

# Adventures with GOD!

## IN THE GARDEN (B.1.SPRING.6)

Biblical Reference	Matthew 26:36-55
Key Verse	Matthew 26:39, John 4:26
Key Concept	Just as Jesus prayed in the garden, I can also ask God for help and strength through prayer.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Explain why Jesus prayed</li> <li>2. Tell what the disciples did while Jesus prayed</li> <li>3. Express their needs and problems to God through prayer</li> </ol>

### Life Application

Through the story today, children will learn that Jesus had a conversation with his father God in a moment of need and sadness. The children will know that we have the same privilege to talk with God, telling our needs and problems. This lesson will help them to express their petitions to God. Parents can be a part of this process as they help their children to lift up prayers each day. Write them a note, letting them know what the lesson will be focused on and how they can continue to help their child build a life of prayer.

### Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
My GROW Adventure	GROW Adventure w/God materials	5 minutes
Opening Prayer	Candle	1 minute
Craft	Paper, crayons, scissors, glue	10 minutes
Bible Story	Bible, illustration	10 minutes
Activity	Pieces of paper, scissors, glue	15 minutes
Prayer	Paper chain	10 minutes
Craft (optional)		5 minutes
Activity	Scrolls	10 minutes
My GROW Adventure	Review	5 minutes
Closing Prayer	Candle	1 minute

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## INSTRUCTIONS

**My GROW Adventure with God Weekly Review:** As children enter take time to have them reflect on their adventure with God booklets and either discuss or use art materials to express their journey during the past week. You may wish to add any art work, written poems, prayers or songs to a GROW wall in the room. You can find my GROW Adventure with God materials on the Covchurch.org website in the same place as the Adventures with God sessions.

**Opening Prayer:** Gather children around a candle. Light the candle and explain that we are entering into a special time with God. Encourage the children to hold their hands out in front of them palms up as a sign they are ready to receive what God has for them today.

**Prayer Example:** Lord God, thank you for making us, for loving us, for forgiving us, and guiding us. We know you are here with us right now. As we enter into your word, the Bible, help us draw close to you, to understand and to listen to what you have to say to us. Amen

(For safety sake, you may wish to extinguish the candle after the prayer)

**Craft:** The symbol the children will make today is that of hands folded in prayer. The children can each work on their pictures while waiting for everyone to arrive. Have them write the Bible verse(s) on the picture.

**Bible Story:** Talk about what prayer is, who we pray to, why we prayer, when we pray, etc. Remind them that prayer is a conversation with God, we talk, but we also listen. When we pray we tell God what we're thankful for, we pray for other people, and we pray for our needs. Today we will be focusing on one aspect of prayer, which is that of talking with God about our problems and needs. The disciple who will tell the story about what happened after the last supper is John, one of Jesus' most intimate disciples. He can talk about going to the garden with Jesus, falling asleep, what he felt when Jesus woke him up, etc. The person who plays this role should tell the story with a little bit of sadness, one for the sadness that Jesus felt and two for the sadness the disciples felt at falling asleep and not staying awake with Jesus.

Some important concepts to communicate are:

1. Jesus felt the need to talk with his father God before one of the most difficult moments of his life. We also can talk with God when we are facing difficult situations.
2. The disciples loved Jesus, but they kept falling asleep when he prayed.
3. Sometimes it's not easy to pray, but the Bible says that Jesus prayed even in one of the most painful moments of his life.

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4. Jesus wanted to follow God's plan, even if it meant he had to die. He knew he would suffer and no one wants to suffer, but Jesus was obedient to God and knew that God had a great plan!

Finish the story by letting a child put the symbol of the hands on the tree.

**Activity:** Give each child 6 strips of paper. In each strip they can write or draw a picture of something they want to ask God for help with – a problem, a difficult situation, or it could be something they want to say thank you for. When each child has written a few things, join the pieces of paper together in a paper chain.

**Prayer:** Using the chain, we can all hold on to part of it and make a chain of people as well, forming a circle. Let the children pray, using what they've written or drawn on the strips of paper as their guide. Add another verse to the song, "God is so good." It can be "God hears my prayer."

**Craft:** Each child can take home a reminder of the lesson today with the Bible verse, using the craft option found in the following pages.

**Activity:** In the scrolls, have the children add the phrase, "I am the Messiah."

## Today's GROW Adventure with God Review:

G: God's Word: What is the story? (give children an opportunity to express their understanding of the story).

R: Relationships: Is there anything in today's bible story that shows us how we should or shouldn't share God's love with others? (Remind children that sometimes God uses the stories of the bible to show us how we shouldn't act toward God or others and give them a chance to consider how we might show God's love instead).

O: Outward Action: Is there anything in the bible story that shows us how we should help or serve God or others? (Explore concrete ways the children could live this out in the coming week).

