

5. Jesus Prays (Matthew 26:36-46)

“If I, your Lord and teacher, have washed your feet, you too must wash each other’s feet.” (John 13:14)



PLAN

Session Outline

1. Gather

Greeting
Jesus Prays
Feelings Cube
Transition to Explore

2. Explore

Sacred Conversation
Hear and See the Bible Story
Interact with the Bible Story
Say the Bible Verse
Transition to Respond

3. Respond

Prayer Beads
Personal Prayer
Loving God,
Loving Neighbor
Transition to Bless

4. Bless

Inviting
Praising
Blessing
At Home with God

Supplies

Basic Supplies: CD player | DVD player | Projector or screen | Television | Craft glue | Crayons | Markers | Offering basket | Paper | Pencils | Scissors | Tape | Yarn

Gather: Bell | Carpet squares

Explore: Bell

Respond: Beads (multicolored) | Bell | Candle | Carpet squares | Multipurpose lighter

Bless: No additional supplies

Before You Teach

In the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus displayed his humanity. We are told that Jesus knew his time of death was drawing near. When Jesus went to the garden to pray, he was sad and anxious as he contemplated the events to come. Jesus also wanted human companionship. He took Peter, James, and John with him as he went further into the garden. Jesus begged his closest friends to stay awake with him. The disciples failed in the task Jesus gave them, and instead of praying, fell asleep. In Matthew and Mark this scene repeats three times with Jesus admonishing the disciples for falling asleep each time. Luke’s account has the disciples only falling asleep once, and Luke appears to try to give the disciples an out by saying that they fell asleep because they were overcome by grief.

There is something comforting in knowing the Son of God has experienced human emotions such as sadness and anxiety. Jesus knows how it feels. He gets it! Just as we can be comforted by these thoughts, we also can learn from Jesus’ example in the way he responded to these emotions. Jesus prayed. We also can pray and receive comfort when we are sad and anxious. Prayer does not mean always getting what you want. Jesus asked God to take away his suffering. We know that isn’t what happened. Jesus ultimately prayed for God’s will to be done rather than his. Just as Jesus turned his troubles over to God, we can, too.

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GATHER

Greeting

Before class: Display your choice of an attendance chart (Class Kit—pp. 16-17 or pp. 18 & 15).

- Play “A Whole New Level of Love” (Annual Music CD).
 - Welcome and greet each child as they enter the room.
 - Indicate the location of the offering basket.
 - Help children mark their attendance inside the building on the Community Attendance Chart (opt.).
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A—Jesus Prays (Activity Sheet)

Before class: Obtain Activity Sheets (Session 5).

- Distribute “When You Pray”/“Words of Wisdom” (pp. 11-12).
 - Encourage the children to follow the journaling prompt and complete the activities.
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OR

B—Feelings Cube (Game)

Before class: Photocopy “Feelings Cube” (Leader Guide—p. 36) on card stock. Follow directions to make a cube.

- Invite the children to sit in a circle on the floor. Choose one child to go first. The first child will roll the cube like dice. He or she then will act out the feeling revealed on the cube.
- Pass the cube to the next person in the circle. He or she will roll the cube. They must act out the new emotion, as well as the previous emotion. The pattern will continue in this way.
- Continue passing the cube around the circle until someone forgets a previous emotion. When this happens, the next person starts again with one new emotion.
- Play the game until everyone has had a turn.

SAY: In today’s Bible story, Jesus felt sad and anxious. But Jesus turned to God with his feelings. We can always talk to God about our feelings.

Transition to Explore

Before class: Obtain bell and carpet squares.

- Ring the bell to acknowledge that it is time to transition.
- Direct the children to choose carpet squares (or equivalent items), then sit in a circle on the floor.

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EXPLORE

Sacred Conversation

- Ask a few wondering questions.

ASK: I wonder:

- What made you laugh this week?
 - How did you help someone this week?
 - What are you grateful for?
 - Was there a difficult part of your week, and what made it better?
 - Where did you see God this week?
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Hear and See the Bible Story

Before class: Prepare television and DVD player.

- Read the Bible story (*CEB Deep Blue Kids Bible—Matthew 26:36-46*).
- Watch the Deep Blue Adventure DVD Session 5.

