Jesus’ followers ran away, but Peter stayed nearby to watch.

As the men who arrested Jesus led Him away, a servant saw Peter and asked, “Aren’t you one of Jesus’ disciples?” No, I’m not!” Peter said. Twice more as Peter watched what was happening to Jesus, someone asked him if he was a follower of Jesus. Peter lied. “No!” he said. “I don’t even know Him!”

**Re-tell the Bible Story:** Have students re-tell the story as best they can.

## Share the GOSPEL:

The first garden in the Bible was the Garden of Eden. It was perfect because God created it that way. But when Adam and Eve disobeyed God, sin entered the world and affected every human heart.

Before Jesus went to the cross, He prayed in another garden—the Garden of Gethsemane. This garden was not perfect like Eden. It was a place of sadness and sin. But unlike Adam and Eve, Jesus fully trusted God. He didn’t choose His own way—He followed God’s plan. Jesus is the better Adam because He came to fix what was broken by sin.

Jesus knew that dying on the cross was part of God’s plan to save people. Even though His friends betrayed Him, and He was arrested and put on trial, Jesus never turned away from God’s plan. He chose to go through with it so the world could be saved.

The Bible shows us that God’s plan to save people has never failed. No matter how bad things seem, God is still in control. Even when sad and scary things happen, His plan is still working. Jesus followed God’s plan, even when it was difficult, because He knew it was the only way to rescue us from sin.



# HOLY WEEK

## ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

**ATTENTIVE** - God hears and responds to the needs of his children.

**COMPASSIONATE** - God cares for his children and acts on their behalf.

**CREATOR** - God made everything. He is uncreated.

**DELIVERER** - God rescues and saves his children.

**ETERNAL** - God is not limited by time. He exists outside of time.

**FAITHFUL** - God always keeps his promises.

**GENEROUS** - God gives what is best and beyond what is deserved.

**GLORIOUS** - God displays His greatness and worth.

**GOOD** - God is what is best and gives what is best. He is incapable of doing harm.

**HOLY** - God is perfect, pure, and without sin.

**IMMUTABLE/UNCHANGING** - God never changes. He is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

**INCOMPREHENSIBLE** - God is beyond our understanding. We can comprehend Him in part but not in whole.

**INFINITE** - God has not limits in His person or on His power.

**JEALOUS** - God will not share his glory with another. all glory rightfully belongs to him.

**JUST** - god is fair in all his actions and judgements. He cannot over-punish or under-punish.

**LOVING** - God feels and displays infinite, unconditional affection toward his children. His love for them does not depend on their worth, response, or merit.

**MERCIFUL** - God does not give his children the punishment they deserve.

**OMNIPOTENT/ALMIGHTY** - God holds all power. nothing is too hard for God. What He wills He can accomplish.



# HOLY WEEK

## ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

**OMNIPRESENT** - God is fully present everywhere.

**OMNISCIENT** - God knows everything, past, present, and future - all potential and real outcomes, all things micro and macro.

**PATIENT/LONG-SUFFERING** - God is untiring and bears with His children.

**PROVIDER** - God meets the needs of his children.

**REFUGE** - God is a place of safety and protection for his children.

**RIGHTEOUS** - God is always good and right.

**SELF-EXISTENT** - God depends on nothing and no one to give him life or existence.

**SELF-SUFFICIENT** - God is not vulnerable. He has no needs.

**SOVEREIGN** - God does everything according to His plan and pleasure.

**TRANSCENDENT** - God is not like humans. He is infinitely higher in being and action.

**TRUTHFUL** - Whatever God speaks or does is truth and reality.

**WISE** - God knows what is best and acts accordingly. He cannot choose wrongly.

**WORTHY** - God deserves all glory and honor and praise.

**WRATHFUL** - God hates all unrighteousness.



# HOLY WEEK

## QUESTIONS TO REBUILD THE STORY

**“Storying” Questions:** As you ask these questions, have your students find the answers in the actual verses of scripture instead of recalling them from your re-telling of the story. We always want to encourage all of our students to go directly to God’s Word over a commentary on or summary of scripture. Use the Bible Study Bookmark Questions as well as these questions to help students understand the text:

- 1. After the Passover meal, where did Jesus go and with who?**
- 2. What did Jesus do in the Garden of Gethsemane?**
- 3. Jesus was not guilty of any crimes or sin, but we are guilty before God. Why did He take our place?**
- 4. Did anyone stay with Jesus when he was betrayed by Judas and arrested? What did His closest friends do? How do you think Jesus felt?**
- 5. Jesus’ friends left Him and Judas betrayed Him. How did Jesus show that He loved them?**
- 6. How can we trust God even when our circumstances are difficult?**
- 7. Which disciple was sure that even if the other disciples abandoned Jesus, he never would?**





# HOLY WEEK

## QUESTIONS TO REBUILD THE STORY

8. How many times did Jesus say Peter would deny Him? Later, when people said that Peter was Jesus' disciple, what did Peter say? How many times did he say this?
9. What did Jesus pray while He was in the garden?
10. In what areas of your life have you turned your back on Jesus? How does this make you feel? What is the proper response when we've stepped away from Jesus?
11. What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
12. What does the story teach me about myself?
13. Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
14. Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
15. How does this story help me live on mission?



# HOLY WEEK

## PRAYER PROMPTS

God, thank You for Your plan to save us from our sin. We praise Jesus for being obedient to Your plan and for laying down His life for us. Amen.

## IF TIME ALLOWS:

Play a game of Bible drill using only scripture passages from the Gospels.

## MISSIONS EMPHASIS:

For the months of March and April we will collect money for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering in the giving funnel at the top of the lobby. Encourage your group to bring change to drop in as you head to the worship center after SS.

## REVIEW UNIT VERSE:

Spend time reviewing memory verse with students.

IYCWYMTJILABIYHTGRHFTDYWBS - Romans 10:9



# HOLY WEEK



## Application Questions

### LOOK UPWARD



- How does this story apply to your relationship with God?
- What does it teach you about Him- His will and His heart?
- What aspect of His character is He inviting you to experience and enjoy?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story in your relationship with God?
- What practical steps can you take to live out these truths in your relationship with God?

### LOOK INWARD



- How does this story apply to your heart and your own spiritual growth?
- What does it teach you about yourself, your needs, or your goals in life?
- In what aspects of your personal life is God inviting you to grow and mature?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story inwardly?
- How will those around you benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to allow these truths to help you grow spiritually?

### LOOK AROUND



- How does this story apply to your relationship with others?
- What does it teach you about how to see others and relate to them?
- What is god inviting you to do differently in your relationships?



# HOLY WEEK



## Application Questions

### LOOK OUTWARD

- How does this story apply to your ministry and mission in life- to your role in God's kingdom, in society, and in the world?
- What does it teach you about God's purposes for the world?
- What part of His mission is He inviting you to participate in?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story in your ministry?
- How will the world benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to live out these truths in the world?

### LOOK FORWARD

- How does this story apply to your future, both in this age and in eternity?
- What does it teach you about God's plan for your life, now and forever?
- What aspects of eternity is God inviting you to participate in?
- How will you benefit in the future by applying these truths now?
- How will God's kingdom benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to impact eternity now with these truths?