

Do this in remembrance of me. (Luke 22:19c)

## Praying in the Garden – Luke 22:39-46

### Prepare to Lead

#### Activities At-a-Glance

##### GATHER TOGETHER

Praying Hands Flowers (Craft)  
Where Do You Pray? (Prayer Activity)  
Praying in the Garden (Puzzle)  
Were You There? (Journaling)

##### EXPERIENCE WONDER

Prayer Jar (Craft)  
What Did You Pray? (Game)  
Peaceful Place (Response Activity)

##### WONDER MORE

Remembering (Game)  
Sand Prayers (Sensory/Prayer Activity)  
Prayer Stations (Spiritual Practice)  
Prayer Walk (Movement)

#### Supplies At-a-Glance

<i>crayons</i>	<i>finger prayer labyrinth</i>
<i>colored pencils</i>	<i>music and music player</i>
<i>markers</i>	<i>sand</i>
<i>scissors</i>	<i>battery-operated votive candles</i>
<i>pencils</i>	<i>decorative tape</i>
<i>prayer shawl</i>	<i>rocks</i>
<i>mason jars</i>	<i>disposable pie tins</i>
<i>glue</i>	<i>permanent markers</i>
<i>ribbon</i>	<i>paint pens</i>
<i>stickers</i>	<i>note cards</i>
<i>plastic cups</i>	
<i>string</i>	
<i>hole punch</i>	

#### Suggested Books

*I Can Say a Prayer* by Sophie Piper  
*Every Which Way to Pray*  
by Joyce Meyer

### Tips for the Leader

- Our Wonder Box item today is a prayer shawl. If you don't have access to a prayer shawl, consider using a special blanket or scarf.
- A free finger prayer labyrinth is available in the free resources section of *Cokesburykids.com*.
- Did you know you can purchase full color activity pages that coincide with each session? If purchasing, consider sending the pages home along with the other take-home pages. Purchase at *Cokesburykids.com*.

## Prepare to Wonder

### Faith Word: REMEMBER

Our Bible story begins after Jesus and the disciples have shared the Last Supper and gone to the Garden of Gethsemane. While his disciples sleep—despite Jesus' instructions to pray—Jesus goes to pray.

Jesus knew his death was coming soon. He didn't want to die, and he was probably sad and anxious. He prayed that God would present him with a solution so he wouldn't have to die, but he also knew it was up to God. After fervently praying, Jesus was visited by an angel. The angel set his mind at peace, and Jesus knew what he had to do.

In this story, Jesus provides us with a model for prayer, taking his sadness and his fear and turning it over to God—as we are taught to do. Jesus asks for what he wants, but ultimately prays for God's will to be done—as we also are expected to do.

You will want your children to know that no matter what is happening, they can pray to God and God will hear them. You can guide children to go to God with what is hard, just like Jesus did. It might not change the outcome or take away something painful that already has happened; however, it can bring comfort to know that God goes with us and is present in the midst of our fear and sadness.

### Spiritual Practice for Adults

Feelings are complicated. In hard situations, we all react in different ways. Emotions can be teachers. They teach us what we want and need. When you are feeling an emotion this week, place your hands on your chest or heart. Say what emotion you are feeling. Then repeat the following phrase, "When I feel (emotion), I can share with God; and when I am feeling (emotion), I know God will make me strong. Amen."

# Gather Together

Use the following as optional activities for when children are arriving. You may also choose to use these activities elsewhere in the lesson.

## Praying Hands Flowers – Preschool

**Supplies:** Reproducible Kids' Book, pencils, crayons

**Prepare Ahead:** Photocopy "Praying Hands Flowers" (Reproducible 3A) for each preschooler.

- Give each preschooler a copy of "Praying Hands Flowers."

**SAY:** Our Bible story today is about prayer. Let's make a picture that will help us remember to pray.

- Help each child trace their hands on to the picture.
- Place the left hand on the left upper stem, fingers closed, and trace around the hand. Place the right hand on the right lower stem, fingers closed, touching the left hand illustration. Trace around the right hand.
- Encourage children to color the picture.

**ASK:** What would you like to pray about today?

## Where Do You Pray? – Younger Elementary

**Supplies:** Reproducible Kids' Book, pencils, crayons or markers

**Prepare Ahead:** Photocopy "Where Do You Pray?" (Reproducible 3B) for each child.

- Give each child a copy of "Where Do You Pray?"

**SAY:** Today we will hear a story about prayer.

**ASK:** How do you pray? Where do you like to pray?

- Encourage children to complete the page.

**WONDER:** Is there one right way or place to pray?

## Praying in the Garden – Older Elementary

**Supplies:** Reproducible Kids' Book, CEB Bibles, pencils

**Prepare Ahead:** Photocopy "Praying in the Garden" (Reproducible 3C) for each child.

- Give each child a copy of "Praying in the Garden."
- Encourage children to unscramble the words and find the mystery word.

