

Lesson 11:

Jesus Prays for His Disciples and Himself

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:

John 17; Matthew 26:36-44; Mark 14:32-42; Luke 22:39-46

MEMORY WORK:

Luke 19:10

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

I can talk to God in prayer at any time, anywhere. Prayer is a very important part of my worship, but it should also be an important part of my life every day.

LESSON STARTS HERE

INTRODUCTION:

Review last week's lesson.

Have you ever been very afraid or upset about something? What do you do to help you feel better? Jesus knew that He was getting ready to die on the cross. He needed help to get through this. What do you think He did? Let's listen and find out, because what He did is something we can and should do every day..

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. After Jesus and the apostles ate their last supper together, Jesus had told them to remember Him by the special breaking of **unleavened** bread and drinking of the fruit of the vine. [Christians remember Jesus and His death every Sunday, eating unleavened bread and drinking the fruit of the vine (usually grape juice).] The apostles sang songs of praise to God and walked about 15 minutes toward the Garden of Gethsemane, near the Mount of Olives. As they walked, Jesus talked to the 11 apostles (Judas left during the meal) as recorded in John 14-16.

NOTE: "Unleavened" bread is flat bread, i.e., bread without yeast. After the Passover meal, it was traditional for Jews to sing psalms and hymns from Psalms 113-118, also known as the "Hallel."

2. They crossed the Kidron Valley where a brook flowed during the rainy season (winter). [At that time of year, in March or April, the brook would most likely have been dry or nearly dry.] Just outside the Garden, Jesus took time to talk to His Father (John 17). He prayed:
 - That His apostles would continue His work after He died.
 - That His apostles would be strong and work together well (be unified).

- That His apostles would love one another.
- For those who would believe in Him because of His apostles, and for all Christians who would live in the future, i.e., the Church.
- For Himself (John 17:1-5).

RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS: See the article “[Unity, Division, Doctrine, and Jesus’ Prayer](#)” by Dave Miller on the Apologetics Press Web site for a discussion about the biblical doctrine of unity.

3. Jesus and His apostles walked on to the Garden of **Gethsemane**—a place where they had been together many times before. They probably arrived there around 10:00 or 11:00 P.M.

NOTE: “Gethsemane” means “oil press”; the Garden probably included an olive grove. It was on the Mount of Olives, facing Jerusalem.

4. Jesus told eight of His apostles to stay at the entrance of the Garden and wait for Him. Then He took Peter, James, and John (His “inner circle,” i.e., the apostles closest to Him) a little farther into the Garden. He knew it would not be long until soldiers would come to take Him away and not long until He would be killed. Jesus was very sad (“My soul is exceedingly sorrowful”— Matthew 26:38). He asked Peter, James, and John to pray together while He went a little way off to pray by Himself. He wanted them to “stand watch,” like servants in charge of guarding the door of a house.
5. Jesus prayed the same thing three times: if it was possible, He asked God to take away the physical suffering He was expecting. But Jesus ended each prayer with “not My will but Yours be done.” He was not trying to avoid being killed, but He was dreading the physical suffering because Jesus was a man—just like the men around Him—and He felt the same things other people did (and still do). Jesus was in agony, praying fervently, with sweat “like great drops of blood” (Luke 22:44).

NOTE: “Sweat became like great drops of blood” could be a vivid word picture of how much He perspired, or it could refer to a real physical phenomenon. Under extreme stress, small capillaries under the skin can burst, resulting in actual bleeding. Whatever actually happened, it is impossible to adequately describe Jesus’ agony.

RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS: See the article “[Did Jesus Sweat Blood?](#)” by Dave Miller on the Apologetics Press Web site for a discussion about what Luke 22:44 could be referring to.

6. Instead of praying for strength, as Jesus had encouraged them to do, Peter, James, and John fell asleep. Luke 22:45 says they were “sleeping from sorrow.” Jesus came to them three times,

after each of His prayers, and was very disappointed that they had fallen asleep each time. He knew that they needed prayer to help them be strong for the times when their faith would be tested. They did not give Jesus the support that He needed—support they had promised to give only a short time before. In fact, Peter had promised to die with Jesus!

7. Talking to His Father was very important to Jesus. He talked to God before and during every major event of His life (when He was baptized, after John the Baptizer was killed, before He chose the 12, before He healed people, before He fed the multitudes, before His transfiguration, etc.). He prayed before daylight (Mark 1:35). He prayed alone in secluded places (wilderness—Luke 5:16; on a mountain—Matthew 14:23). He even prayed all night sometimes (Luke 6:12). No doubt He talked to God throughout every day. To follow Jesus’ example, we should talk to our heavenly Father throughout every day, too. “Pray without ceasing” (1 Thessalonians 5:17), which means to always have and keep a practice of prayer.
8. God can and will help us be strong so we can get through times when we are sad, or upset, or hurt. No problem is too big or too small for God.

RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS: See the article “[Defending the Bible’s Position on Prayer](#)” by Kyle Butt on the Apologetics Press Web site for a discussion about attacks made on the Bible’s teachings about prayer.

RECOMMENDED ADDITIONAL VISUALS (note disclaimers):

- Betty Lukens’ felt pieces. Lesson 148 in Betty Lukens Manual
- ABeka Flash-a-Card Series (DISCLAIMER: use the cards, not the lesson book;)
- Free Bible Images – Saved on flash drive. Can be presented on classroom tv. Script included in lesson file. The file will be labeled “11.”

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS:

“We Can Talk to God” (Click to Hear)

Author: Unknown* (Tune: “Farmer in the Dell”)

We can talk to God,
We should do it every day.
He knows what we are doing, and,
He listens when we pray.

SUNDAY

LEARNING CENTERS AND ACTIVITIES:

- Have pictures of different scenarios children may face during the day (getting hurt, playing with friends, someone being mean, eating, riding in car, etc.) and discuss with them what they might pray for in each situation. (You can write scenarios on index cards instead of having pictures.) (“Pictures of Scenarios to Pray For Activity” provided in activity sheets)
- Malchus Mask – Copy the template onto cardstock. Students can cut it out, but the teacher should precut the eyes out. Attach faces to craft sticks. Put a Velcro dot on the back of the ear so it can be removed and stuck back on.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Review Sunday's lesson. ([See Review Questions](#) for example questions.)
2. We can always ask God for help and for things we need. But we should also praise God in our prayers, pray for others, and thank God for all He has done and continues to do for us.
3. How do we praise God? Who are some people we should pray for? What are some things you want to thank God for?

LEARNING CENTERS AND ACTIVITIES:

Insert Prayer Activities

Review Questions

1. What did Jesus and the disciples do after they finished eating?
 - a. Sang hymns
2. Was Judas present when Jesus and the disciples left the supper?
 - a. No. He left during the last supper.
3. Where did Jesus and the disciples go?
 - a. To the garden of Gethsemane
4. What had Jesus come to the garden to do?
 - a. To pray for His disciples and Himself
5. What were some of the things Jesus specifically prayed for?
 - a. That His disciples would love one another, be one, and that the work of the Church would continue after He was gone.
6. How many times did Jesus pray?
 - a. Three
7. What were the disciples doing when Jesus came back each time?
 - a. They were sleeping.
8. How was Jesus feeling when He was in the garden?
 - a. He was very sad and stressed.
9. What was Jesus' sweat like?
 - a. Like great drops of blood
10. If we are faithful Christians, will God hear and answer us when we pray?
 - a. Yes

