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| <p>Describe Jesus before His prayer time:</p> <p>(grieved, distressed, grieved to the point of death)</p> | <p>Prayer #1 (Matt. 26:39) (O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.)</p> | <p>Describe Jesus after His prayer time:</p> <p>(at peace, resigned, resolute, determined, ready to "drink the cup")</p> |
| | <p>Prayer #2 (Matt. 26:42) (O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done.)</p> | |
| | <p>Prayer #3 (Matt. 26:44) (same as the second prayer)</p> | |

Teacher's Toolbox

*Getting your class into God's Word
and God's Word into your class*

ExcitingBibleStudy.com

Life Series

Topical: Faithful to God's Will

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HOW TO USE TEACHER'S TOOLBOX: Make a four-page folded teacher's leaflet from the first two sheets by printing two-sided (or by putting the blank sides together). The other two sheets are for duplicating, displaying, distributing, or otherwise using as called for in the lesson plan.

Getting Started

Reaction to a statement

- Write the following statement on the chalkboard:

**The purpose of prayer is not to get God to move,
but to move ourselves closer to God.**
- Ask learners to react to the statement.
- Lead a group discussion, using the following questions:
 - When we pray about a situation, we often have in mind what we want God to do about it. Should we tell God what we want to happen? Why, or why not?
 - Can you relate an incident in which God answered a prayer for you in a completely unexpected way?
 - How do you handle disappointment when God does not answer prayer the way you want Him to?
- **Finding God's will may be difficult, but following God's will is often even harder. We know that "God loves us and has a wonderful plan for our lives," but sometimes that wonderful plan involves hardship, suffering, persecution and even martyrdom. When you discover**

God's will, are you going to be faithful to carry it out?

The model for faithfulness in following God's will is given to us by Jesus, who, in the Garden of Gethsemane, on the night before He was crucified, prayed, "Not my will, but Thine be done."

Exploring God's Word *Comparing parallel passages*

- Distribute copies of Item 1 which has three gospel accounts of the Gethsemane prayer (the Gospel of John mentions that Jesus and His disciples entered a garden but gives no details of the prayer vigil).

- Ask members to work with one or two others to examine the parallel accounts of the event. Have them make a numbered list of actions in the fourth column, drawing from Matthew, Mark and Luke. For example, they might begin like this:

1. Jesus and His disciples went into the Garden of Gethsemane.
2. Jesus told the disciples to sit and wait for Him while He prayed.
3. Jesus took Peter, James, and John further into the garden.
4. Jesus began to be very troubled and sorrowful.
5. Jesus said

- Allow members seven to ten minutes to make their numbered lists. Then have one or two read their lists aloud.

Analyzing a passage

- On the chalkboard, draw a chart

like the one on page four. Do not fill in the information in parentheses.

- Lead the class to fill in the chart with information from the focal passage. This will help them see the strengthening effect prayer had upon Jesus.

- When the chart is completed, have members look at it silently for a few seconds and then share their observations with the class.

Listening assignments

- **Peter, in his first letter, talks about the fact that suffering is often involved in following God's will.**

- Make the following listening assignments (cut apart Item 2, which has the assignments, but not the answers given here in parentheses). You may need to duplicate Item 2 so you can give a listening assignment to each person present.

- Listen for a word that should come as no surprise to a Christian. (suffering, 4:12)

- Listen for a word that is a Christian response to suffering. (rejoice, 4:13)

- Listen for a word that is how we will feel when Christ's glory is revealed. (overjoyed, 4:13)

- Listen for a word that describes our status if we are insulted because of the name of Christ. (blessed, 4:14)

- Listen for a word that tells a cause of suffering that should cause us no shame. (Christian, 4:16)

- Listen for a word that tells what is coming to the family of God. (judgment, 4:17)

- Listen for a word that tells what those who suffer for God should continue to do. (good, 4:19)

- Read aloud 1 Peter 4:12-19 while members listen for their word. Then ask members to read aloud their assignments and tell what words they heard that met the descriptions.

- **Suffering joyfully is a normal part of the Christian life.**

Making It Personal *Acrostic summary*

- Write the word "Gethsemane" vertically down the left side of the chalkboard or a large sheet of paper. Give each person a pencil and blank piece of paper.

Ask learners to summarize the passage using the letters in the

Wrapping It Up

- **We can follow Jesus' example of letting the Father use our time in prayer to strengthen our resolve to follow His will.**

- Call on someone to lead the class in prayer.

word "Gethsemane." The summary can be done in a variety of ways:

- Key words
- One brief sentence for each letter
- A few brief sentences that stretch through the entire acrostic
- Poetry
- Here are two examples if your class needs help in getting started.

Grieving, He
Entered,
Telling
His disciples to
Stay and watch.
Earnestly, He prayed,
Making it clear that He was
Available to do God's will.
Now He was ready,
Even to die on the cross.

The Garden, I
Entered; I said,
Tarry
Here. My
Sleeping disciples would not
Even hear
My prayer, as in
Agony I determined God's will.
Now I am ready to
Endure Calvary's hill.

Matthew 26:36-46

36 Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto his disciples, Sit ye here, while I go yonder and pray.

37 And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy.

38 Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me.

39 And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed,

saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass away from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.

40 And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour?

41 Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

42 He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done.

43 And he came again and found them asleep again: for their eyes were heavy.

44 And he left them, and went away again, and prayed the third time, saying again the same words.

45 Then cometh he to his disciples, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take your rest: behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.

46 Rise, let us be going: behold, he is at hand that doth betray me.

Mark 14:32-42

32 And they came to a place which was named Gethsemane: and he saith to his disciples, Sit ye here, while I shall pray.

33 And he taketh with him Peter and James and John, and began to be sore amazed, and to be very heavy;

34 And saith unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful unto death: tarry ye here, and watch.

35 And he went forward a little, and fell on the ground, and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him.

36 And he said, Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt.

37 And he cometh, and findeth them sleeping, and saith unto Peter, Simon, sleepest thou? couldest thou not watch one hour?

38 Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak.

39 And again he went away, and prayed, saying the same words.

40 And when he returned, he found them asleep again, (for their eyes were heavy,) neither wist they what to answer him.

41 And he cometh the third time, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take your rest: it is enough; the hour is come; behold, the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.

42 Rise up, let us go: lo, he that betrayeth me is at hand.

Luke 22:40-46

40 And when he was at the place, he said unto them,

Pray that ye enter not into temptation.

41 And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed,

42 Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.

43 And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven strengthening him.

44 And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

45 And when he rose up from prayer, and was come to his disciples, he found them sleeping for sorrow,

46 And said unto them, Why sleep ye? rise and pray, lest ye enter into temptation.

Numbered actions

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

12.

13.

14.

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