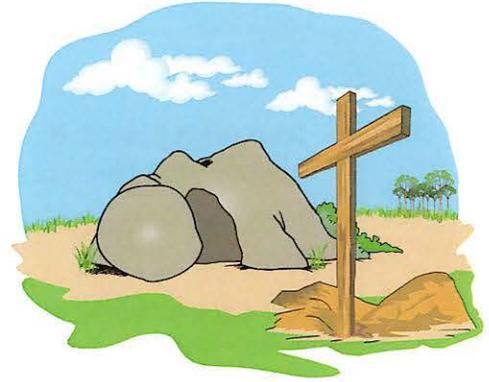


Lesson 6

## Jesus Prays / Prepares the Apostles

**Theme:** Obedience — Bearing fruit for God



### Sunday Morning Lesson

#### Pre-Class Activity

**Bible Facts:** I Know My Bible Facts

**Memory Verse:** Use the text on pages 65-66 to copy the Memory Verse on paper, one for each student. Cut apart the words of each verse and put the pieces in a Ziploc® bag. Give each student a bag of words to put together correctly at his or her desk. Briefly talk about the meaning of the verse and how it relates to the quarter's study. Return the word pieces in the Ziploc® bags.

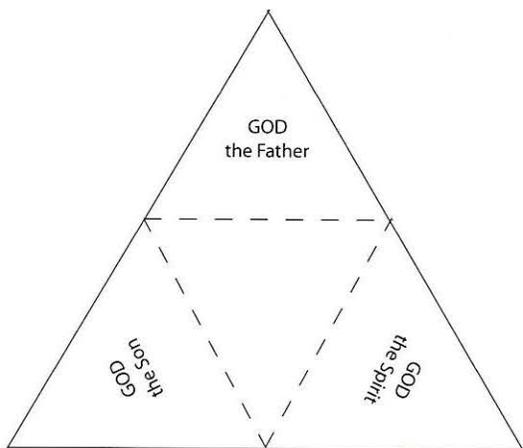
#### Prayer

#### Lesson of the Day

#### Ideas for Telling the Story

1. For non-reading students, read John 15:1, 4-5. Have reading students find and mark John 15:1 in the classroom Bibles.
2. Ask students to bring the Bibles and move to the Bible story area.
3. Ask students to identify the time and place of events studied in this series—Jesus' last week and Jerusalem.
4. Establish the setting more specifically by using the "Last Week" Time Line.
5. Introduce *The Cross & the Empty Tomb Lesson Graphics* using "Heart to Heart."
6. Tell the story using the *The Cross & the Empty Tomb Lesson Graphics* and other props such as a grapevine, plastic or paper grapes, and small garden shears.
7. Tell the story and teach the lesson emphasizing the following scenes and points, tailored to the students' ages:
  - Jesus is the Vine and we are the branches. We must be connected to Him so we can bear good fruit.
  - People who do not know or love Jesus may not like us because we love Jesus.

- Jesus often prayed. By His words and example, He teaches us to pray. It is wonderful to know that Jesus prayed for us.
  - Jesus, the Son, prayed to the Father. The Father and Son would send the Spirit to the apostles.
8. Prepare a grape vine by twisting brown bulletin board paper. You may also twist a real grape vine with the paper vine. You may complete this display with a few grape leaves and clusters of grapes. Using the grape vine display or a picture of grapes or real grapes, discuss how Jesus is the vine and believers are the branches bearing fruit. Discuss how the branch must stay joined to the vine in order to bear fruit. Read aloud together John 15:1, 4-5. Provide a printed or drawn grape cluster for each student. Attach a piece of yarn to make a hanging loop. Each student writes his or her name on a grape cluster and attaches it to the vine. Discuss how we must be connected to Jesus. A photo of this display is featured on page 6 of this Guide.
  9. Read John 15:2 that talks about pruning the vine so that it may bear more fruit. A grapevine may have two or three hundred buds which can produce fruit. If the vine is left unpruned, it would have too many grape clusters. The vine would not be able to provide enough growth to ripen all these grapes. A grapevine must be pruned; that is, part of the vine has to be cut away, so it can bear good fruit. Jesus teaches that the Father is the Vine Dresser. He prunes branches that do not bear fruit so other branches can bear better fruit. We want to be a branch that bears fruit in order to please the Father.
  10. Find and read together John 17:1-2, 11, 20-21. Talk about how wonderful it is that Jesus prayed for His men and for us.
  11. For level 4 students, this is a way to illustrate the three Persons of the Godhead. Cut a triangle out of paper with each side being 6 inches. Fold the tips of the triangle up at the half way mark on each side. This makes a 3-D triangle. Have the students write "God the Father" on one tip, "God the Son" on another tip, and "God the Spirit" on the third tip, as shown in the diagram to the right. Fold the tips upward so the writing shows on the outside. Talk to the students about how God is something like this triangle. God is three "persons" with three jobs and yet three are one.



