

Bible Lesson

## 36. Jesus Prays in a Garden

Matthew 26; Mark 14; Luke 22



“My Father,” Jesus prayed. “If it is possible, take this cup away. Yet, not as I will, but as you will.”

Matthew 26:39

## Jesus Prays in a Garden

Jesus walked with his disciples to a dark, quiet garden. The moon cast shadows on the olive trees.

“Wait while I go over there to pray,” Jesus said. He looked tired. He said, “I am so sad that I feel I could die.” Jesus felt alone and afraid. “Will you stay with me?” he asked his friends.

Jesus prayed with all his heart. He prayed for every believer. He prayed for you.

Jesus fell with his face to the ground. He did not want to die. He begged God, “My Father, if it is possible, please take this cup away from me! But, I will do your will, not mine. I will do as you ask.”

Sweat dripped down his face and onto the ground. It was like drops of blood. An angel came and gave Jesus strength.

His disciples fell asleep. “Could you not stay awake with me for one hour? The mind is willing, but the body is weak,” Jesus said. “Look. My betrayer is here. It is my time.”

Judas arrived. With him were the enemies of Jesus. They held torches, swords, and clubs. Indeed, Jesus’ time had come.

## Questions

1. What did Jesus ask God to do?
2. Did God change his plan for Jesus? Why not?
3. What did Jesus ask his disciples to do? Did they do it?
4. Jesus wants you to spend time with him. Are you willing to do this each day? When?

### Pray this prayer:

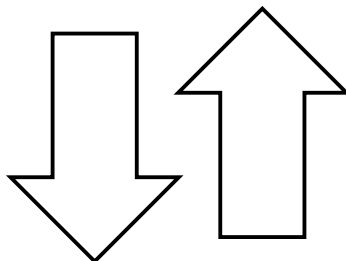
Dear Jesus,

Thank you for praying for me and giving your life for me. My mind is willing to spend time with you, but sometimes my body is weak. Help me meet with you each day.

Amen

You can build a strong friendship with Jesus. Have a “quiet time” every day, even if it’s just for five minutes. Write the word “Bible” in the down arrow. Write the word “Prayer” in the up arrow.

I get to know  
God when he  
speaks to me in  
the Bible.



God gets to  
know me when I  
speak to him in  
prayer.

# Story S-t-r-e-tch-ing

## 36. Jesus Prays in a Garden

Show students where the story is in the Bible. Use the Bible references above the illustration.

### Before you read:

#### Activate Prior Knowledge

- a) Where are good places to pray? Would a garden be a good, safe place?
- b) Do you think Jesus was okay with dying on the cross? How did he feel?
- c) Does God ever need friends? When do you need your friends the most?

### After you read:

#### Transparent Jesus

Jesus showed us how he felt on the inside. Lay a piece of paper over the illustrated page of Jesus praying. With pencil, students trace over the outside of Jesus to form an outline of his body. Inside the outline, write emotions that Jesus expressed in his prayer or that you glean from the story, such as sad, abandoned, troubled to the point of death, etc. Fill his form with his feelings. Erase the outline. Now, give each student a transparent sheet protector and a permanent marker. They slide the illustrated page into it and trace Jesus over it. Take out the illustration and fill it with the feeling page. Add: "Jesus, sometimes I also feel...Help me to follow your example and instructions to "Get up and pray."

#### Praying with Passion

Jesus prayed with such deep feeling and sadness that his sweat turned into drops of blood, which is a real (but very rare) medical condition. Too often our prayers are nothing more than a thought tossed upwards. Use an eye-dropper (found in a drug store) and a bucket of water. Say some droplets of prayers while transferring water from a bucket: "Please give me an A." "Help me feel better, etc." Now use a cup to transfer a flood of feelings while you pray heart-felt prayers like Jesus did, "Lord, let your will happen in my life." Learn to pray a waterfall of feelings to God.

#### This Cup, Thy Will

When Jesus taught his disciples to pray, he said to God, "May YOUR will be done." When he prayed to his father, he said, "If it is YOUR will, take this cup away. Yet, not as I will but as YOU will." Give each child a small, paper cup. They write the above words on the cup in permanent marker. Think of it as God's heart. Give each student enough play dough to fill the cup. They first lay it out and write on the dough in washable markers their own dreams. They roll it up and put it into the cup with a prayer asking God to shape their dreams and plans into his will, his wants.

#### Jesus Hurt on the Inside Too

Write on the dry-erase board emotions Jesus felt in the garden. Write implied feelings as well: abandoned, defeated, hurt, scared, sad, broken, lonely, frustrated, mad, betrayed. Circle feelings you have felt yourself and have the kids do the same.

