



Jesus in the Garden

Lesson Aim: To know God wants us to watch and pray.

THE WORSHIP

Who God is: The King Who Loves

THE WORD

Bible Story: Matthew 26:36-41

What He has done: Jesus prayed in the garden.

THE WAY

Whisper Verse: "Watch and pray."

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"We love because He first loved us." 1 John 4:19

Unit 3: The King Who Loves			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
12	Jesus Is Anointed, John 12:1-3	Jesus approved of Mary's gift.	To give our treasure to Jesus.
13	The Triumphal Entry, Mark 11:1-10	Jesus rode into Jerusalem as King.	To praise Jesus as the King who came to save us.
14	Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet, John 13:1, 4-7, 12-17	Jesus washes His followers' feet.	To see Jesus' example of loving through serving.
15	Jesus and the Last Supper, Luke 22:14, 19-20	Jesus gave His followers a way to remember Him.	To know Jesus used His Last Supper to help us remember Him.
16	Jesus in the Garden, Matthew 26:36-41	Jesus prayed in the garden.	To know God wants us to watch and pray.
17	The Cross: Peter Denies Jesus, Luke 22:54-62	Jesus is denied by Peter.	To tell others we know Jesus.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Ephesians 6:18-20. Please join us in praying, "Thank You for submitting to Your Father's will to save us. Go before us this week, filling each classroom with Your Spirit that You might be pleased with our prayers and that the students might somehow grasp the power of prayer. Amen."



**THE WORSHIP
THE WORD &
THE WAY**

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Treasure Chest	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of praying hands
		Whisper Verse	Sign language for "Watch and pray."
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org.	Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse Song: "We Love" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Give Thanks to the Lord" "How Wide?" "I Will Remember" "It's Praise Time" "Let Everything That Has Breath" "Love One Another" "Sing Praises" Additional Hymn Suggestions: "Jesus Loves Me" "Oh, How I Love Jesus" Additional Song Collection Suggestions: Cedarhurst Toddler Bible Songs The Ultimate Bible Song Collection for Kids Vol. 1
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	<i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: Kings & Kingdoms Unit 3, Lesson 16
THE WORD	Up to 10	Watch the Word: Matthew 26:36-41	Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Matthew 26:36 Visual: Flower or something found in a garden
THE WAY	Up to 25	Craft: Watch and Pray Flower	Sturdy, green paper; small paper plates; large craft sticks; paper fasteners; tape; crayons or markers
		Game: Prayer Walk	None
		Game: Prayer Postures	None
		Snack: Garden Goodies	A food grown in a garden (i.e. carrots, celery, grapes, etc.)
	Circle of Prayer	None	
	Final 5	Final Five	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 3, Lesson 16 Color This Story: "Jesus Prays in the Garden"
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Say & Do: Matthew 26:36-41	None
	Up to 10	Game: Pass the Love of Jesus	Large heart-shape, Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse "We Love," CD Player
	Up to 10	Game: Hugs of Love	Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse "We Love," CD Player
	Up to 10	Story Time	Any story about praying

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Watch and pray

THE WELCOME

Welcome each child as they arrive. **Hello _____.** I'm glad you are here! **Come open the Treasure Chest to find today's treasure.** Child unlocks the Treasure Chest to receive a stamp or sticker of praying hands. **Today, we will hear how Jesus prayed in the garden. He told his friends there to watch and pray. That is today's Whisper Verse.** Teach the Whisper Verse in spoken language and in sign language below. **We call it the Whisper Verse so you can whisper it to others.***

SIGN LANGUAGE: "Watch and pray."

(For visual demonstrations, see www.signingsavvy.com.)

Each time we say today's Whisper Verse, let's say it with two hand motions:

"Watch (and)" Make an upside down letter "V" shape with both hands. Start both hands by head and move hands away from the body and down continuing to keep the hands in the "V" shape.

"pray." Place palms together in the traditional gesture of prayer.

Allow children to enjoy free play until everyone has arrived. **Let's sing the "Clean Up Song" as we put toys away before Praise Time.** Praise any child who helps. Allow several minutes for clean up.

**"Clean Up Song": Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

Gather and seat children in Praise Time area.

***Today's Whisper Verse:** "Watch and pray," Matthew 26:41a. The Whisper Verse is a tool to help the children learn a major point in the lesson. It is coupled with sign language or hand motions as a memory aid. The verse is not necessarily chosen from today's Bible story.



Jesus as the King who loves

THE WORSHIP

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play "It's Praise Time!" as children move to that designated area.



It's Praise Time—our time to sing praise to the King who loves. He loves to pray for us and He loves to hear our prayers. In fact, He tells us to "Watch and pray." That's our Whisper Verse for today. Review Whisper Verse together: "Watch and pray." Include sign language. **Jesus wants us to watch what is happening around us and to pray about it. Let's spend time with God today by praying to Him. We will begin with a special prayer asking Jesus to bless the offering.** Play: "Give Thanks to the Lord" as background music while collecting the offering.