ASK: Who prays with you when you feel anxious or worried?

Interact with the Bible Story

Before class: Obtain Bible Story Sheets (Session 5).

- Distribute the Bible Story Sheets and draw attention to Bible Story Retelling (p. 1).
 - Assign the two Narrator roles, then present “Jesus Prays.”
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Say the Bible Verse

Before class: Display Poster: Unit 1 Bible Verse (Class Kit—pp. 10 & 23). Review Unit 1 sign language (Leader Guide—p. 94).

- Recite the Bible verse: “If I, your Lord and teacher, have washed your feet, you too must wash each other’s feet” (John 13:14).
 - Invite the children to say and sign the Bible verse with you.
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Transition to Respond

Before class: Obtain bell.

- Ring the bell, then invite the children to put away their carpet squares.

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RESPOND

A—Prayer Beads (Craft)

Before class: Obtain multicolored beads. Cut 12” yarn lengths (one per child). Knot one end of each.

- Invite the children to choose six beads, representing the six weeks of Lent. Distribute lengths of yarn. Let the children thread their beads. Help them knot the open end of the yarn length.

SAY: In today’s Bible story, Jesus prayed. Prayer beads are a help when we pray to God. Let’s practice.

- Invite the children to hold their beads as you recite the following prayers:

Dear God, (touch the first bead) We remember your Son Jesus.

(touch the second bead) We remember his teachings.

(touch the third bead) We remember his words.

(touch the fourth bead) We remember his ways.

(touch the fifth bead) We remember his death.

(touch the sixth bead) We remember his new life. Amen.

- Let the children take home the bead strands.

OR

B—Personal Prayer (Writing)

SAY: In today’s Bible story, Jesus went to pray.

ASK: Why is it important to pray?

- Invite the children to write their own prayer to God. Let willing volunteers share their prayers.
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Loving God, Loving Neighbor

Before class: Obtain Map 7: Deep Blue Shores (Class Kit—p. 8) and the cut out Figures/Pieces: Deep Blue Shores Map 7 (Class Kit—p. 25). Display Poster: Meet Our Neighbors (Class Kit—p. 3).

- Display the Deep Blue Shores Map 7 on the floor or table. While the children interact with the map and figures, talk about gardens.

SAY: Jesus prayed in the garden of Gethsemane.

ASK: What do you think the garden looked like? Do you have a garden at home?

TIP: Check to see if the class could plant flowers at your church. Plan a planting activity.

Transition to Bless

Before class: Obtain bell, candle, multipurpose lighter (or battery-operated candle), carpet squares.

- Ring bell to signal transition. Let children choose carpet squares, then form a circle on the floor.
- Light a candle to symbolize that this is a special time together (*optional*).

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BLESS

Inviting

Before class: Display Poster: Lent (Class Kit—p. 31). Continue to display Poster: Unit 1 Bible Verse (Class Kit—pp. 10 & 23) where it is easily accessible for children. Obtain envelope of cut out Poster Pieces: Unit 1 Bible Verse (Class Kit—p. 27).

- Gather the children around the Bible-verse poster.
- Display the final poster piece.
- Invite a child to attach to the poster the “John 13:14” poster piece.

PRAY: Dear God, help us to remember we can always talk to you. Amen.

Praising

Before class: Obtain CD player and Deep Blue Song Sheets.

- Distribute the song sheets for “A Whole New Level of Love” (Annual Music CD).
 - Sing the song “A Whole New Level of Love” (Annual Music CD).
 - Collect the song sheets and store until the next session.
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Blessing

SAY: Many churches “Pass the Peace” during worship. Let’s “Pass the Peace” to one another.

- Invite the children to stand, shake hands with one another, and say, “Peace be with you.”
- Do this until everyone has received a peace blessing.

TIP: *Some children may prefer not to shake hands. They simply can pass the blessing with their words.*

At Home with God

Before class: Obtain Bible Story Sheets leaflets.

ASK: What is one thing that you learned today? Can you share with your family what you learned?

- Send home with each child Bible Story Sheets—Session 5 leaflet.

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Feelings Cube

