

JESUS IN THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE

Matthew 26:36-56; Mark 14:32-52; Luke 22:39-54; John 18:1-12

STRUCTURE

Key-persons: Jesus, Peter, James, John, and Judas

Key-location: Garden of Gethsemane

Key-repetitions:

- In Gethsemane, Jesus prayed the same prayer three times (Mat 26:36-46; Mk 14:32-42; Lk 22:39-46).
- Three times disciples slept while Jesus prayed (Mat 26:36-46; Mk 14:32-42; Lk 22:39-46).

Key-attitudes:

- Jesus' anguish while in the Garden of Gethsemane.
- Three disciples' sleepiness.
- Judas' betrayal.
- Disciples' despair when Jesus was arrested.

Initial-situation:

After three years of public ministry, Jesus went to Jerusalem for the Passover Feast. Sunday he made his Triumphal Entry into the city. Monday, Jesus cleansed the temple by expelling those who were buying and selling. Tuesday, Jesus had confrontations with religious leaders. Tuesday evening, Jesus was honored at a banquet at Lazarus' home where Mary anointed him with perfume. After the banquet, Judas bargained with the chief priests to betray Jesus.

Thursday evening, Jesus celebrated the Passover Meal with his disciples, at which time he washed his disciples' feet. Afterwards, Jesus established the Lord's Supper. He foretold that Judas would betray him, Peter would deny knowing him, and all the disciples would abandon him.

Jesus began his Farewell Discourse in a room with his disciples. Judas left early to betray Jesus. Jesus and the remaining disciples left the room. While they were walking through the streets of Jerusalem, Jesus continued his discourse and prayed for his followers. About midnight on Thursday, Jesus entered an olive grove with the eleven disciples.

Initial-problem:

Jesus went with his disciples to Gethsemane, and he told them to sit there while he prayed.

Final-situation:

Jesus was arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane. All the disciples deserted Jesus and fled.

BIBLE STORY

Thursday night, Jesus and his disciples went to the Mount of Olives (Mk 14:26).

About midnight, early Friday morning, they arrived at a garden called Gethsemane. Jesus told his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray."

Jesus took Peter, James, and John with him. Jesus felt an agonizing distress, and told the three, "My anguish is so great that it's almost killing me. Stay here and keep watch."

Jesus went a little farther and fell facedown to the ground and prayed, "Father, everything is possible for you. Take this cup of suffering from me. Yet let your will be done rather than mine" (Mat 26:36-39; Mk 14:32-36).

Jesus was in such anguish, and he prayed so earnestly that his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground (Lk 22:44).

Jesus returned to the three disciples and found them sleeping. Jesus told Peter, "Simon Peter, are you asleep? Couldn't the three of you keep watch for one hour? Watch and pray so that you won't fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak."

Once more Jesus went away and prayed the same prayer, "Father, everything is possible for you. Take this cup of suffering from me. Yet let your will be done rather than mine." Jesus returned to the three and found them sleeping; they couldn't keep their eyes open. They didn't know what to say to him. Jesus went away again and prayed the same words as before.

Returning the third time, Jesus told them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The hour has come. Get up. Let's go! Here comes my betrayer!" (Mat 26:40-46; Mk 14:37-42).

Judas, the disciple who betrayed Jesus, knew the place. Jesus often met there with his disciples. Judas led a detachment of soldiers, and some officials from the high priest, and Pharisees. The crowd was carrying torches, lanterns, and weapons.

Jesus knew everything that was going to happen to him. Jesus went out and asked the crowd, "Who do you want?"

They replied, "Jesus of Nazareth."

Jesus said, "I am he."

The crowd backed away and fell to the ground.

Again Jesus asked them, "Who do you want?"

The crowd replied, "Jesus of Nazareth."

Jesus said, "I told you, I am he. If you're looking for me, then let these men go" (Jn 18:2-9).

Judas, the betrayer, had arranged a signal with the crowd, "The one I kiss is the man; arrest him." Judas went to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" Judas kissed Jesus.

