

# Jesus Prays for His Disciples and for Himself

John 17



New Testament 5  
Part 2: Jesus' Last Week

## SUNDAY MORNING

New Testament 5 [Class Attendance Sheet](#) provided in activity sheets (NOTE: The document is interactive, allowing the teacher to type in the Class, Teacher, and the children's names.)

### SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

John 17; Matthew 26:36-44; Mark 14:32-42; Luke 22:39-46

### MEMORY WORK:

YOUNGER CHILDREN: "Pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

OLDER CHILDREN: "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God" (Philippians 4:6).

### SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF LESSON FOR WORDS):

A [song book](#) and [audio recordings](#) of many of the curriculum songs are available on the curriculum Web site.

- ["My God is So Big!"](#)
- ["Whisper a Prayer"](#)
- ["We Can Talk to God"](#)
- ["Time to Talk to God"](#)
- ["Jesus Taught Us How to Pray"](#)

### LESSON VISUALS AND TEACHING AIDS (NOTE ANY DISCLAIMERS):

- See [AP's Pinterest page](#) for ideas on bulletin boards, visuals, crafts, etc. [DISCLAIMER: Pins may sometimes need to be adjusted to be Scriptural.]
- [Jesus' Ministry & Last Week](#) Bible fact cards (provided under "N.T. 5 Bible Facts" on curriculum Web site)
- "Summary of the Bible" from ["Kids Prep"](#) CD by Jeff Miller
- Betty Lukens' felt pieces
- Crucifixion and Resurrection A Beka picture set (DISCLAIMERS: use the cards, *not the lesson book*; note on cards CE 7.4, 7.5, and 9.1 that the holes would have been in Jesus' wrists)
- Images from [freebibleimages.org](#) on Jesus' [prayer](#) in the Garden and [betrayal](#) by Judas



## PERSONAL APPLICATION:

I can talk to God in prayer at any time, anywhere. Prayer is a very important part of my worship, but it should also be an important part of my life every day.

## LESSON STARTS HERE

### INTRODUCTION: (YOUNGER CHILDREN)

Review last week's lesson.

Have you ever been very afraid or upset about something? What do you do to help you feel better? Jesus knew that He was getting ready to die on the cross. He needed help to get through this. What do you think He did? Let's listen and find out, because what He did is something we can and should do every day.

### INTRODUCTION: (OLDER CHILDREN)

Review last week's lesson.

What is prayer? Jesus spent a lot of time in prayer, and He prayed for many different things. He was about to face the hardest part of His life on this earth—dying on the cross—and He knew He needed God's help to get through it. Today we're going to talk about Jesus' prayer and see what we can learn from His example.

### POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. After Jesus and the apostles ate their last supper together, Jesus had told them to remember Him by the special breaking of **unleavened** bread and drinking of the fruit of the vine. [Christians remember Jesus and His death every Sunday, eating unleavened bread and drinking the fruit of the vine (usually grape juice).] The apostles sang songs of praise to God and walked about 15 minutes toward the Garden of Gethsemane, near the Mount of Olives. As they walked, Jesus talked to the 11 apostles (Judas left during the meal) as recorded in John 14-16.



**NOTE:** “Unleavened” bread is flat bread, i.e., bread without yeast. After the Passover meal, it was traditional for Jews to sing psalms and hymns from Psalms 113-118, also known as the “Hallel.”

2. They crossed the Kidron Valley where a brook flowed during the rainy season (winter). [At that time of year, in March or April, the brook would most likely have been dry or nearly dry.] Just outside the Garden, Jesus took time to talk to His Father (John 17). He prayed:
  - That His apostles would continue His work after He died.
  - That His apostles would be strong and work together well (be unified).
  - That His apostles would love one another.
  - For those who would believe in Him because of His apostles, and for all Christians who would live in the future, i.e., the Church.
  - For Himself (John 17:1-5).

(Luke recorded more instances when Jesus prayed, but John 17 is the longest recorded prayer of Jesus.)



**RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS:** See the article “[Unity, Division, Doctrine, and Jesus’ Prayer](#)” by Dave Miller on the Apologetics Press Web site for a discussion about the biblical doctrine of unity.

3. Jesus and His apostles walked on to the Garden of **Gethsemane**—a place where they had been together many times before. They probably arrived there around 10:00 or 11:00 P.M.



**NOTE:** “Gethsemane” means “oil press”; the Garden probably included an olive grove. It was on the Mount of Olives, facing Jerusalem.

