**Jesus in the Garden**

**A Bible Story From**

**Matthew 26:31-56; Mark 14:32-52;**

**Luke 22:39-53; John 18:1-12**

**Bible Story Number: 2010420**

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**Jesus in the Garden**

**Bible Story**

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**Background**

These events occurred the same night Jesus was betrayed. He had shared the Passover meal with his disciples and they followed him to a garden nearby.

He knew that he would be executed the next day. We learn about prayer from his example. We also learn that he prayed for his future followers, like us.

In this story, Jesus referred to himself as “the Son of Man.” His disciples would have known the meaning of this title or name. It was a name used only for “the Messiah.” Jesus was clearly claiming to be the Messiah.

**Story from the Bible**

**Matthew 26:31-56; Mark 14:32-52; Luke 22:39-53; John 18:1-12**

This is what the Bible says.

After they had eaten the Passover meal together, Jesus and his disciples went to a place called Gethsemane.

Jesus told them that they would all run away that night because of him. He quoted part of Zechariah 13:7 that says: “Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.” He went on to tell them that after he died he would be resurrected. He would go ahead of them to Galilee.

Peter responded, “Even if everyone runs away because of you, I will never run away!”

Jesus spoke to Peter and said, “I assure you, tonight, before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times!”

Peter was sure of himself and said, “Even if I have to die with you, I will never deny you!” The other disciples said the same thing.

They entered a garden there in Gethsemane. They had been there before. Jesus instructed his disciples to sit and wait while he went a little ways farther to pray. He took Peter and the brothers James and John with him.

Jesus was sorrowful and deeply distressed. He told them he was swallowed up in sorrow—to the point of death. He told the three to remain there and stay awake with him. Jesus went a little farther and began to pray with his face to the ground. He said, “My Father, if it is possible to do this some other way, I don’t want to die this horrible death. But, I don’t want my will in this, I submit myself to you and your way.”

Jesus returned to where the disciples were and he found them sleeping. He asked Peter if he could not stay awake with him for just one hour. Once again he asked them to stay awake and pray so they wouldn’t be tempted. He told them, “The spirit is willing but the body is weak.”

Jesus went away to pray a second time. He prayed saying, “My Father, if this is your way, I will do it. May your will be done.”

When Jesus returned to the disciples, he found them asleep again.

Jesus went back and prayed a third time. He repeated what he had prayed before. He prayed so fervently that his drops of sweat became like drops of blood falling to the ground.

When Jesus went back to the disciples again, they were asleep. Jesus asked them if they were still sleeping and resting. He told them the time was near. He said that the Son of Man (the Messiah) was being betrayed and handed over to sinners. He told them to get up. He said, “Let’s go, my betrayer is near.”

While he was still speaking, Judas Iscariot, one of his twelve disciples, arrived. A large mob carrying swords and clubs was with him. They were from the Jewish religious leaders, the chief priests, the scribes and the elders.

Then Jesus, knowing everything that was about to happen to him, asked them, “Who is it you’re looking for?”

They answered, “Jesus of Nazareth.”

Jesus responded, “I am he.”

Judas had told them that he would identify Jesus by kissing him on the cheek. So he went right up to Jesus and said, “Greetings, Rabbi,” and kissed him.

Jesus said, “Friend, why have you come? Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?”

Then he asked them again, “Who is it you’re looking for?”

“Jesus the Nazarene,” they said.

“I told you, I am he,” Jesus replied. “So if you’re looking for me, let these men go.”

The mob grabbed Jesus and arrested him. Right away, Peter took out his sword and took a swing at the high priest’s slave and cut off his right ear. (The slave’s name was Malchus.)

Then Jesus told him to put away his sword and added “because all who use a sword will die by a sword.” Jesus went on to ask, “Do you think that I cannot call on my Father, and he will immediately give me more that twelve legions of angels? But that would not fulfill what the Scriptures have said. This is exactly what prophesy said would happen.”

Jesus touched the man’s ear and healed it.

Then Jesus spoke to the mob, “Did you come out here with swords and clubs as if I were a criminal? Why didn’t you arrest me in the temple complex? I was there every day. I used to sit there and teach, but you didn’t lay a hand on me there. No, you arrested me here, under the cover of darkness, just as the Scriptures predicted. This is all happening just as the prophets said it would.”

Then all his disciples deserted him and ran away. One of his followers was only wearing a linen cloth wrapped around him. They grabbed him by the cloth, but he kept running, leaving the linen cloth behind and running away naked.

Then they tied Jesus up and took him away.

That concludes this story from the Bible.

**Retelling the Story**

Let’s review this story by retelling it as a group. We want to retell it as faithfully as we can to the story from the Bible. We do not want to add to it or leave out anything important. Who will get us started?

**Questions**

* Where did Jesus go to pray?
* Had he prayed there before?
* Did Jesus pray alone?
* What did Jesus pray about?
* Did Jesus ask more than once? How many times?
* Who came to arrest Jesus?
* How did Peter respond when they arrested Jesus?
* What did Jesus do about Peter’s response?
* Did these events fulfill prophecy? How do we know?
* What can we learn about prayer from the way Jesus prayed?
* What does this teach us about God?
* What should we do in response to this teaching?

**Prayer**

Prayer is more than a way to end the session. It is time to talk to God. Public prayer is a model for others. Boldly ask God to guide participants to use the Bible story with others. Ask God to give you and the participant’s insight and understanding as you think about this biblical event.