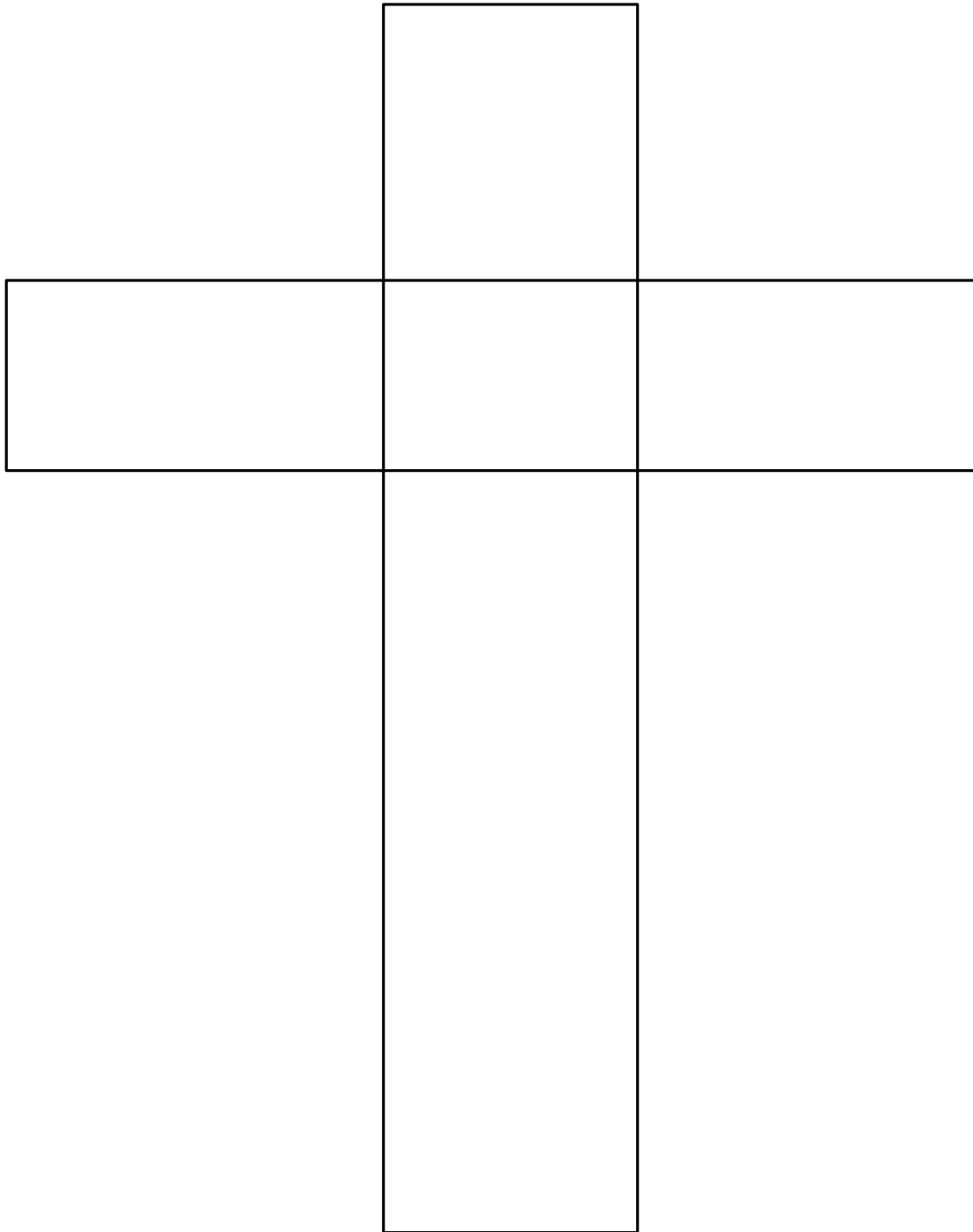
## Victory is my Destiny (1 of 2)

In Gethsemane, the future of Christianity looked hopeless. Jesus was betrayed by a disciple. His others would soon abandon him. All the leaders hated him. He faced a cruel death the very next day. Not exactly a recipe for success. And yet the Christian church is the largest and most enduring force the world has ever seen. No matter how bad things look now, victory is our future as long as we believe, obey, trust, and love Jesus.

