

The Garden Of Gethsemane

Luke 22:39-53

MEMORY VERSE

LUKE 22:40b

"Pray that you may not enter into temptation."

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

As many blank sheets of paper as the number of children in your class, pencils, pens, crayons or markers.

ATTENTION GRABBER!

Four Symbols

Prepare a sheet of paper for each child in your class. Divide it into four sections and have them label them "the garden," "the cup," "the kiss," and "the sword."

LESSON TIME!

In our lesson today we will see four very important symbols. Each symbol will help us in understanding the meaning of our text. A symbol is something that, when you look at it, reminds you of something else. Like the symbol of skull and crossbones on a bottle or container means that it is poisonous or dangerous. When we look at our four symbols they will help to remind us what they represent.

LUKE 22:39

And coming out, He went to the Mount of Olives, as He was accustomed, and His disciples also followed Him.

The first symbol is a garden. The name of the garden where Jesus went with His disciples is important. The garden was called "Gethsemane." Gethsemane means "olive press." An olive press would squeeze the olives with a lot of pressure until the juice in the olives ran out. This Garden of Gethsemane was a place where

Jesus was under the press; Satan was going to put the squeeze on Jesus to try and stop Him from going to the cross and dying for our sins.

This garden was not full of flowers but trees, olive trees. Jesus and His disciples would often go there to rest and pray. Jesus went to the garden like we might go to the park. All the disciples went with Jesus to the Garden except one. Who did not go to the garden? Judas! He had other plans, plans to betray Jesus. Remember what the garden symbolizes? It gives us a picture of the place where Jesus was under pressure.

The Garden

Have your class draw in the designated box a picture that represents the Garden of Gethsemane.

LUKE 22:40-42

When He came to the place, He said to them, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation."

And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and prayed,

saying, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done."

The second symbol is a cup. This was no ordinary cup. This cup was not a real cup that you would fill up with water. This was an imaginary cup that was filled up with the sins of the world and the suffering that Jesus would bear for all humanity. The question for Jesus to answer was should He drink the cup and bring salvation to all mankind through the cross or should He let the cup pass and save Himself. That is a tough choice.

Before we find out the answer to the question of the cup, let us look at what Jesus did before He made His decision. The first thing Jesus did was to get alone with His Father, God, and He prayed. When you have a tough choice to make and you are under a lot of pressure what do you do?

Jesus did the right thing. He made the choice to do what His Father wanted. He said "Father, if it is Your will, remove this cup from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done." When we are facing a tough decision we should always ask God our Father what we should do. **We always need to pray.** We might get to take the easy way out. We also might have to take the hard way. Whichever way God desires to take us, He will be with us. Hebrews 13:5 says "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

The Cup

Have your class draw in the designated box a picture that represents the cup Jesus would take to save all of mankind from their sins.

LUKE 22:43

Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him.

God sent Jesus an angel to strengthen Him. God sends his angels to help strengthen us sometimes too. Psalm 91:11 says "For He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you in all your ways." God cares so much for us. God will always help us when we are in a difficult situation. He is always there for us.

LUKE 22:44

And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. And His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

The pressure from this cup was so great that Jesus was in agony. His body was sweating. Luke says it was like drops of blood coming out as sweat. The pressure Jesus was under inside started to show on the outside. If you look around at people you will see that when people are under a lot of pressure, they show it on the outside. We need to remember when we see the problems of people around us, to pray for them, because on the inside the pressure is even greater than it shows on the outside. **We always need to pray.**

The cup symbolizes the suffering Jesus would go through and the sin that He would bear for us. Jesus took the cup that night, we know, because the next day He went to the cross to die for us. What would have happened if Jesus had decided to not drink the cup? If Jesus had tried to save His life, then we would all have been lost. All mankind would have no way to get to God and heaven. The world would be hopeless. In Matthew 16:25 Jesus says "For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for My sake will find it."

We have a similar choice to make. If we keep our lives for ourselves we will be lost, but if we give our lives to Jesus we will be saved. What is your choice? I trust you will make the right choice just as Jesus did.

LUKE 22:45-46

When He rose up from prayer, and had come to His disciples, He found them sleeping from sorrow.

Then He said to them, "Why do you sleep? Rise and pray, lest you enter into temptation."

Jesus brought His closest friends with Him to the Garden of Gethsemane. He had hoped they would support Him in prayer. When we are going through tough times we should have people support us in prayer. Asking someone to pray for us is a lesson Jesus Himself knew was important.

The disciples fell asleep trying to pray. They needed to pray for themselves also, that they would have strength when they entered into temptation. Prayer gives us the strength we need to face the temptation of evil. **We always need to pray.**

LUKE 22:47-48

And while He was still speaking, behold, a multitude; and he who was called Judas, one of the twelve, went before them and drew near to Jesus to kiss Him.

But Jesus said to him, "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?"

The third symbol is a kiss. While Jesus was speaking to His disciples about praying, a multitude of men came into the garden. Judas led the group of men directly to Jesus. Then he kissed Jesus. In this culture men would often kiss each other on the cheek. It was usually a sign of friendship and acceptance.

Judas' kiss was not out of friendship but of betrayal. When he kissed Jesus it was a signal to the other men that this was the man that they were to arrest. It was a kiss of betrayal. How do you respond to people who have done you wrong? When people do things to us that hurt us, how should we respond?

The Kiss

Have your class draw in the designated box a picture that represents the kiss of betrayal Jesus received from Judas.

LUKE 22:49-53

When those around Him saw what was going to happen, they said to Him, "Lord, shall we strike with the sword?"

And one of them struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear.

But Jesus answered and said, "Permit even this." And He touched his ear and healed him.

Then Jesus said to the chief priests, captains of the temple, and the elders who had come to Him, "Have you come out, as against a robber, with swords and clubs?

"When I was with you daily in the temple, you did not try to seize Me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness."

Our fourth symbol is a sword. The response of the disciples to the betrayal of Jesus was to fight. Peter drew his sword and cut the ear off of the servant of the high priest. This is the wrong way to solve our problems. In the world of today people always try to solve their problems by violence. That is how the world tells us to handle our problems and disagreements. Do you think this is the right response?

The sword symbolizes the response of men. When we look at the sword in our lesson we are reminded of the men who came and arrested Jesus. How they beat Him, tortured Him and finally killed Him by hanging Him on the cross. What was Jesus' response to the sword? He reached out in love. He took the ear of the man and healed him. Jesus tells us to love our enemies and to do good to those who do us wrong.

As a class read Luke 6:27-30. Discuss loving enemies, doing good to those who do bad, turning the other cheek. When we get the kiss of Judas do we respond with a sword? No, we need to respond with the love of God. Jesus could have called down a million angels to wipe out the men. He did not use force but He used love.

The Sword

Have your class draw in the designated box a picture that represents the sword of man contrasted with the love of God.

Let's review our symbols:

- 1) What does the garden represent? pressure and stress
- 2) What does the cup represent? suffering and sin
- 3) What did the kiss represent? betrayal
- 4) What does the sword represent? violence

So if we look at the lesson of the Garden of Gethsemane using our symbols what do we learn for our lives?

When we are in a garden of Gethsemane, pressured and stressed, we need to pray and ask God for strength first. Ask God what He wants us to do. We take the cup that God gives us and we drink it. We do it God's way. When we are kissed by betrayal and someone does us wrong we should not respond with a sword, fighting back, but with the love of God. The only way we can do the right thing every time is if we trust completely in God's strength and the love He has given us.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to ask God for strength when we are under pressure, to obey His commands, and to repay evil with good. If any children have not yet responded to the gospel, give them an opportunity to do so.