W: Worship: Is there anything in the bible story that shows us how we should accept God's love for us and others? Ask: How do you feel about God? How would you like to respond to God? What would you like to say to God?

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**Closing Prayer:** Gather children around the candle again. As you light the candle explain that the flame is something that is present in the light and the darkness. In the same way, it reminds us that God is always with us. Today the children can give thanks to God for the guidance and directions that we have been given in the Bible, by our leaders and our parents. Before praying, reflect for a few minutes on the advantage that we have today to have the word of God which gives us direction. Remind them that we are all given the decision to choose the path that follows God. We each have to choose. Is there anything anyone wishes to say to God? After children have responded, close the prayer time.

**Prayer Example:** Lord God, we thank you that you are always with us, and always love us. It's good to be with you. Thank you for what we have learned today. Thank you for being with us and for teaching us through the Bible. Help us to remember what you have taught us today and to live it out when we leave. Amen

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ILLUSTRATION



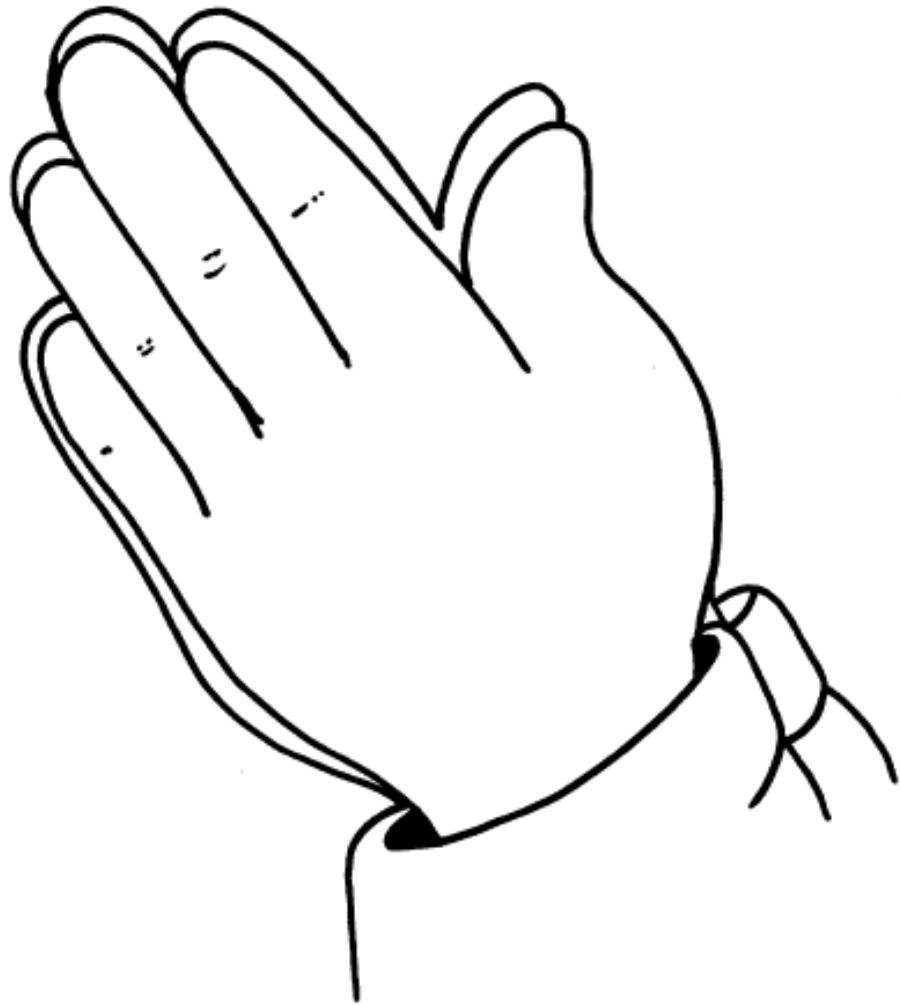
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ILLUSTRATION



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SYMBOL



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## CRAFT

### Jesus prayed

Materials: card stock (8 ½ x 11 inches cut in half), 3 strips of paper (2 in. x 4 in.), markers of pens, clear tape.

#### Instructions:

1. In the center of the card stock, draw a rectangle (2 in. x 4 in.). Inside write the word “prayed.” Outside, above the rectangle write the word “Jesus.”
2. In three strips of paper write the following:
  - a. Was sad
  - b. Was alone
  - c. Was scared
3. Tape each one of these on top of each other, on top of the rectangle with the word “prayed.” Just put the tape on the top edge, so that they can lift each one of the papers up...so they will have a little story that says, “Jesus was sad, Jesus was alone, Jesus was scared, Jesus prayed.”



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Craft