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## Victory is my Destiny (2 of 2)

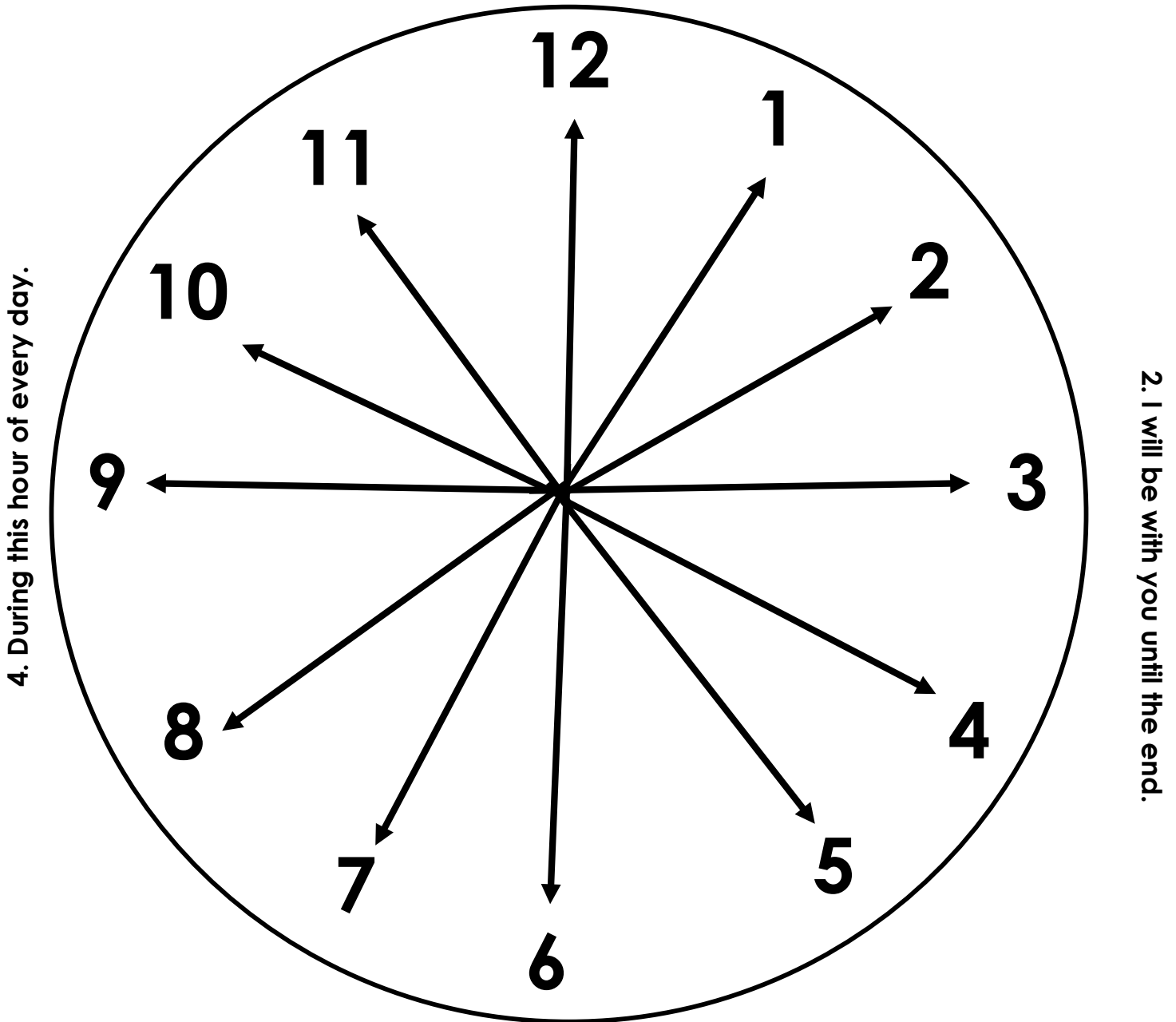
Go through the Bible story and find Jesus' feelings. Fill the cross with words like this: "It doesn't matter if I feel lonely today. Jesus felt lonely too. It doesn't matter if I feel full or sorrow now. Jesus was deeply sad too." Cut it out and cut out the Victory is my Destiny words from the previous page. Glue them together. Punch a hole in it, color it, and hang it up to remember to hang on. Read Romans 8:18; 22-39 in NIV to discover your true destiny. <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=romans+8&version=NIV>



## Stay and Pray

Even Jesus wants friendship and love. He asked his friends to stay and pray with him. They wanted to but they were too tired. Do you get too tired or busy to spend time with Jesus? Decide to stay and pray with God at a set time each day. Many Christians have their special quiet time with God in the mornings, when they fresh. What works for you? Write your schedule in the clock. Color in your quiet hour. Say the poem at your quiet times.

1. Jesus, my Lord and my friend,



4. During this hour of every day.


2. I will be with you until the end.


3. Yes, I will stay. Yes, I will pray

## Thy Will Be Done

What does that mean anyway, the will of God? It means God's desires – his wants and wishes because he knows what is best. Color, decorate, and cut this out. Pray it often. Or say a super short version of it: "Father, you will it, and I will fulfill it!"

 Lord, may I fulfill your **W**ants and wishes.

 Lord, may I obey your **I**nstructions.

 Lord, may I share your **L**ove.

Lord, may I spread your **L**ight. 