4. Jesus told eight of His apostles to stay at the entrance of the Garden and wait for Him. Then He took Peter, James, and John (His “inner circle,” i.e., the apostles closest to Him) a little farther into the Garden. He knew it would not be long until soldiers would come to take Him away and not long until He would be killed. Jesus was very sad (“My soul is exceedingly sorrowful”—Matthew 26:38). He asked Peter, James, and John to pray together while He went a little way off to pray by Himself. He wanted them to “stand watch,” like servants in charge of guarding the door of a house.
5. Jesus prayed the same thing three times: if it was possible, He asked God to take away the physical suffering He was expecting. But Jesus ended each prayer with “not My will but Yours be done.” He was not trying to avoid being killed, but He was dreading the physical suffering because Jesus was a man—just like the men around Him—and He felt the same things other people did (and still do). Jesus was in agony, praying fervently, with sweat “**like great drops of blood**” (Luke 22:44).



**NOTE:** “Sweat became like great drops of blood” could be a vivid word picture of how much He perspired, or it could refer to a real physical phenomenon. Under extreme stress, small capillaries under the skin can burst, resulting in actual bleeding. Whatever actually happened, it is impossible to adequately describe Jesus’ agony.



**RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS:** See the article “[Did Jesus Sweat Blood?](#)” by Dave Miller on the Apologetics Press Web site for a discussion about what Luke 22:44 could be referring to.

6. Instead of praying for strength, as Jesus had encouraged them to do, Peter, James, and John fell asleep. Luke 22:45 says they were “sleeping from sorrow.” Jesus came to them three times, after each of His prayers, and was very disappointed that they had fallen asleep each time. He knew that they needed prayer to help them be strong for the times when their faith would be tested. They did not give Jesus the support that He needed—support they had promised to give only a short time before. In fact, Peter had promised to die with Jesus!
7. Talking to His Father was very important to Jesus. He talked to God before and during every major event of His life (when He was baptized, after John the Baptist was killed, before He chose the 12, before He healed people, before He fed the multitudes, before His transfiguration, etc.). He prayed before daylight (Mark 1:35). He prayed alone in secluded places (wilderness—Luke 5:16; on a

mountain—Matthew 14:23). He even prayed all night sometimes (Luke 6:12). No doubt He talked to God throughout every day. To follow Jesus' example, we should talk to our heavenly Father throughout every day, too. "Pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17), which means to always have and keep a practice of prayer.

8. God can and will help us be strong so we can get through times when we are sad, or upset, or hurt. No problem is too big or too small for God.



**RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS:** See the article "[Defending the Bible's Position on Prayer](#)" by Kyle Butt on the Apologetics Press Web site for a discussion about attacks made on the Bible's teachings about prayer.

### PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—**BEFORE** CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

- Click here for complete [Activity Book](#) and [Answer Key](#)

#### Ages 2-5:

- "[Jesus Prays in the Garden of Gethsemane Coloring Sheet](#)" (provided in activity sheets)
- Prayer Garden: For each child, provide a drawing of garden rows on 8½ x 11 sheets of paper. Write "My Prayer Garden" on the top of each paper. On each "row," let the children glue a little sign on half of a Popsicle® stick. Instead of using the word "carrots" on a sign, for example, the words "my family" or "my friend \_\_\_\_\_," etc. could be used.
- "Simon Says" or "Mother, May I?" game to emphasize obedience.
- Have pictures of different scenarios children may face during the day (getting hurt, playing with friends, someone being mean, eating, riding in car, etc.) and discuss with them what they might pray for in each situation. (You can write scenarios on index cards instead of having pictures.) ("[Pictures of Scenarios to Pray For Activity](#)" provided in activity sheets)

#### 1st-2nd Graders:

- Bible Alphabet Soup game: Divide the class into teams. Give each team a set of alphabet letters (like the magnetic ones for refrigerators). Give the teams clues from this and previous lessons, and ask them to use the letters to spell the answers.
- "[Jesus Prays Crossword Puzzle](#)" (provided in activity sheets)
- Write main events from this and the first two lessons in this unit on construction paper. Have the children put the events in the correct chronological order. Make several sets so the children can work in small groups. ("[Chronological Events Activity](#)" provided in activity sheets)
- Have pictures of different scenarios children may face during the day (getting hurt, playing with friends, someone being mean, eating, riding in car, etc.) and discuss with them what they might pray for in each situation. (You can write scenarios on index cards instead of having pictures.) ("[Pictures of Scenarios to Pray For Activity](#)" provided in activity sheets)

#### 3rd-4th Graders:

- Bible Alphabet Soup game: Divide the class into teams. Give each team a set of alphabet letters (like the magnetic ones for refrigerators). Give the teams clues from this and previous

