

THURSDAY

Prayer in the Garden

Start by reading Matthew 26:36–46.

MAIN POINTS

Highlight verse 39 when Jesus made His plea to God but accepted God’s response. We cannot control how God responds or how events always turn out. We are called to simply bring our requests to God. Jesus poured out His heart to God. God wants us to open our hearts to Him as well—but to have the same complete trust when He answers.

Move to verses 45 and 46 and make mention of the incredible strength Jesus demonstrated as He faced His accusers. He begged God for another option, but when the accusers showed up, Jesus stood up and fearlessly faced the difficult path that was before Him.

Take a few moments to ask your student what else about this passage stands out to him or her. If needed, use one of the questions to the right to spark conversation.

FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

When was a time you went to the Lord with a burden so heavy that you could feel it physically weighing on you? *(extreme grief, anxiousness, fear, etc.)*

When was a time God did not answer a prayer the way you wanted, but you knew you had to submit and follow His leading? *(separating from a friend who was not following the Lord, showing kindness to someone who was not kind, etc.)*

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PRAYER

End by praying that we would trust God enough to share our struggles and needs but also to respond in faith to His response.

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FRIDAY

Arrest and Trial

Start by reading Matthew 26:47–68 and Matthew 27:1–26 (This is long, so you may want to share the reading.)

MAIN POINTS

Point out verse 52 when Jesus consistently treated people with love and kindness, regardless of how they treated Him. Even though Jesus was being arrested for something He didn't do, He never demonstrated an attitude of hatred or revenge. He clearly modeled how we are to respond to adversity.

Take a minute to go back through the torture Jesus went through before He was led to the cross. You don't have to spend too much time on the details, as they are hard to fully comprehend, but you do want your student to understand the severity of the punishment He endured for our sins.

Take a few moments to answer any other questions your student has pertaining to this passage. The questions to the right can be used for further discussion.

FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

When was a time you were mistreated or treated unfairly? Did you respond to the offender with love and kindness? (*standing up for God's Word at school and being ridiculed, being made fun of for your appearance, etc.*)

When was a time someone else had to suffer the consequences of your actions? (*sibling was punished for your mistake, entire family was out a vehicle because you drove the family van through the garage door, etc.*) How did that make you feel? How did it make others feel?

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PRAYER

End with a prayer of thankfulness to Jesus for loving us enough to die for us. Pray we would love our enemies and treat them with the same kindness Jesus demonstrated.

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SATURDAY

Death and Burial

Though these events happened on Friday afternoon, Saturday is a good day to discuss them because this is the time when Jesus was buried and all was quiet. Start by reading Mark 15:25–46.

MAIN POINTS

Highlight verse 34 when Jesus felt complete isolation and loneliness. He felt as if God had left Him and turned His back on Him. He had endured such extreme physical pain, yet it was the emotional pain that took the biggest toll on Him. Explain that because of the separation Jesus experienced, as believers, we will never have to face separation from God.

Move to verse 46 and talk about the sense of defeat that was felt by those around Jesus after His death. They knew He was God, but the finality of death is something we all can relate to. They could not see past the grief they were experiencing.

Use the questions to the right and any other comments your student has to continue the discussion.

FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

When was a time you felt alone? How is loneliness affecting you during this season of social distancing? How can we know for sure that God will never leave us?

When was a time you felt complete hopelessness about a situation? (getting a failing grade, friend moving away, etc.) How did God bring hope to your situation?

PRAYER

End by praying for your family. Pray they would remember this time of togetherness during quarantine as a time they were reminded of the joy of family. Thank God for His constant presence in and around us.