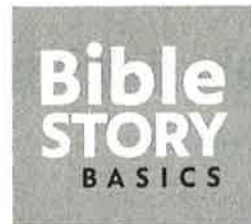


March 22nd



biblestorybasics.com

# In the Garden

Bible Verse: The LORD will protect you on your journeys—whether going or coming. (Psalm 121:8)

Bible Story: Matthew 26:31-56

## Bible Background

The story of Jesus' visit to the garden of Gethsemane to pray before his arrest and death is one that appears in all four Gospels. As is often the case, the story differs slightly in each account. Matthew and Mark say Jesus went to Gethsemane, and John says he went to a garden. Luke doesn't mention a garden or Gethsemane; he instead says that Jesus made his way to the Mount of Olives.

In the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus displays his humanness. We're told that Jesus knows his time of death is drawing near. Jesus is feeling sad and anxious as he contemplates the events to come. Jesus also wants human companionship, so he takes Peter, James, and John with him as he goes farther into the garden to pray. Jesus begs his closest friends to stay awake with him. They fail in the task Jesus gave them. Instead of praying, they fall asleep. In Matthew and Mark, this scene repeats three times, with Jesus admonishing the disciples for falling asleep each time. Luke's account says the disciples fall asleep only once, and Luke seems to try to give the disciples an out by saying they fall asleep because they are overcome with grief.

## Devotion

There is something comforting in knowing that the Son of God has experienced human emotions, such as sadness and anxiety. Jesus knows how it feels. He gets it! Just as we can be comforted by these thoughts, we also can learn from Jesus' example in the way he responded to these emotions: Jesus prayed. We also can pray and receive comfort when we are sad and anxious.

You may want to add a prayer journal to your daily routine. You can use a simple spiral notebook or a book purchased specifically as a journal. Use the journal to jot down how you are feeling as you pray. Write what you are praying for, and note any answers that become apparent. End your daily journaling with gratitude. Make a list of at least three things you are grateful for each day.

## BASIC PLAN

### Bible Beginnings

- Welcome
- Bible Puzzle
- Bible Play

### Into the Bible

- Time for the Bible Story
- Read the Bible
- Experience the Bible Story

### Bible Connections

- Olive Oil Art
- Prayer Stones

### Learn the Bible

- Memorize the Bible Verse: Balloon Bop
- Bible Tool: Books Review

### Express Praise

- Praise and Pray
- Blessing

# Bible Beginnings

## Welcome

**Supplies:** Class Pack—Attendance Chart, p. 7; CD-ROM; CD player; tape; offering basket

- Display the attendance chart (Class Pack) and “Unit 1 Bible Verse Picture” (Class Pack—p. 7) at eye level.
- Play “The B-I-B-L-E” from the CD-ROM (lyrics on p. 92) as you welcome each child.
- Have each child mark his or her attendance.
- Show the children where to place their offerings on the worship table.

**SAY:** Today, our Bible story tells us about a time when Jesus was sad.

## Bible Puzzle

**Supplies:** Bible Story Leaflets—Session 4, p. 4; pens

- Give each child today’s Bible Story Leaflet. Encourage each child to follow the directions to find out what the disciples did while Jesus prayed in the garden (answer on p. 93).

**SAY:** The disciples didn’t always do what Jesus wanted them to, but he still loved them.

## Bible Play

**Supplies:** sand or finger labyrinths OR copies of Leader Guide—p. 12 for each child and colored pencils

- Display the sand or finger labyrinths, or photocopy “Finger Labyrinth” for each child.
- Encourage the children to trace the labyrinth with a finger or to use a colored pencil to trace the path to the center and back out until they have filled the path.

**SAY:** In our story, Jesus enters the darkest chapters of his journey.

# Into the Bible

## Time for the Bible Story

**Supplies:** CD-ROM, CD player

- Play “Safe Inside Your Love” from the CD-ROM.

**SAY:** In a minute, you’ll hear about the disciples falling asleep. Let’s pretend we are sleepwalking our way over to our Story Area.

- Have the children sit down.

## Read the Bible

**Supplies:** CEB Bibles

- Help the children find Matthew 26.

**SAY:** The Gospel of Matthew tells us about Jesus' life. In this chapter, we hear about a night that started with a meal with Jesus and his friends and ended with Jesus being arrested. This is a long passage, and a lot takes place in it. Let's see how it all happened.