Jesus sees us give our offering. He hears us when we pray. He hears us right now as we sing praises to Him who is King over all the earth. Sing: "Sing Praises."

Jesus loves us and He loves to hear us pray. In our prayers, we can tell Him we love Him. We can ask Him to help us love others. Sing: "We Love."



We love Delbert and Lello. Let's find out what our favorite donkey and lamb are doing today. Perform *The Adventures of Delbert and Lello* puppet script or read storybook: Kings & Kingdoms Unit 3, Lesson 16.



We can watch and pray anywhere we go. We can watch for things to pray about and people to pray for. We can pray for others to grow closer to God and to love one another. Sing: "Love One Another."



Jesus prays in the garden

THE WORD

Before we begin our Bible Time, let's say our Classroom Promise with the motions.

With my eyes on my teacher;	Point to eyes.
My mouth quiet as can be,	Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.
I will listen to hear,	Cup hand around ear.
How God loves you and me.	Hug self, point to others and then self.

Last time, we learned Jesus had supper with His friends. Today, we will hear how Jesus then prayed in a garden. Handle Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Matthew 26:36.

WATCH THE WORD: MATTHEW 26:36-41

Read the points below or retell the passage in your own words using the points below as a general guide. To illustrate the story, hold a flower or something typically found in a garden. Other visual options include craft sample, Color This Story, or any related picture.

- Jesus took His friends to the garden.
- He said, "Sit here and wait."
- He told them He was very sad.
- And then He went over to pray.

- When He came back His friends were asleep,
- They must have had a long day.
- Jesus asked them to stay awake.
- He told them, "Watch and pray."



What did Jesus do by himself in the garden? (Prayed.) Let's find our answer in the Bible.

Read Matthew 26:36 from teacher's Bible.

What did Jesus want His friends to do? (Watch and pray.) Our Whisper Verse tells us the answer. Let's say it together: "Watch and pray." Include sign language or hand motions.



Watching and praying

THE WAY

Teacher Tip: Craft and games can be presented at the same time in different areas or one at a time depending on class size and teaching style.

CRAFT: WATCH AND PRAY FLOWER

Purpose: This craft remind children that Jesus wants us to pray to Him.

Supplies: Sturdy, green paper; small paper plates (or flower shapes cut from cardstock); large craft sticks; paper fasteners; tape; crayons or markers

Prepare: Cut shape of praying hands from sturdy, green paper. On paper plate, print: **“Watch and pray.”**

Matthew 26:41. Cut around paper plate to create petal edges. Punch hole in bottom of paper plate.

Teacher Tip: Instead of pre-cutting praying hands, trace and cut out the shape of each child’s closed hand for their leaves.

Directions:

1. Color paper plate to look like a flower.
2. Connect base of praying hands as leaves with paper fastener.
3. Tape craft stick to bottom of flower as a stem.

Craft Discussion:

- **Who remembers the Whisper Verse? (“Watch and pray.”) Let’s say it together with the hand motions.**
- **Where did Jesus go to pray? (A garden.) God heard Jesus praying in the garden.**
- **Do you think Jesus wants you to pray to Him? (Yes. He wants us to watch and pray.)**
- **Hold up your flowers. Move your paper hands to like you are praying in your garden.** Show children how to rotate the hands up in front of the flower.
- **We made flowers like the ones that were in the garden where Jesus prayed. Put your flower in your favorite place to pray so you can see it when you praying!**

THE WAY *continued...*

GAME: PRAYER WALK

Purpose: This game will teach children to watch for prayer needs and pray for them.

Supplies: Pictures of various places we can pray (i.e. home, church, playground, backyard, grandparents' house, daycare, school)

Where did Jesus pray? (In a garden.) God heard Jesus' prayer in the garden. We can pray anywhere and God will hear our prayers. Follow me and let's see where we can pray. Let's watch for the people and things for which God wants us to pray.

Directions:

1. Tape the pictures of places we can pray in different areas of the room.
2. Have children form a line behind you. Play "Follow the Leader" and have children imitate your actions as you walk.
3. Lead children to the first picture.
4. **What is this a picture of?** (Children respond.)
5. **What does Jesus want us to do here?** Children say and sign: **"Watch and pray."**
6. **Who or what can we pray about here?** (Children respond.)
7. Repeat steps 4-6 for each picture.
8. **In each place, we can pray people there will love one another and grow closer to Jesus.**

GAME: PRAYER POSTURES

Purpose: For children to understand God hears them no matter how they choose to pray.

Supplies: None

There are many different ways to pray. When Jesus was in the garden, He knelt on the ground to pray. Let's kneel and pray like Jesus did. Then you can watch and pray with each other!

Directions:

1. Have the children kneel on the floor and close their eyes.
2. Pray: **Thank You, God, for hearing our prayers.** Children respond by saying: **Amen.**
3. Let each child take a turn choosing a prayer position (i.e. standing, sitting, laying, kneeling, hands raised high, hands clasped in front). Have all children watch and copy that child's position so they can pray together.
4. Lead that child in the following prayer: **Lord, I pray for _____** (someone they love).
5. All the children respond by saying: **Amen.**
6. Continue until each child has a turn to pick a prayer position and a person to pray for.

