

big faith

SESSION 6

Unit 2: Seeds of Faith

Faith Focus: Jesus helps us grow in our faith.

Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ. (2 Peter 3:18)

GROW IN FAITH

Grow Through Prayer—Matthew 26:31-58

This story takes place in the garden of Gethsemane. We are told Jesus knows his time of death is drawing near. He goes to the garden to pray. Jesus takes Peter, James, and John with him as he goes further into the garden, and we see that he is sad and anxious. Jesus begs his closest friends to stay awake with him. But the disciples fall asleep. This scene occurs three times. Each time the disciples fall asleep.

There is much to learn from this story, but one big takeaway is the example of Jesus praying in the garden. Jesus prayed, but his prayers were not answered in the way he wanted or maybe even expected. Jesus asked God to take away his suffering. Although the coming days of Jesus' life were difficult, he turned his troubles over to God, and we can too. This is not an easy thing to do, but maybe we can be less like the sleepy disciples and more like Jesus—full of emotion but seeking comfort in God.

- Start a garden project.
- Explore emotions and emotional regulation.
- Learn new ways to pray.

SESSION OUTLINE

COME TOGETHER

Prepare to Learn

Faith Focus—Jesus Helps Us
Grow in Our Faith

Garden Hide and Seek (Puzzle)
and Petal Prayer (Prayer)

FAITH CONNECTIONS

Read the Story

Big Faith Video

Faith Response

Big Faith Ages 7–12
Leader Guide • Spring 2025

FUN WITH FAITH

Flower Garden (Craft)

Garden Coloring (Coloring)

Paired Prayer (Prayer)

SHARE YOUR FAITH

Big Faith Idea—Faith in Jesus

SUPPLIES

crayons

CEB kids' Bible or CEB Bible
storybook

TV and DVD player or
streaming device

sticky notes

construction paper

scissors

markers

glue

tape

colored pencils

COME TOGETHER

Prepare to Learn

Supplies: All-Ages Class Pack, Activity Sheets, Activity Stickers

Prepare Ahead: Set up your area with the supplies and activity pages needed for today's session. Display the Unit 2 Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 12 & 13), Unit 2 Faith Focus Poster (Class Pack—pp. 6 & 19), and Unit 2 Faith Response Poster (Class Pack—pp. 8 & 17) to use later in the session.

- As children arrive, invite them to join you in a circle.
- Give each child a copy of the "Spring Sticker Page" (Activity Sheets—p. 29) and their own set of Activity Stickers. Have children place the garden sticker on the Session 6 space.

SAY: In today's story, we will learn about a prayer Jesus prayed in a garden. Praying helps us to grow in our faith.

Faith Focus—Jesus Helps Us Grow in Our Faith

Supplies: All-Ages Class Pack

Prepare Ahead: Display the Unit 2 Faith Focus Poster (Class Pack—pp. 6 & 19).

- Show children the Faith Focus Poster.

SAY: Our faith focus for today is "Jesus helps us grow in our faith." Our faith is something that keeps changing and growing our whole lives. Jesus helps us to understand God in new ways. We are always learning and growing in our faith.

ASK: Have you ever felt like you wanted to talk to God? What did you do?

- Give children time and space to share their ideas.

Garden Hide and Seek and Petal Prayer

Supplies: Activity Sheets, crayons

Prepare Ahead: Tear out "Garden Hide and Seek" (Session 6 Activity Sheet) for each child.

- Give each child a copy of the activity sheet.

SAY: Today we will hear about a time when Jesus needed to talk to God. Jesus prayed to God in a garden called Gethsemane.

- Have the children find the words hidden on the front page. After a child completes the front, have her or him turn to the back page to add names of people to pray for to the petals on the flower.

FAITH CONNECTIONS

Read the Story

Supplies: *CEB kids' Bible or CEB Bible storybook*

- Invite the children to join you in a circle.
- Read the story of Jesus praying in the garden (Matthew 26:31–58) from a CEB kids' Bible or your favorite CEB Bible storybook.

ASK: How do you think Jesus was feeling during his prayer time with God?

Big Faith Video

Supplies: *Big Faith DVD, TV, DVD player or streaming device*

- Watch the Session 6 video on the Big Faith DVD or via your Amplify Media subscription.
- Give children time to respond to the questions on the screen. Discuss the questions as partner pairs, as small groups, or all together.

ASK: What was your favorite part of the video?

Faith Response

Supplies: *All-Ages Class Pack, sticky notes, crayons*

Prepare Ahead: *Display the Unit 2 Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 12 & 13) and Unit 2 Faith Response Poster (Class Pack—pp. 8 & 17) if you haven't already.*

- Invite children to wonder about the images on the posters.
- Encourage children to say the Bible verse with you: "Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18).

SAY: In our Bible story, Jesus prayed in a garden. Jesus was afraid and prayed to grow his faith. But Jesus also knew that God would be faithful and that all people would be able to know God's love through Jesus' actions.

ASK: Have you ever had to trust someone even though it was hard? What was that like?

SAY: Jesus reminds us that God listens when we pray. God wants to know our troubles and God cares about us.

- Lay the Faith Response Poster on the floor or a table and invite the children to gather around it.
- Give each child a sticky note and crayons.

ASK: What do you see on our poster?

- Invite each child to draw a flower on the sticky note.
- Let the children each say a brief individual prayer as they place their notes on the poster.

FUN WITH FAITH

Flower Garden

Supplies: *construction paper, scissors, markers, glue, tape*

SAY: Jesus prayed in a garden on the night before he was arrested. Jesus was worried. He brought his friends with him. We will work with our friends to make a garden in our classroom.

