



Jesus in the Garden

Matthew 26:36-46

Running time: Approximately 6 minutes

Set: The set for Units 1-4 is designed to look like a Medieval Castle. It is the Palace of the King. There is a curtained opening center stage, a ramp stage right and an upper level where characters can enter. There is a window stage left for puppets and a hinged stained glass window stage right that opens to reveal the Bible. For added interest, build windows and levels where the characters and puppets can pop up unexpectedly.

Characters: Theophilus is the Keeper of the King's Gardens (and so much more) He is a wise, old sage with the wisdom of the ages and great knowledge of God's Word. Squire Goofus, the Gallant, is a young man who wants desperately to be a noble knight in the King's guard. He is very naïve and a bit clumsy.

Plot: Theophilus tells Gus how Jesus prayed in the Garden the night before His death that God's will would be done. We learn that it is okay to pray for needs but we should also pray that God's will be done.

Costumes: Robe, tunics, white wig and beard, sandals, boots, chain mail.

Props: Sword, stick horse, cane, bible.

Sound effects (SFX):

1. Intro/Outro music suggestions: familiar castle/battle themes from movies such as The Lord of the Rings, or Monty Python and the Holy Grail, or Productiontrax.com – The Price of Freedom, Iron Lore, Prepare for Battle, Rain of Fire -: 80; (i-movies: Timely, pursuit, heroes, flurry, saber.)
2. Horse galloping
3. Horse whinny
4. Stained Glass Window suggestion: "King of Kings and Lord of Lords" from Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus" or other royal song clip. Music plays when this window is opened during each episode to reveal the Bible.

Visual effects (VFX):

1. Video Intro featuring knights on horseback is available at ResourceWell.org
2. Hinged, stained glass window holds the Bible. When opened, light shines out and music plays.
3. Scripture Slide: "My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done." Matt. 26:39b
4. Closing Slide: "Serving the King is the noblest thing!"

Adaptations:

1. Sound Effects: instead of using recorded effects, have children make the sounds
2. Voiceovers: may be spoken off stage
3. This illustration is also available in storybook form located at ResourceWell.org

Kingdom Adventures
Unit 3, Lesson 16
Jesus in the Garden
Matt. 26:36-46

Time: Approximately. 6 minutes

Voiceover: (VFX: Video intro)

In ancient days noble knights roamed the land doing good deeds and acts of service for their king. Many of those brave squires served the greatest Lord of all, the King of Kings! Travel with us now as we ride with these mighty men of God on their quest for Kingdom Adventures! (SFX: horse galloping)

Gus (Enters through house with his horse, Rufus, on his back) **Yip, yip, yip, yip, YEE-HAW! Make way, clear a path! Here we are, Rufus.** (Takes Rufus off his back) **Get off my back, Rufus. You really need to lose some weight. Have you considered the going on a diet?** (SFX: Horse whinny) **Alright, no need to get excited. It was just a suggestion. Oh, there you are, teacher. Hail, Theophilus! I said, Hail Theophilus! Perhaps he is asleep.** (Shouts) **Hail Theophilus! Oh no, maybe he stopped breathing! Don't worry, I know CPR! I shall save you!** (Pushes on his chest) **Puff, puff, breathe! Clear! Puff, puff, breathe!**

Theophilus

Gus!! What are you doing?!

Gus

Lay back, Theophilus! I'm saving your life!

Theophilus

Stop pounding on me! I'm not dying!

Gus

Are you sure?

Theophilus

If I was dead I think I'd know about it.

Gus

But, you were sitting there so still.

Theophilus

I was praying.

Gus

Praying?

Theophilus

Yes, I love to come out here and spend my prayer time in the garden talking to the Lord.

Gus

You actually have a special time just to pray?

Theophilus

Of course, doesn't everybody?

Gus

Should we? I just pray when I need something.

Theophilus

Well, it is good to pray when you have a need. But, we should also pray just to spend time with God. In fact, Jesus prayed all the time. Here, let me get His Word, right now! (Opens stained glass window and removes Bible.) (SFX: "King of Kings and Lord of Lords") **Ah, that's like a prayer set to music. This report is about Jesus praying in the Garden of Gethsemane.**

Gus

The Garden of Whosie-whatsie?

Theophilus

Gethsemane.

Gus

Gesembally.

Theophilus

Repeat after me, Geth.

Gus

Geth.

Theophilus

Sem.

Gus
Sem.

Theophilus
Man.

Gus
Man.

Theophilus
Nee.

Gus
Nee.

Theophilus
Gethsemane.

Gus
Gesmemberly!

Theophilus
Close enough. Anyway, it was the garden where Jesus went to pray after the Last Supper.

Gus
Is this going to be sad?

Theophilus
I'm afraid so. Jesus said His soul was overwhelmed with sorrow. He knew that it was almost time to give His life on the cross.

Gus
So, what did Jesus do?

Theophilus
He did the wisest thing we can do.

Gus
He prayed?

Theophilus
Yes, Jesus asked His friends, Peter, James and John to come and wait for Him while He prayed, *"My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."*

Gus
What cup was He talking about?

Theophilus
By saying 'cup', He meant His suffering and death. God's plan was for Jesus to save the world from their sins by dying on the cross.

Gus
I would've prayed for God to choose another way to save the world.

Theophilus (SFX: Scripture Slide)
Jesus did ask if there was another way, but He also prayed this prayer, *"My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done."* Matthew 26:39b

Gus
Wow...so Jesus wanted to live, but most of all, He wanted to do whatever God wanted, no matter what!

Theophilus
Correct. Saying "may Your will be done" is like saying, "I want whatever God wants."

Gus
And Jesus chose to do God's will, even though it cost Him everything. Teacher, I have been praying selfishly.

Theophilus
Why do you say that, Gus?

Gus
I always pray just for the things that I want.

Theophilus
I see.

Gus
For instance, I prayed that I would have a horse and God gave me Rufus. I prayed for a sword and I got this one. (Drops sword)

Theophilus

I pray that you'll stop dropping it.

Gus

And lately I've been praying that I would become a knight. All my prayers are about me, me, me.

Theophilus

Gus, it's all right to pray for things you want. But, like Jesus, we must be asking God what He wants for us. You see, prayer is not a wish list, it is simply the way we talk with God.

Gus

So I can talk with God and ask Him to make me a knight, but most importantly, I can ask God to do what *He* wants with my life.

Theophilus

Exactly! And, you never know, it might be God's will and His plan for you to become a knight so that you may help others.

Gus

That's it! Theophilus, I've got it!

Theophilus

Got what?

Gus

I have been searching and searching for something to give up for Lent but I've got a better idea. I am going to give God a special time every day when I'll talk to Him and pray that His will be done!

Theophilus

That is a wise way to serve our King.

Gus

A wise man helped me see it.

Theophilus

You're growing on me, Gus. Come, let's all say our Kingdom Code together.

Both

Serving the King is the noblest thing! (VFX:

Serving the King is the noblest thing!) (SFX:

Outro music)

Gus

Let's go pray for the kids!

Theophilus

Great idea! See you next time, kids! (Both exit)