## Were You There? – All Ages

*Supplies:* Reproducible Kids' Book, pencils, crayons or markers

*Prepare Ahead:* Photocopy "Were You There?" (Reproducible 3D) for each child.

- Give each child a copy of "Were You There?"

**SAY:** In our Bible story today, the disciples fell asleep when Jesus was praying.

**ASK:** What would you do if Jesus asked you to pray with him?

- Encourage the children to write or draw their responses on the page.

**WONDER:** Have you ever felt sleepy when praying?

## Come Together

*Supplies:* Class Pack, Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook, Wonder Box, purple cloth, battery-operated candle, a prayer shawl

*Prepare Ahead:* Set up a Wonder Table (see p. 3) with a purple cloth, battery-operated candle, and a Wonder Box (see p. 3). Display the Unit 1 Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 10 & 15) and Faith Word Poster (Class Pack—p. 22) to use later in the session. Place the prayer shawl inside the Wonder Box.

- Invite the kids to join you in a circle.

**SAY:** We will continue to hear stories about Jesus during Lent. Our story today is about Jesus praying.

**ASK:** Is it easy or hard to remember to pray?

- We recommend reading stories from the *Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook*. Allow an elementary-age child to read the story, "Praying in the Garden" (pp. 242–243) from the storybook or read Luke 22:39-46 from a CEB Bible.

**PRAY:** God, thank you for helping us remember to pray. Amen.

## Wonder Time

### Share a Story

*Supplies:* Celebrate Wonder DVD, TV, DVD player

- Invite the children to join you and to sit in a circle on the floor.
- Watch the Session 3 video (Celebrate Wonder DVD).

**WONDER:** Where do you like to pray? Have you ever prayed outside?

## Interactive Bible Story

*Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book*

*Prepare Ahead: Photocopy today's Take-Home Pages (Reproducibles 3F–3G).*

- Invite several readers to take turns reading and/or acting out the story, one section at a time.

**WONDER:** Why is this story important to remember?

## Wonder with Me

*Supplies: Class Pack, Wonder Box, scissors*

*Prepare Ahead: Lay out the Unit 1 Wonder Story Mat (Class Pack—pp. 11 & 14).*

*Locate and cut out the Unit 1 story figures (Class Pack—p. 6) if you haven't already.*

*Display the Unit 1 Faith Word Poster (Class Pack—p. 22).*

**SAY:** Today's Faith Word is *remember*.

- Show the Unit 1 Faith Word Poster and read the definition of the word.

**ASK:** Why should we not forget our faith? What is important to remember?

- Have a child place the praying hands on the Wonder Story Mat.

**WONDER** together:

- Why do you think Jesus chose to pray in a garden?
  - Do you like to pray out loud or in your head? I wonder if God can hear you either way.
  - What helps you remember the story?
  - What do you think is inside our Wonder Box today?
- Open the Wonder Box to reveal the prayer shawl.

**WONDER:** Do you know what a prayer shawl is?

**SAY:** A prayer shawl is like a small blanket that someone makes for another person. They say a prayer or bless the shawl, then give it to someone who is in need of prayer.

- Pass around the prayer shawl for the children to see and feel.

**WONDER:** How does this story make you feel?

# Experience Wonder

## Prayer Jar – All Ages

**Supplies:** *Reproducible Kids' Book, mason jars (one for each child), permanent markers, variety of other art supplies (such as crayons, scissors, paper, glue, stickers, and ribbon)*

**Prepare Ahead:** *Photocopy "Prayer Jar" (Reproducible 3E) for each child.*

**SAY:** Today, we are learning about different ways and places to pray. Let's create some ways to remind ourselves to pray during the day.

- Let the children decorate their jars in any way they choose using the art supplies.
- Then hand out copies of "Prayer Jar," and have the children color, decorate, and cut out the cards.
- Have the children fold the cards and place them in their jars.

**SAY:** When you're at home, you may pull one of these cards from the jar and pray in the way it describes.

## What Did You Pray? – All Ages

**Supplies:** *plastic cups (2 for each pair of children), string, paper hole punch, scissors*

- Divide the children into pairs. Distribute the supplies, and invite the pairs to create a telephone together. Direct them to punch a hole in the center of the bottom of two cups, face the cups away from each other, thread a string through both holes, and tie the ends of the string in a knot inside the cups.
- When the pairs have finished making their telephones, invite one child in each pair to speak a short prayer into one cup while the other child puts the other cup up to his or her ear and listens. Then have them switch.