- Have a child read Matthew 26:31-35 out loud.

**ASK:** What was Jesus saying would happen? How did his disciples react? What did they promise him?

- Have another child read Matthew 26:36-39 out loud.

**ASK:** How was Jesus feeling? Why do you think he felt this way? What did Jesus pray for?

- Have a third child read Matthew 26:40-46 out loud.

**ASK:** Why do you think Jesus prayed the same prayer over again? How do you think Jesus felt when he found the disciples asleep? Who is Jesus talking about when he says "the Human One"?

- Have a fourth child read Matthew 26:47-50 out loud.

**ASK:** In this culture, friends commonly greeted each other with a kiss on the cheek. But why did Judas give Jesus a kiss? Who arrested Jesus?

- Have a fifth child read Matthew 26:51-56 out loud.

**ASK:** Why do you think the disciples ran away? What do you think they did next?

## Experience the Bible Story

**Supplies:** CEB Bibles; Bible Story Leaflets—Session 4, pp. 2-3; pens

**SAY:** This is a dramatic story. In order to understand what it was like, let's try to put ourselves in the shoes of each person or group of people in the story.

- Encourage the children to look back at the story, focusing on a different person or group of people: Jesus, the disciples, Judas, and the crowd.
- Have the children fill in the boxes in their leaflet from each point of view.

**ASK:** When you imagine yourself in Jesus' place in the story, what feelings come up? What do you feel from the perspectives of the disciples, Judas, and the crowd?

## Bible Connections

### Olive Oil Art

**Supplies:** white paper, brightly colored crayons, olive oil, cotton balls

- Give each child a piece of white paper and brightly colored crayons.

**SAY:** Jesus prayed and was arrested in a garden called Gethsemane, where olive trees grew. Olive oil typically is used for cooking, but it can give our art an interesting sheen. Let's try it.

- Invite the children to use crayons to draw a garden on their paper. Encourage them to press down hard so that the crayon marks are heavy.

**TIP:** The more pressure applied in the coloring process, the more dramatic the contrast will be when oil is applied.

- When the children have completed their pictures, help them use a cotton ball to apply a light coat of olive oil to the back of their picture.
- Set the pictures aside to dry. Encourage the children to hold them up to the light to see the stained-glass effect of the olive oil.

## Prayer Stones

**Supplies:** river stones or other flat, palm-sized stones; permanent markers

**SAY:** We've talked about lots of emotions that came up in our story today, such as fear, anxiety, and sadness. But we also saw Jesus being extraordinarily brave. As strange as it sounds, being afraid and being brave are actually closely related.

**ASK:** Can anyone explain how fear and courage (or bravery) might be related?

- Distribute a stone and a permanent marker to each child.

**ASK:** What was Jesus scared about in our story?

**SAY:** To remember that even Jesus felt afraid sometimes, write "scared" on one side of your stone.

- Help the children write on their stones.

**ASK:** How was Jesus brave in our story?

**SAY:** To remember that Jesus shows us how to be brave, write "brave" on the other side of your stone.

- Help the children write on the other side of their stones.

**SAY:** If we're never scared, we never have an opportunity to be brave. Being brave doesn't mean never being scared. It means doing what we have to do, even though we are scared. Feeling fear is a normal part of life. We can choose to act brave, even when we are scared.

## Learn the Bible

### Memorize the Bible Verse: Balloon Bop

**Supplies:** Class Pack—p. 7, balloon (blown up)

- Show the children the Bible verse picture.
- Read the Bible verse together.

**SAY:** We're going to play a game to help us remember our Bible verse. Our job is to keep this balloon off the ground. Each time you touch it, you must say the next word of our verse.

- Toss the balloon in the air. Help the children keep it afloat by batting it and then saying one word of the verse each time.
- Repeat as time allows, varying the number of words said with each touch of the balloon.

## Bible Tool: Books Review

**Supplies:** CEB Bibles, CD-ROM, Leader Guide—p. 30, pens

- Print and display the “Bible Library” reference poster from the CD-ROM.
- Photocopy “Bookcase Bump” (Leader Guide) for each child.
- Show the children the “Bible Library” reference poster, and invite them to look at the books for a couple minute.
- Distribute “Bookcase Bump” and a pen to each child.

**SAY:** Somebody has bumped into our Bible library bookcase and knocked some of the titles off the books! See how many books you can fill in from memory. Then fill in the rest by looking at the Contents pages in your Bible or at the poster.