Jesus replied, "Friend, do what you came for" (Mat 26:48-49).

Peter carried a sword. Peter drew the sword and struck the high priest's servant, cutting off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus.

Jesus commanded Peter, "Put your sword away! Should not I drink the cup of suffering the Father has given me? All who use the sword will die by the sword. I could call on my Father, and he would at once put at my disposal more than twelve companies of angels. But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?" (Mat 26:51-54; Jn 18:10-11).

Jesus touched Malchus' ear and healed him (Lk 22:51).

Jesus then addressed the crowd, "Am I leading a rebellion, that you come out with swords and clubs to capture me? Every day I sat in the temple courts teaching, and you didn't arrest me. All this took place to fulfill the writings of the prophets."

All the disciples deserted Jesus and fled (Mat 26:55-56).

GENERIC DIALOGUE QUESTIONS

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| 1. What catches your attention in the story? | 5. How did the characters face their problems? |
| 2. Is there anything in the story that is hard to understand? | 6. How have you faced similar problems? |
| 3. Who are the main characters in the story? | 7. Is there someone in the story who is similar to you or who is different from you? |
| 4. What problems did the characters face? | 8. What does the story tell about God? |

SPECIFIC DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In the Garden of Gethsemane, what did:
 - Jesus do?
 - Disciples Peter, James, and John do?
2. What prevents us from watching and praying?
3. What was Jesus' prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane?
4. How do we pray about something we want, but we don't know if it is God's will for us?
5. What happened when Jesus was arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane?
6. What are some ways that professed Christians betray Jesus today?

LIFE-LESSONS

1. **The way to overcome temptation is to keep watch and to pray.** In the garden, Jesus told his disciples to watch and pray so they would not enter into temptation (Mat 26:41; Mk 14:38). Jesus prayed and resisted the temptation to flee from the cross. The disciples slept instead of praying; they yielded to temptation and abandoned Jesus (Lk 22:45, 57). Vigilant prayer is necessary to win the battle over temptation (1 Pe 5:8).
2. **Christ demands that we have a spiritual determination to obey him, even when it requires us to go against our own desires.** Jesus summoned Peter to pray with him; however, Peter obeyed his desire and slept (Mat 26:36-41).

3. **Doing God’s will is achieved through a consecrated decision to obey God, whatever the cost.** Jesus prayed, “Father, everything is possible for you. Take this cup of suffering from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will” (Mat 26:39, 42).
4. **The person who is praying should be honest and express his true feelings to God.** In the garden, Jesus expressed his dread of the coming trials, but he also reaffirmed his commitment to what God wanted (Mat 26:39, 42).
5. **The will consecrated to God requires an intense spiritual battle.** Jesus’ spiritual fight was so intense that capillary veins under his skin erupted, mixing blood with his perspiration (Lk 22:44).
6. **When God’s answer to prayer is different from what a person requests, one should accept God’s will.** In Gethsemane, Jesus asked to be freed of the "cup" of the cross (Lk 22:39-46). Afterwards, he submitted to God’s will and faced the cross. Paul asked to be freed from a thorn in the flesh; God’s answer was the "grace" to live with the thorn (2 Cor 12:7-10).

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

1. **Role-playing Pantomime:**

The storyteller informs listeners that he will tell the Bible story one time. Then he will repeat the story with three volunteers standing in front pantomiming the action as the storyteller narrates the story a second time.

- One volunteer will pantomime the actions dealing with Jesus.
- The second volunteer will pantomime actions dealing with Peter.
- The third volunteer will pantomime actions dealing with Judas.

2. **Chant:**

Words in **bold and underlined** are stressed. Stress words by stretching them out instead of increasing volume.

Group 1	Group 2
Watch and pray	<u>Watch! Pray!</u>
so that you will not fall into <u>temptation</u>	<u>Not fall</u> into temptation.
The <u>spirit</u> is willing	<u>Willing</u> spirit
but the <u>flesh</u> is weak	<u>weak</u> flesh
All	
“Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak” (Matthew 26:42 NIV).	