**SAY:** It is special to say prayers and to know someone is always listening. God is always there to hear your prayers.

## Examine the Bible Verse – Early and Older Elementary

**Supplies:** *CEB Bibles*

**SAY:** Our Unit 1 Bible verse is Luke 22:19c Let's find it in our Bibles.

**ASK:** Is Luke in the Old or New Testament? (*New*). Where is the Book of Luke located in the New Testament? (*third book*) In what chapter of Luke is our verse located? (*22*) What is the verse number? (*19*)

- Gather the kids around the Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 10 & 15).  
Read the verse together.

**ASK:** Why is it important to remember or memorize Bible verses? What other verses do you remember?

## Peaceful Place – Preschool and Early Elementary

*Supplies:* copies of the Unit 1 Faith Word (Reproducible Kids' Book 1F), Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook, I Can Say a Prayer by Sophie Piper, Every Which Way to Pray by Joyce Meyer, quiet toys and soft items, paper, crayons, markers, prayer labyrinth, music player, quiet music

*Prepare Ahead:* Photocopy the Unit 1 Faith Word Coloring Page (Reproducible 1F) for each child.

- Assist the children, as needed, as they interact with the items and books provided.
- Encourage children to color the Faith Word Coloring Page or draw a favorite part of today's Bible story.
- Encourage children to write or draw their prayer requests or use a finger prayer labyrinth.

*Tip:* All of the supplies/activities suggested for the Peaceful Place are optional.

## Wonder More

The following activities are supplemental to the session. Depending on your time, you may choose to skip these activities and go to the "Go in Peace" section.

### Preschool – Remembering

- Gather the children together.

**SAY:** Let's play a game to help us remember. I will do a motion, and you will repeat that motion. Then, I will add more motions and you will have to remember them!

- Do a motion like patting your head or hopping on one foot. Have the children repeat.
- Add motions to the first motion. See if the children can remember the sequence of motions.
- Repeat the game as long as desired, and allow other children to be the leader.

**WONDER:** Is it easy or hard to remember things?

## Early Elementary – Sand Prayers

*Supplies:* table covering, sand, battery-operated votive candles, decorative thin tape, disposable small pie tins, rocks, permanent markers or paint pens

*Prepare Ahead:* Cover the table and place a small amount of sand in each pie tin.

- Give each child a pie tin, candle, and rock.
- Let each child decorate the candle with the tape and draw a picture or symbol on the rock.
- Show the children how to place the candle and the rock in the pie tin. Let them run their fingers through the sand.

**SAY:** One way we can remember to pray is by placing a prayer tray on our table. The candle reminds us of the light of Jesus. We can run a finger through the sand as we say a prayer.

**WONDER:** What else could you put in your prayer tray to remind you of Jesus?

## Older Elementary – Prayer Stations

*Supplies:* supplies of your choosing, note cards, marker

*Prepare Ahead:* Create three-to-five prayer stations in your classroom. Ideas include an indoor garden, LED candle station, prayer wall, praying in color station, listening station (with spiritual music and headphones), and labyrinth station. Write and display an instruction card for each station.

**ASK:** Did you know that there are many ways to pray?

**SAY:** We're going to try some of them now.

- Have the children rotate through the stations as your time permits. Remember, the important thing is that the children try some different types of prayer. Help them as needed, but don't be overly concerned that they do things perfectly.

*Tip:* Be sure to have a method of signaling when it's time for the children to change stations. Let the children know what the signal will be. This will help avoid pileups at popular stations.



## Intergenerational – Prayer Walk

**SAY:** In our story, Jesus goes to the garden to pray.

**WONDER:** Where do you like to pray? Have you ever prayed outside?

- Gather your group together and take them outside. If you have a large group, split up into smaller groups that can walk together.

**SAY:** Jesus felt sad when he was in the garden, so he talked to God. Let's take a walk together. We will call this a prayer walk. As we walk, notice how you feel today. After you notice your feelings, quietly talk to God and say a prayer. You can also choose to pray for different things in different places.

*Tip: If the weather does not permit you to go outside, do this activity inside.*

## Go in Peace

### Spiritual Practice – Exploring Ritual Through Remembrance

- Gather the children together. Pair one older child with a younger child. You may do bigger groups if needed.

**SAY:** One way to pray is to pray with others. We are going to pray with our friends.

- Invite the children to share their joys and concerns with their partner. Then have them say a prayer together. Encourage the older child to help the younger child.

**SAY:** All people can pray no matter who they are, how old they are, or where they are. Prayer is such a special way to talk to God.

**PRAY:** God, we thank you for giving us friends to pray with. Amen.

## Family Spiritual Practice

*Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book; Leader Guide—p. 128*

*Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Family Celebration Letter" (p. 128) for each child.*

**SAY:** Let's look at the Take-Home Pages for today (Reproducibles 3F–3G). Ask your family to participate in the Family Spiritual Practice. Encourage your family to help you with the pages.

- Send a copy of the Take-Home Pages and the Family Celebration Letter home with each child that has not yet received one.