#### Things to Get or Do for Sunday Morning

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## Jesus Prays / Prepares the Apostles

**Theme:** Obedience — Bearing fruit for God

### Wednesday Night Lesson

#### Pre-Class Activity

**Bible Facts:** I Know My Bible Facts

**Memory Verse:** Use the text on page 65-66 to copy the Memory Verse on paper, one for each student. Cut apart the words of each verse and put the pieces in a Ziploc® bag. Give each student a bag of words to put together correctly at his or her desk. Briefly talk about the meaning of the verse and how it relates to the quarter's study. Return the word pieces to the Ziploc® bags.

#### Prayer

#### Starter

Have your parents ever given you a job that looked too big for you? Perhaps many dishes are piled on the kitchen counters and you are supposed to get them all cleaned and put away. Or maybe it's been a while since you cleaned your room. Clothes are scattered everywhere, drawers are opened and stuff is hanging out, the carpet needs to be vacuumed, and everything needs a good dusting. Your mom says you have to straighten and clean your room before you can do any other activity.

You look at your messy room and think to yourself, "This is a huge job, and it will take a long time to get it done." All of a sudden your older sister comes to your room and says she will help you get it cleaned. You are thrilled that she will work along with you. You know the work will be a lot easier with her help.

Jesus came to the world to be the Savior. He would die on the cross for our sins, and then He would return to heaven. But Jesus had a big job that needed to be done after He left the world. He needed to get His message to all the world so people can be saved. Jesus chose a few men who would be His special representatives. These men would help Jesus by taking the gospel into the world.

Among the major points of this lesson are:

- God the Father planned and promised salvation for the world
- God the Son carried out the work of saving the world from sin
- God the Holy Spirit communicated the message of salvation to the world
- Jesus' apostles had the special work of telling the gospel to all

Briefly Review the Lesson from Sunday Morning and Read John 15:1, 4-5.

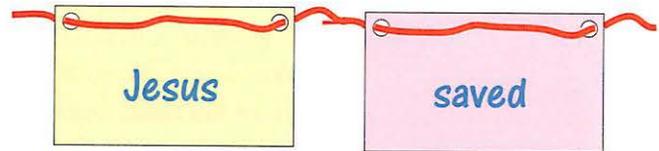
### Illustrations and Applications

1. *Objective: Illustrating how we must be connected to Jesus.*

Refer to paragraph #8 in the Sunday morning lesson, and allow any students who were not present on Sunday to connect their grape cluster to the vine. For review, have students retell the story about Jesus as the Vine, which they studied on Sunday.

2. *Objective: Jesus, the Son, prayed to the Father that He would send the Spirit to help the apostles. Show how Father, Son, Spirit, apostles and all of us are connected.*

On cards of one color, print *Father, Son, Holy Spirit, and apostles*. On a second set of cards of a different color, print jobs — *planned, saved, revealed, preached, and wrote*. On a third set of cards of another color, have each student write his name and their job as it relates to Jesus — *follow Him and tell others about Him*. Punch a hole in the top corners of each card. Allow the students to run a ribbon through the holes in each card as they connect them to each other in a logical way. Discuss how God carried out His work and how we must carry out ours. When we are connected to Jesus we can help others be connected, too.



3. *Objective: Review Jesus praying for Himself, the apostles and all believers.*

Read John 17:1-2, 11:21-21. List on the board who Jesus prayed for in each passage—Himself, disciples, and all believers. Discuss people we can pray for. Pray.

4. *Objective: Review the apostles work and how it relates to our work.*

Ask students to help name the apostles. Talk about the apostles' work and how the Holy Spirit guided them. The apostles' work produced the New Testament. No one is an apostle today, but we have the apostles' authority when we read and teach the New Testament.

5. Talk with the students about Thaddeus and how he served or showed love for Jesus during the last week. Send Thaddeus home with another student.

#### Things to Get or Do for Wednesday Night

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