- lessons, and ask them to use the letters to spell the answers.
- [“Jesus Prays Crossword Puzzle”](#) (provided in activity sheets)
  - Help the children start a prayer journal. For each child, cut several sheets of copy paper in half and “bind” (staple, etc.) them with card stock on front and back to create a booklet. Let the children label/decorate it as their “Prayer Journal.” Have them write down things they are thankful for, people to pray for, requests they have, etc. Tell them to use this as they pray daily to help them remember what they want to pray for; they can even make notes next to items as prayers are answered.
  - Write main events from this and the first two lessons in this unit on construction paper. Have the children put the events in the correct chronological order. Make several sets so the children can work in small groups. ([“Chronological Events Activity”](#) provided in activity sheets)
  - On index cards write scenarios children face daily (taking a test, eating, visiting with friends, being asked to do something wrong, being told to do something by a parent that they don’t want to do, riding in a car, arguing with a friend, being tempted to cheat, lie, steal, etc.). Have the children draw one card at a time, and discuss with them what they might pray for in each situation. ([“Scenarios Children Face Index Card Activity”](#) provided in activity sheets)
  - Have the children read the following:
    - John 17
    - *Jesus Is Risen*, Contemporary Bible Series, Scandinavia Publishing House (DISCLAIMERS: p. 15—change “wine” to “fruit of the vine”; p. 43—change “power” to “your kingdom” and change “wine” to “vinegar” in both places it occurs; p. 53—note that the holes would have been in Jesus’ wrists)
    - “Talking to God” article from the [August, 2013](#) issue of *Discovery Magazine*

## SONGS:

### “MY GOD IS SO BIG!”

Author: Ruth Harms Calkin

[See Internet for words and tune]

### “WHISPER A PRAYER” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown\*

(Tune: See Internet)

Whisper a prayer in the morning,  
 Whisper a prayer at noon.  
 Whisper a prayer in the evening,  
 To keep your heart in tune.

God hears our prayers in the morning,  
 God hears our prayers at noon.  
 God hears our prayers in the evening,  
 So keep your heart in tune.

**“WE CAN TALK TO GOD” ([Click to Hear](#))**

Author: Unknown\*

(Tune: “Farmer in the Dell”)

We can talk to God,  
We should do it every day.  
He knows what we’re doing, and,  
He listens when we pray.

**“TIME TO TALK TO GOD” ([Click to Hear](#))**

Author: Unknown\*

(Tune: “All Through the Night”)

Now it’s time to talk to God, softly in prayer.  
Not it’s time to ask a blessing, softly in prayer.  
Bow your heads my little children, say your prayer to God in heaven.  
Not it’s time to talk to God, softly in prayer.

**“JESUS TAUGHT US HOW TO PRAY”([Click to Hear](#))**

Author: Unknown\*

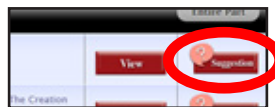
(Tune: “Jesus Loves Me”)

Jesus taught us how to pray, to God our Father everyday;  
Morning, noon, and night-time, too, we can pray and so can you.

Yes, we can pray! Yes, we can pray!  
Yes, we can pray; to God through-out the day.

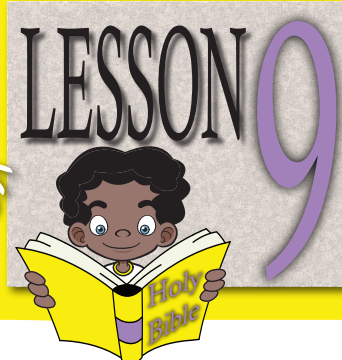
\*Author Unknown: Please contact us through the feedback button for this lesson if you are aware of any copyright information for this song.

\*\*\* IF YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS PERTAINING TO THIS LESSON, PLEASE CLICK THE “SUGGESTION” BUTTON BESIDE THE BUTTON FOR THIS LESSON ON THE CURRICULUM WEB SITE.



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## WEDNESDAY EVENING

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### SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF SUNDAY'S LESSON FOR WORDS):

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## PERSONAL APPLICATION:

I can talk to God in prayer at any time, anywhere. Prayer is a very important part of my worship, but it should also be an important part of my life every day.

## INTRODUCTION:

Review [N.T. 5 Bible Fact Flash Cards](#) (provided under “N.T. 5 Bible Facts” on curriculum Web site)

## POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

Review Sunday’s lesson (see [N.T. 5 Review Questions](#) for example questions)

We can always ask God for help and for things we need. But we should also praise God in our prayers, pray for others, and thank God for all He has done and continues to do for us.

How do we praise God? Who are some people we should pray for? What are some things you want to thank God for?

## PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—**BEFORE** CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

See Sunday morning’s lesson

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