**September 20th, 2020: Elementary Sunday School Lesson
THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE lesson 1: The cup of God’s wrath**

***This lesson will challenge the children to live sacrificially by demonstrating Jesus' love to those around them.***

**GAME: BURDEN (Materials: burden cards printed, card stock, scissors, table)**

***In life, we will encounter burdens. In this game, you try to give your burden to somebody else.***

**PREPARATION:** Before class, print several sets of the "Burden" cards on medium card stock. Each player will get two cards. Depending on the size of the class use two or three "Burden" cards, the rest of the deck will consist of "Praise" cards. Cut out the cards. Thoroughly shuffle the cards before each game.

**WHAT YOU WILL DO:** Have the children sit in a large circle facing each other. Explain that the object of the game is not to have a "Burden" card in your hand at the end of the game. Deal two cards, face down, to each player. Have the players pick up their cards, being careful not to show either of their cards to the other players.

The teacher selects a player to go first. Using a clockwise rotation players take turns drawing one card from any other player's hand. Play continues for three complete rotations. As play proceeds, the number of cards in each player's hand will vary. At the end of the third round, players reveal their cards to determine who is stuck with the burden cards.

**Discussion Questions:**
1. How did you feel when you got a "Burden" card?*(Allow for discussion.)*
2. How did you feel when a "Burden" card was taken from you? *(Allow for discussion.)*3. How did it feel to be a player that was stuck with a "Burden" card at the end of the game? *(Allow for discussion.)*4. How would it feel to take all the world's burdens? Who could handle so much grief? *(Allow for discussion. Jesus.)*

**OPENING PRAYER AND PRAISE AND MEMORY WORK
"For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit." 1 Peter 3:18 NIV**

 **SCRIPTURE READING AND DISCUSSION**

**Introduction:** The Garden of Gethsemane, located across from the Kidron Valley, was a grove of olive trees where Jesus often met with His disciples. (John 18:1-2) The word Gethsemane originates from a Hebrew term meaning olive press. This location is also known as the Mount of Olives. (Luke 22:39)

**Read Luke 22:39-46**

**Discussion Questions:**
1. How often did Jesus and His disciples go to the Mount of Olives, which is also known as the Garden of Gethsemane? *(Quite often, as the scripture tells us, "Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and His disciples followed Him." Luke 22:39)*
2. What did Jesus tell His disciples to do? *(Pray, so that they would not fall into temptation.)*
3. What was Jesus' prayer? *(He asked if His Father was willing to take the cup from Him. Nevertheless, Jesus did not want His own Will, but rather His Father's Will to be done.)*
4. What does the cup represent? *(The sins of the world for which God's righteous wrath would be poured out.)*
5. Who or what strengthened Jesus during this time?*(An angel from Heaven.)*
6. What description tells you that Jesus was greatly distressed? *(His sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.)*
7. Why was Jesus in so much anguish? *(He would suffer many things, and then He would be crucified as a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the world.)*
8. Have you ever suffered for the sake of others? Do you ever sacrifice your time, talents, or treasures?*(Allow for discussion.)*

**ACTIVITY: WHAT’S YOUR MOTIVATION? (Materials: activity page for each child, pencils)**

***Kids read several situations and decide how the character's motivation will affect the outcome of the story.***

**WHAT YOU WILL DO:** The kids will read each situation, stopping to answer each question before proceeding to the next situation. When all of the children have finished, go through each scenario and have the children share their answers. Ask students to share why they answered the way they did. After everyone has had a chance to share their answers, read the answers that are provided on the solution page to the class.

**ACTIVITY: PRAYER CHAIN (Materials: dog tags, reinforcement labels, string or small chain, pens, scissors, hole punch)
*Kids have fun exchanging Dog Tags and praying for others.***

**PREPARATION:** Before class print copies of the dog tags so that each child gets 4 or 5 dog tags. Cut string in lengths of approximately 24 inches so you have one for each child. As an option, you can purchase inexpensive neck chains.

**WHAT YOU WILL DO:** Depending on the ages of the children, you can have them cut out the dog tags during class, or you can have the dog tags prepared ahead of time. Give each of the kids 4 or 5 dog tags, string or small chain, and reinforcement labels. The reinforcement label, if used, should be placed on the back of the dog tag around the hole at the top.

Have the kids write their names and one prayer request on each dog tag. The kids will then exchange their dog tags with others in the class. (Depending on the size of the class you may want to have the kids make enough dog tags so that they can exchange one of their dog tags with each member of the class - This will help to avoid popularity contests, etc.) Once the kids have collected their fellow students' dog tags they will thread them onto the string or small chain to make a necklace.

Tell the kids that they should take time each day during the week to look at each dog tag, and then pray for the particular student's request.

**APPLICATION**

Jesus' love for us is so great that He was willing to suffer many hardships, even death, on our behalf to save us from God's righteous wrath. We should be ever thankful for the incomprehensible gift of grace, which Jesus provides for us, in that we may be forgiven of our sins; thus we are able to spend eternity with Him in Heaven. We should sacrificially share this Good News with others.

**CLOSING PRAYER**

**What we learned:** Today, the children learned about Jesus and His disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane. Children also learned that Jesus' love for us is so great that He was willing to suffer many hardships, even death, on our behalf to save us from God's righteous wrath. (Scripture used: Luke 22:39-46)

**Memory Work:** "For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit." 1 Peter 3:18 NIV Practice this verse several times with your child during the week. This will not only help him or her remember the verse, but it will also help to reinforce what he or she learned during class.

**Suggested Parent/Child Activity:** Brainstorm with your child on different ways in which he or she can sacrificially demonstrate Jesus' love. Some ideas include: 1. Wake up 30 minutes early to pray for others. 2. Give the money they would normally spend on themselves to missions. 3. Give up playtime to talk with a friend about Jesus. 4. Help a friend or neighbor with a chore while sharing the Gospel.

**Daily Prayer:** Dear Jesus, thank You for the great love You have for us. Help us remember the enormous price You paid on our behalf so that our sins can be forgiven. Provide us with opportunities to share this Good News with others. Amen.