

SABBATH SCHOOL

Preteen Sabbath Instruction Program — Teacher's Outline

Level 4 • Unit 5 • Week 4

JESUS IN THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE

OBJECTIVE:

To demonstrate how much Jesus Christ loved us by showing us how He suffered for us, died for us and how He did His Father's will.

ATTENTION GETTER:

Ask: Have you ever thought about how Jesus must have suffered before He died?

Say: One of His own disciples betrayed Him. This was a man who was very close to Christ. This man was supposed to be His friend. How would you feel to have someone you loved betray you?

BIBLE LESSON:

"Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane"

Matthew 26:36-46; Luke 22:40-46; Mark 14:32-42

Say: Today we will learn what Jesus lived through during His last hours on earth.

Say: Jesus and His disciples went to Gethsemane. This was a garden outside the city of Jerusalem. Jesus took Peter and two others with Him to pray. He told His disciples that He was very sad and He left them and started praying. You see, Jesus knew that He was going to die. He prayed to God His Father. He asked God to give Him the strength to bear the pain He would have to go through.

Ask: Do you know what His three friends were doing while He was praying?

Say: They were sleeping. Christ told them to watch and pray so they wouldn't become weak.

Say: After awhile, Christ woke the men and said, "Let's be going. He who betrays me is at hand."

Ask: Do you know who it was who betrayed Jesus?

Say: As Jesus said this, Judas, one of His twelve disciples, came to Him along with a group of priests and their servants. Many of them carried swords.

Ask: What do you think Judas did?

Say: He walked right up to Jesus and kissed Him on the cheek.

Ask: Why did he do this? Why would he kiss a man he was going to betray?

Say: Jesus looked like an ordinary person so the priests needed Judas to identify Him for them. Judas said he would kiss Christ on the cheek and then the priests could arrest Him. Judas received 30 pieces of silver to betray Jesus.

Ask: How do you think Jesus felt knowing that one of His own disciples was betraying Him?

Say: The servants of the priests took hold of Jesus. Peter, another one of Christ's disciples, tried to defend Jesus. He took out his sword and cut the ear off one of the servants.

Ask: Do you know what Jesus did?

Say: He touched the man's head and healed his ear. He told Peter to put his sword away. Jesus said, "I could pray to my Father and He would send 72,000 angels to help me." He knew it was God's will that Judas betray Him.

Say: Jesus was arrested and taken away.

Say: Peter waited outside the palace where Jesus was held. Three times he was asked, "Weren't you with Jesus?" All three times, he denied knowing Jesus. After the third time, a rooster crowed and Peter remembered Jesus saying, "Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times."

Ask: How do you think Peter felt knowing that he had denied Jesus?

Say: When Judas heard that Jesus was going to be put to death, he hung himself. He couldn't bear to live with what he had done.

Say: Jesus was scourged very badly. A whip with chunks of sharp, jagged metal and bone on it was used. He was beaten so badly it was hard to tell who He was.

Say: At this time of the year, it was traditional that the governor free one prisoner. Pilate, the gov-

error, asked the crowd whom he should free—Jesus or another prisoner called Barabbas. The crowd voted to free Barabbas because the evil priests had persuaded them to do so. These priests wanted Jesus dead.

Ask: Why do you think these men hated Jesus so?

Say: Jesus showed them they were wrong. They did not serve God as they should, so they did not believe that Jesus was God's Son. It is important for us to obey all that God tells us to so that we can always know the truth.

Say: Barabbas was released. Jesus was ridiculed by having a scarlet robe and a crown of thorns put on him. The soldiers struck Him on the head causing the thorns to cut Him. They kept saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They even spit on Him. Later Jesus was taken to a place called Golgotha, which means "place of a skull." There He was nailed to a stake to be crucified.

Ask: Do you think the crowd of people felt sorry for Him?

Say: No. Instead, many shouted, "If you are the Son of God, save yourself."

Say: For six hours, while Jesus hung on the stake, there was darkness over the land.

Ask: Do you think those who did this to Jesus were getting scared? Why?

Say: A soldier came to Jesus and pierced His side with a spear. It was then that He died. Blood and water poured out of His side. Other men who were being crucified had their legs broken by the soldiers. But none of Jesus' bones were broken.

Ask: Do you think that Jesus hated these men who were killing Him?

Say: No, Jesus never hated them. In fact, before He died, He prayed to God saying, "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing."

Ask: What do you think He meant when He said, "They don't know what they are doing"?

Say: Jesus knew that these men did not really know that they were killing the Son of God.

Ask: Why didn't Jesus save Himself? He could have performed a miracle.

Say: He knew it was part of God's great plan for mankind. Jesus' wounds heal us. He died so our sins could be forgiven.

Ask: What about now? Where is Jesus? Is He alive or dead?

Say: Jesus was buried in a cave called a tomb. A huge rock was rolled over the opening so that no one person could get in and steal His body. It took several men to roll the stone in front of the cave. After three days and three nights, an angel of God rolled the stone aside and Jesus was resurrected.

Ask: Do you know what resurrected means?

Say: It means Jesus was alive again, just as God promised He would be. As always, Jesus did His Father's will and as always, God rewarded Him. God will also reward us if we do what He tells us to do. Our rewards today are His love and protection. And if we die before Christ returns, we too will be resurrected someday and have a place in God's wonderful Kingdom.

LESSON APPLICATION:

Find the Hidden Picture

1. After listening to the story, find the words from the lesson in the art handout and outline them. Stay as close as you can to the edge of the letters.
2. Fill in the outlined words and find the hidden picture.

MUSIC:

Teacher's choice from the United Church of God hymnal.

MEMORY VERSE:

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

family activity

THE POINT:

This week our Bible lesson showed us that Jesus Christ loved us by suffering and dying for us. We covered what happened from the time Christ was taken in the Garden of Gethsemane to the time He was crucified.

ASK ME...

Did Jesus try to fight and defend Himself when the guards and priests came to arrest Him?

What happened when Peter cut the servant's ear off?

Did Peter deny Christ three different times? What happened to make Him remember that he had lied and denied Christ?

What did the Romans do to Christ before they crucified Him?

Since Christ performed many miracles, why didn't He just come down off the cross (stake)?

FAMILY TOGETHER TIME:

Talk about how all of us in this life have to face suffering when we don't deserve it. Talk about how God wants us to learn to suffer with joy and grow in character even when we are young. Talk about how suffering for doing right, although not fair, glorifies God and parallels what Christ did for us.

MEMORY VERSE:

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

