Get Ready for Easter
Lesson 2 - Jesus Praying in the Garden
PreK – 1st Grade (Sumner)
PreK/K (Puyallup)

Series Verse
He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. Matthew 28:6 NASB

Prepare (Before Service)
Game Material: Plastic eggs and plastic spoons
Craft Materials: card stock, scissors, and markers/crayons
Take Home Pages: Make sure there is enough for each child to take home.
Curriculum: Make sure each classroom has an age appropriate curriculum DVD and storybook.

The Point of the Lesson:
Each child will understand that Jesus was aware of the pain and suffering that He was going to go through on the cross. They will see that He turned to His Father to pray for strength, peace and guidance. They will learn that it is best to trust God no matter what happens around them.

The Power of God’s Word:
“I want Your ways, God.” Matthew 26:39 Paraphrase

The Prayer of Each Child:
Dear Jesus, I am glad that I do not have to go through things alone. You are always with me. Help me to trust God each day even when things don’t go well. God knows the future and promises to always help me out. Amen

The Lesson in a Word:
Accept

CHECK IN AND WELCOME
**STORY**
(Use the Classroom Storybook as a Visual Aid)

Have children stay seated while the story is taught live by the teacher. Have the kids repeat sentences, add motions, make faces to show emotions, etc. to make the lesson come alive. Before the story starts, remind the students how to be good listeners. Encourage them to raise their hands before speaking. Here’s a great way to remind them. Say this and have them join you by saying the words and doing the motions together. Try it a couple of times through to teach them.

- **Eyes are watching.** (Point to eyes.)
- **Ears are listening.** (Cup hands around both ears.)
- **Hands are quiet.** (Hands folded in lap.)
- **Feet are still.** (Fold legs criss cross, make a pretzel with your legs.)

Wait until you have everyone doing this to start the story! Praise the students for being good listeners. (You may even want to use the container of stickers for good listeners at the end of the story and verse time.)

**Garden of Gethsemane**

During the Passover festival, Jesus had a special meal with his friends. Jesus was sad because he knew one of his disciples was not going to be his friend anymore. Jesus knew that disciple was Judas. It was hard, but Jesus told Judas to do what he had to do. After Judas left, Jesus finished the meal with his friends. After supper, Jesus and his friends went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray. Jesus asked His friends to stay awake as He went off to pray by Himself. Even though Jesus was God, He knew what was about to happen. He knew He would be arrested and beaten, and that it would hurt to be on the cross. Jesus knelt down and talked to His Father. He asked God, “If there’s any way out of this, help me find it. But most of all, I want your ways, God.” Jesus went back and found His friends asleep. He was sad that His friends couldn’t even stay awake with Him. He woke them up, and then He went back to praying. Jesus came back, and He found His friends asleep again! This time He let them sleep as He prayed. When Jesus came back the third time, He woke his friends. Just then, Judas appeared with a large mob. Judas kissed Jesus on the cheek as a sign to show the crowd who to arrest. Then the crowd took Jesus away.
(Source: Matthew 26:17-50)

**Review Questions:**
Use the following questions to review the lesson with the children.

1. What did Jesus do in the garden? Everyone show me with your hands. (Praying hands)
2. Did Jesus’ friends stay awake and pray with him? (No)
3. Who came to take Jesus away? (The soldiers)
4. Show me thumbs up for yes, and thumbs down for no. Did Jesus accept God’s plan and do what God wanted Him to do? (Thumbs up for yes!)
MEMORY VERSE
Introduce today’s verse to the children by saying it with them several times. Make it a competition between the girls and boys if you want. Add hand motions and changing inflection to make the verse come alive. Explain what the verse means to the kids.

“I want Your ways, God.” Matthew 26:39 Paraphrase

PRAY
Dear Jesus, I am glad that I do not have to go through things alone. You are always with me. Help me to trust God each day even when things don’t go well. God knows the future and promises to always help me out. Amen

GAME TIME
Game: Egg Relay
Materials: Plastic egg and spoon, 1 per team
Directions: Divide the class up into two teams. Have them form two lines beside each other. Have a leader stand several yards away. Give the first team member of each line a plastic egg and a spoon. When the leader says, “Go!” the child will run up to the leader and back to the line with the egg in the spoon, trying not to drop the egg. If the egg falls off, they must start back at the front of the line again. Continue on until everyone has had a chance.

Lesson Tie In: It is fun playing games. But sometimes a game doesn’t go our way, or we drop the egg. That is OK. We need to trust our team to cheer us on and for everyone to still do their best and have fun. God is Someone we can always trust no matter what happens around us. He will always be there for us.

DVD LESSON
This segment is designated to reinforce the lesson and teach application with age-appropriate props, puppets and video during a large group time. On DVD player, select this weeks lesson and this will play Hear This, Picture This and Do This portions of the video here.

Hear This
Sharkey the Puppet hosts this portion of the video that teaches the Memory Verse in a fun way that includes a little song and a corny joke!

Jesus prayed in the Garden asking God to help Him do what He needed to do, even though He knew it was going to be hard and it was going to be painful. He accepted God’s plan for His life. Our verse this week is: I want Your ways, God. Matthew 26:39 Paraphrase
Picture This

Garden of Gethsemane
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(Source: Matthew 26:17-50)

Do This
Jack the Rabbit and Sully the Turtle remind the kids how to apply this lesson to their lives!

On Sully’s Turtle Talk show today, the topic is trust. Jack reminds Sully that trust is important to the Easter story, because Jesus trusted His Father and accepted His plan, even when it was hard. They remind the kids that God has a plan for them too and that God will always help them if we trust Him.

After Palm Sunday, Jesus shared a special meal with His disciples, called the Last Supper. Jesus knew that He was going to die soon. He went to the garden to pray to His Heavenly Father and ask God to help Him. Jesus trusted God even when it was hard. He accepted God’s plan for His life. We know that God has a plan for us also. Even when it is hard, we can trust God and accept His plan for each of us! He promises that He will go with us and help us no matter what!

(Myron sings a reprise of the Theme Song to end this part of the video.)

CRAFT
PRAYING HANDS CARD
Materials: For each child you will need card stock, scissors and crayons.

Directions:
1. Teachers should have children put their left hand on fold of card, and then draw around hand.
2. Have children cut out around the hand. Be careful not to cut the fold of the card. Left side of the card as shown. (Younger children can just leave the card uncut.)
3. Now have them color and decorate the outside of the hand.
4. On right the inside of card have them put items that they need to pray for. (For younger children they could color a picture or have the teacher write it for them.)
5. Explain to the children that God wants them to talk to Him in prayer. And that He is always listening.

**Completed Craft:**

CHECK OUT
Provide each student with a Take Home Page for the week. Be sure they take home their craft also.