- Encourage the children to fill in the book titles.

**SAY:** You remembered so many of the books! We are getting close to learning ALL the books of the Bible!

## Express Praise

### Praise and Pray

**Supplies:** CD-ROM, CD player

- Sing with the children the song “Hear Us As We Pray” from the CD-ROM (lyrics on p. 92).
- Encourage the children to name any prayer requests.

**PRAY:** Thank you, Jesus, for showing us that we can feel difficult feelings. Amen.

### Blessing

**Supplies:** none

- Have all the children face one side of the room.


**SAY:** If you journey this way, God is with you. *(Have the children turn to face the opposite side of the room.)* If you journey this way, God is with you.

- Call each child by name.

**SAY:** *(Child's name)*, God is always with you.

- Continue until you have blessed each child.

# Bookcase Bump

<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p><b>Deuteronomy</b></p> <p><b>Numbers</b></p> <p><b>Leviticus</b></p> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p><b>Joshua</b></p> <p><b>Judges</b></p> <p><b>Ruth</b></p> <p><b>1 Samuel</b></p> <p><b>1 Kings</b></p> <p><b>2 Kings</b></p> <p><b>1 Chronicles</b></p> <p><b>2 Chronicles</b></p> <p><b>Nehemiah</b></p> </div> </div>									
<b>Instruction</b>					<b>History</b>				
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p><b>Job</b></p> <p><b>Ecclesiastes</b></p> <p><b>Song of Songs</b></p> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p><b>Malachi</b></p> <p><b>Zechariah</b></p> <p><b>Haggai</b></p> <p><b>Zephaniah</b></p> <p><b>Habakkuk</b></p> <p><b>Nahum</b></p> <p><b>Obadiah</b></p> <p><b>Amos</b></p> <p><b>Hosea</b></p> <p><b>Daniel</b></p> <p><b>Ezekiel</b></p> <p><b>Lamentations</b></p> <p><b>Jeremiah</b></p> </div> </div>									
<b>Poetry</b>					<b>Prophets</b>				
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p><b>Matthew</b></p> <p><b>John</b></p> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p><b>Acts</b></p> <p><b>Romans</b></p> <p><b>1 Corinthians</b></p> <p><b>2 Corinthians</b></p> <p><b>Galatians</b></p> <p><b>Ephesians</b></p> <p><b>Philippians</b></p> <p><b>Colossians</b></p> <p><b>1 Thessalonians</b></p> <p><b>2 Thessalonians</b></p> <p><b>1 Timothy</b></p> <p><b>2 Timothy</b></p> <p><b>Titus</b></p> <p><b>Philemon</b></p> </div> </div>									
<b>Gospels</b>					<b>Letters</b>				
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p><b>Hebrews</b></p> <p><b>James</b></p> <p><b>1 Peter</b></p> <p><b>2 Peter</b></p> <p><b>1 John</b></p> <p><b>2 John</b></p> <p><b>3 John</b></p> <p><b>Jude</b></p> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p><b>Revelation</b></p>  </div> </div>									
<b>Letters</b>									

## Praying with Jesus

The disciples went to the garden with Jesus. But what did they do while he prayed? Cross out the letters *w*, *i*, *t*, and *h* to see the answer.

T	F	W	H
E	T	L	L
H	T	A	I
S	H	W	L
I	T	E	W
I	H	T	E
W	T	P	H

### Talk About It

Use these questions to talk about today's Bible story with your child.

- Have you ever been let down by a friend? How did it feel? What did you do?
- Jesus went to the garden to pray. Where do you like to pray?

**PRAY:** Thank you, God, for always being with us and hearing us when we pray. Amen.

# In the Garden

Matthew  
26:31-56

The Lord will protect you on your journeys—  
whether going or coming.

Psalms 121:8

**Bible  
STORY**  
BASICS



# In the Garden



Jesus might have

sensed:

- 1.
- 2.

thought:

- 1.
- 2.

felt:

- 1.
- 2.

The disciples might have

sensed:

- 1.
- 2.

thought:

- 1.
- 2.

felt:

- 1.
- 2.

Judas might have

sensed:

- 1.
- 2.

thought:

- 1.
- 2.

felt:

- 1.
- 2.

The crowd might have

sensed:

- 1.
- 2.

thought:

- 1.
- 2.

felt:

- 1.
- 2.