THE WAY *continued...*

SNACK: GARDEN GOODIES

Purpose: Children enjoy garden fruits or vegetables as they discuss the story of Jesus in the garden.

Snack Suggestion: A food grown in a garden (i.e. carrots, celery, grapes, etc.)

Directions:

1. Serve snack and drink.
2. **Let's sing the "Blessing Song."** Sing to the tune of "Frere Jacques" or other familiar tune.
God our Father, God our Father. Once again, once again.
Thank You for our blessings. Thank You for our blessings. Amen. Amen.
3. Lead discussion below while children enjoy their snack.
 - **Who remembers our Whisper Verse?** Choose a child to demonstrate motions to Whisper Verse: "Watch and pray."
 - **Jesus needed to talk to God. What did He do?** (Pray.) **Where did He pray?** (In the garden.)
 - **We can pray and talk to God, too. Where can you pray?** (At home, at church, outside, inside, on the playground, in the car, and everywhere.) **God will always hear your prayers!**
 - **Jesus prayed in the garden at night. What time can you pray?** (Morning, lunch time, before bed, and anytime.) **God will always hear your prayers!**
 - **Jesus prayed by himself. Who can you pray with?** (Anyone including parents, family members, friends, or alone.) **God will always hear your prayers!**



CIRCLE OF PRAYER

God made you and He cares for you. He loves to hear you pray with private words or words you say out loud. Let's fold our hands and close our eyes. As I lift up your name to God in heaven, I will lay my hand on your shoulder. Let's pray together.

Dear God, thank You for making us and loving us. We lift up to You a special prayer for ____, ____, ____ (say each name). We pray for our families and friends. Thank You for teaching us how to love one another. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

COMPLETED CRAFT: Take home your "Watch and Pray Flowers." Tell someone how Jesus prayed in the garden.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY: Distribute Ponder, Pray & Play cards, if available. **Show this card to your family. Talk about how you can watch and pray anywhere and God will hear your prayers!**

COLOR THIS STORY: "Jesus prays in the garden." Discuss Bible Story and play Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse Song "We Love" as children color.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SAY & DO: MATTHEW 26:36-41

Purpose: This pantomime version of the Bible Story helps children remember the story details.

Supplies: None

Directions: With each phrase, the teacher says the phrase and acts it out with hand motions; then repeats the same phrase and motions with the children.

- **Jesus took His friends to the garden.** (Hug self as hugging a friend.)
- **He said, "Sit here and wait."** (Extend palm as stop signal.)
- **He told them He was very sad.** (Make a sad face.)
- **And then He went over to pray.** (Fold hands in prayer.)

- **When He came back His friends were asleep,** (Rest head on folded hands.)
- **They must have had a long day.** (Pretend to yawn.)
- **Jesus asked them to stay awake.** (Open eyes wide.)
- **He told them, "Watch and pray."** (Whisper Verse sign language.)



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"We love because He first loved us." 1 John 4:19

GAME: PASS THE LOVE OF JESUS

Purpose: To help children memorize and review the Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: A large heart-shape, Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse Song "We Love"

Jesus loves you and me. Jesus wants us to love each other, too. Pretend this heart is your love. As we say our new Bible Memory Verse, we are going to pass the heart around the circle. We will be giving our love to each other!

Directions:

1. Stand in the circle with the children.
2. Say the Bible Memory Verse, pausing after each phrase for children to repeat.
3. Have the children pass the heart around the circle as they repeat the Bible Memory Verse.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

GAME: HUGS OF LOVE

Purpose: Children practice showing love as instructed in the Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse Song "We Love," CD player

Jesus loves you and He loves me. What does Jesus want us to give each other? (Love.) We can show each other love by giving hugs. When the music starts, hug as many as you can before the music stops.

Directions:

1. Start the music.
2. Children hug as many other children as they can before the music stops.
3. Stop the music.
4. Play again as time allows.



STORY TIME

Gather the children and read a favorite story. This can be a Bible Story, a chapter from *The Adventures of Delbert & Lello*, or a story about praying.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY

Unit 3, Lesson 16: Jesus in the Garden

PONDER! Read Matthew 26:36-41 with your family. Talk about how Jesus wanted to talk to His Father in heaven so He went to the garden and prayed. While He was there, He asked His friends to "watch and pray." We can talk to God by praying and God will always hear our prayers!

PRAY! Pray this prayer each day this week: "Lord, help us watch and pray for the needs of others. Thank You for hearing us everywhere we pray. Amen."

PLAY! Go on a Prayer Walk with your family. Walk to different rooms in your home and places in your neighborhood. Stop to pray at each place. Pray for the people there to love one another and grow closer to God. Remember to watch and pray everyday!

Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse: 1 John 4:19

"We love because He first loved us."