- Give every child a pair of scissors, markers, and construction paper.
- Have the children create flowers to hang in your room to make a garden.

SAY: When we are together, we can create something beautiful.

Garden Coloring

Supplies: *colored pencils*

Prepare Ahead: *Make copies of “Garden Coloring” (Leader Guide—p. 46).*

ASK: Who do you pray for when you pray?

- Give each child a copy of “Garden Coloring” and have the children follow the directions.

Paired Prayer

SAY: Jesus took his friends with him to pray. Sometimes we need a friend to help us pray.

- Have the children sit in pairs.
- Encourage one child in each pair to share people he or she would like to pray for, one name at a time.
- Next, encourage the child listening to the names to pray for those people. Then have the partners swap roles and repeat the process.

SHARE YOUR FAITH

Big Faith Idea—Faith in Jesus

Supplies: All-Ages Class Pack, “Petal Prayer” activity sheets filled in earlier

Prepare Ahead: Display the Spring Big Faith Idea Poster (Class Pack—pp. 4 & 21).

Photocopy the Unit 2 Family Faith Letter (Leader Guide—pp. 93–94) for each child.

- Show children the Big Faith Idea Poster.

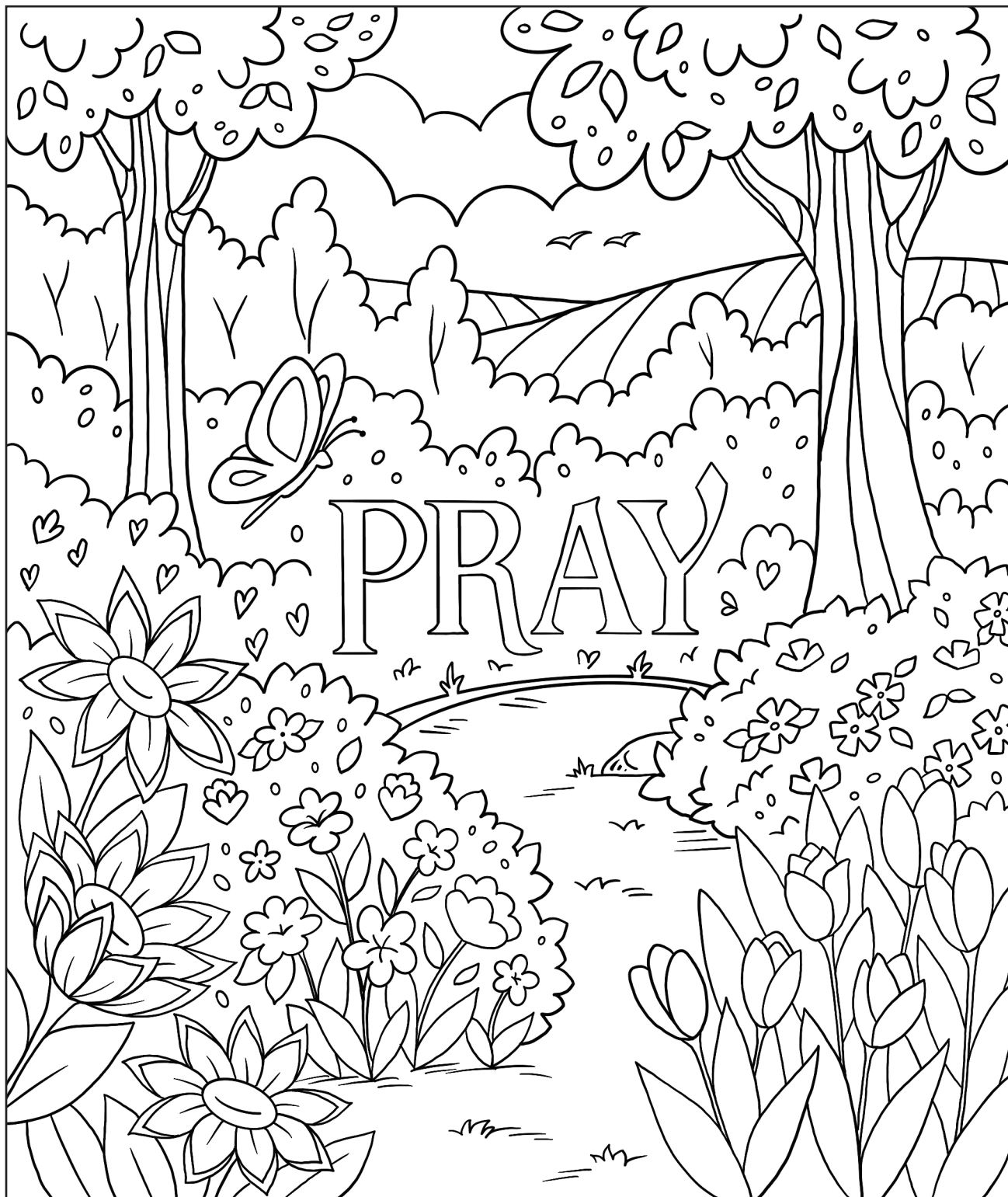
SAY: We grow in our faith when we pray. Prayer helps us connect to God and helps us transform our hearts to love others, and ourselves, the way God loves us all.

- Have the children gather in a circle.
- Have the children pull out their “Petal Prayer” activity sheets. Have the children pray silently for the people listed.
- Invite the children to pray with you.

PRAY: Lord, help us to love others. Amen.

- Send the Family Faith Letter home with each child.
- Send home any activities or items made during today’s session.

Color this garden scene and notice the word in the middle. As you color, pray for those you love.



Art: Carolyn Williams/Gwen Walters Artists' Representative