

**Series Overview:**

Spring is the season for new beginnings! Whether you're cleaning out parts of your home or watching the flowers bloom in your garden, it's a time for new life and growth. Like a good gardener, Jesus wanted to help cultivate the seeds of faith in his friends so they could all grow closer to God. In this 4-week series, kids will learn all about the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus as he sowed the seeds of new life in the world. Kids will discover that God sent Jesus to save us, Jesus understands when we're hurting, makes all things new, and connects us to God.

Series Memory Verse: "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." -2 Peter 3:18a

Today's Lesson...

- **Bible:** Jesus Prays in Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36–46)
- **Big Idea:** Jesus understands when we're hurting.

Lesson Guide:**1. WELCOME ACTIVITY**

***Supplies = Coloring Page (1 per kid) and crayons for sharing**

- Set out crayons and give the kids a coloring page as they come in or allow them to play with toys.
- Spend time with them and help them get comfortable.

2. SHOW THE "LARGE GROUP" VIDEO or GO TO LARGE GROUP

- Be sure to dance and sing with the kids and to encourage them to participate and pay attention to each part of the video or large group session as directed.

3. BIBLE STORY REVIEW

***Supplies: Bible**

- Open the Bible to Matthew 26 and show the kids where today's story comes from.
- Ask the following questions to review the story...

- Where did Jesus go to talk to God in our Bible story? *To the Garden of Gethsemane.*
- Who did Jesus take with him to the garden? *His friends, the disciples.*
- What did Jesus ask his friends to do for him? Did they do it? *Jesus asked them to stay awake. No, they kept falling asleep.*
- Who understands when we are sad or hurt? *Jesus.*
- Let's say the Big Idea together: Jesus understands when we're hurting.

4. BIBLE STORY CRAFT

***Supplies: 1 flower page, 1 glue stick, 1 blue Band-Aid, 1 pink Band-Aid, 2 yellow Band-Aids, 4 green dot stickers, and 3 green rectangle stickers per kid**



- Give each kid a flower page and a glue stick.
- Give them a blue bandaid cutout and help them glue it down to finish the blue flower.
- Give them a pink bandaid cutout and help them glue it down to finish the pink flower.
- Give them a yellow bandaid cutout and help them glue it down to finish the firefly.
- Give them a Bible reference and Big Idea Cutout to glue to their craft.
- Give them 4 green dot stickers to add leaves to their flower stems.
- Talk again about how Jesus went through great pain to pay for our sins and to make a way for us to be in God's family. He understands what it feels like to hurt, and He is with us when we hurt!
- Tell them the flowers can remind them of how Jesus prayed in a Garden and the band-aids can remind them that Jesus is with them when they hurt like they learned in today's story!

5. MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE & ACTIVITY

***Supplies = a Bible and happy and sad face pages that total one or two more than the number of kids in your class and floor tape**

- Look up 2 Peter 3:18 verse and teach the motions to go along with it.
<https://photos.app.goo.gl/qjBiqVQfVEs8DHtA7>
 - Next try this game with the kids...
 - Tape the HAPPY and SAD faces in a circle in your area.
 - Have every kids stand on one to start the game.
 - Say the memory verse aloud together and then start the game by playing some music.
 - Have the kids hop on the floor and then to the next face as the music plays.
 - When they are all on a face, stop the music and have them look at what face they are on.
 - If they are on a sad face they should pretend to cry and if they are on a happy face, they should do a dance.
 - While they do, you and the other helpers should run around the circle giving hugs to the criers and high fives to the dancers.
 - Play several rounds, starting each round with the kids saying the memory verse.
- Remind the kids that Jesus comforts them when they are sad and that He celebrates with them in their happiness too!

6. PRAY WITH THE KIDS!