



OVERVIEW SECTION

How to Read This Lesson Plan

The **Overview Section** is the foundation of this lesson plan. The questions and activities for the class that you will be teaching on Sunday morning have been based (sometimes loosely) upon what you read in this section. The **Overview Section** is composed of five components (each component is underlined in the lesson plan):

How to Read This Lesson Plan (defines all components of the lesson plan)

Purpose of Sunday Morning Spiritual Formation (a reminder of why we do this)

Scripture(s) for the Session (a reminder that the scripture is to be read in every class)

Key Verses & Theology (background for teachers to ponder)

Themes to Focus on from the Scripture (the ideas that the session's lessons are based on)

The actual lesson is found in the second section, **The Sunday Morning Experience Section**. Think of this section as the step-by-step instruction guide to your Sunday morning teaching experience. There are four components to this section (again, each component is underlined in the actual lesson plan):

Preparation (including supplies needed)

Classroom Statement (a brief explanation of what will be taught/happening in the classroom)

Step-by-step process of the lesson (including the scripture to be read)

Suggested variations for age groups (Self-explanatory but not always applicable)

We encourage you to read the rest of this **Overview Section** before reading the **Sunday Morning Experience Section**.

Purpose of Sunday Morning Spiritual Formation

The purpose of Sunday Morning Spiritual Formation is, with God's help and in community, to hear and interact with the stories of our faith tradition, to pray, worship and play together, and to equip and support the building of relationships with God and with each other.

Scripture(s) for the Session: Luke 22:39-60

Please READ this aloud in every class you teach. The actual words to the scripture can be found in **The Sunday Morning Experience Section: Step-by-Step process of the lesson**. When reading to the class, please read it from the lesson plan (not an actual Bible) as the wording of the scripture has been modified to help clarify some language issues.

Key Verses & Theology: These are provided to help the teachers think about and build a framework for understanding the story to help in answering some of the questions that the students might raise in class.

“Pray that you may not come into the time of trial.” Why would Jesus tell the disciples to pray this? There seem to be at least two reasons why: One, because when praying for this, God might show the disciples another way that does not involve this particular trial (this is also what Jesus prays, *“Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done”*) and Two, because if the disciples are paying attention in prayer to possible upcoming trials, then the disciples will be prepared in prayer to respond to the trial when it arrives.

⁴⁴*In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground.* This time of trial that Jesus is about to face is no easy task. The anticipation of it is stressful. And most likely, Jesus is struggling at this moment with whether or not he’s going to be obedient to God’s call. Because once he allows himself to be arrested, then that’s it: Jesus won’t really have much of a choice anymore. Once he’s arrested, he’ll be in the system.

⁵⁰*Then one of the disciples struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear.* ⁵¹*But Jesus said, “No more of this!” And he touched his ear and healed him.* Here we have two different responses to the same situation. What is the reason for the difference? Because Jesus prayed and the disciples fell asleep. So then, when the time of trial arrives, Jesus is prepared and the disciples are not. Jesus at the beginning of his ministry tells his disciples to follow him. Here we have an example of the disciples not following Jesus and the consequences because of it – violent behavior.

Themes to Focus on from the Scripture: Themes are provided to help teachers understand the teaching of the *session* (not necessarily the class). Sometimes an activity in one class may not match up with any of the themes.

Stress – Visit a doctor enough times and the doctor will start talking to you about the stress in your life and the effects it is having on your body. The doctor will even suggest you find ways to reduce or remove stress from your life. One of the things the doctor will probably not say as a way to help lower your stress is to pray more. In this story, we see that in Jesus’ prayer time in Gethsemane, he’s experiencing great stress. But that stress does not then bleed into his other actions. The disciples buckle under the stress and attack the high priest’s servant. When we bring to God the things that cause stress in us, God will show us how respond making the situation less stressful.

Surrender – Jesus asks that God take this cup from him. God is not holding a gun to Jesus’ head. It is not predestined that Jesus must die on the cross. Jesus has the choice here to walk away from it all. He knows what Judas is doing. And Judas isn’t there yet. Jesus could stand up, walk out of town and go have a quiet life in the countryside with a nice Jewish girl and have some nice Jewish kids. Or he could go out with swords swinging – his disciples are certainly willing to fight. But instead, Jesus hands himself over to the authorities. And he does so because he gives himself over to an even higher

authority first; he surrenders his will to God. He lets go of what he wants to do, he lets go even of self-preservation, and says, "OK, God, I'll do it your way." There are a number of significant things that happen in this particular Bible passage, but this by far, is the most significant. Because nothing else happens the way that it does if Jesus doesn't surrender first. This is a pivotal moment in the story and Jesus' ministry. Jesus chooses God even if it means that he's going to die for it in an unjust and criminal manner, a manner that in *no way* accurately portrays Jesus' life, desires or work.

Betrayal – Jesus is able to surrender to God's will and, later, to the Pharisees because of his discipline of prayer. His disciples on the other hand are not so disciplined. The disciples fall asleep instead of praying for and with Jesus. Then Judas, who also is not praying (Jesus during the Last Supper encourages Judas to rethink his plan), arrives and betrays Jesus. Directly after this part of the story, the disciples flee after Jesus' arrest and Peter denies knowing Jesus. Betrayal happens when we choose our own ways rather than God's way. Betrayal is one of the results of not surrendering to God's Way of life. And those who suffer the most when we don't surrender are those who are choosing to surrender. This story clearly illustrates this point. The one person who *is* paying attention to God is the one who experiences the worst treatment – from both the Pharisees and his disciples.

THE SUNDAY MORNING EXPERIENCE SECTION

Preparation

- Print out this lesson plan and bring it with you on the Sunday Mornings you are teaching
- Arrive at pre-arranged time to join other teachers, shepherds and staff for an opening prayer.
- Supplies Needed: acrylic paint; plastic containers to hold the paint; Q-tips; large 6' picture to be painted; smocks; (To prep and finish picture: First, get the paper and tape it to the wall. Then print out the picture at the end of the lesson plan onto a overhead transparency, or use a LED projector attached to your computer/laptop. Shine it/adjust it until it fits the paper hanging on the wall. Trace the shapes. Then, paint it. It doesn't need to be painted well, the paper just needs to be filled in. The dots will cover it up later. Print out the picture in color and post to the wall so kids can look at the color scheme and see what the final product looks like. The teacher will have to do some finishing touches. Finally, glue boards on either end of the 6 foot sheet for weight. Then attach heavy duty yarn and hang in a hallway or room).

Classroom Statement

This Arts & Crafts class consists of reading the Garden of Gethsemane scripture story, and then using the painting technique of pointillism to create a reminder for the congregation to pray and in prayer to surrender to God's way, as Jesus did.

Step-by-Step Process of Lesson

Shepherd comes in with students

SHEPHERD ASKS "Question of the Day."

INTRODUCE yourself

Hi, my name is ____ and I want you call me (tell the students how they may address you).

PRAY (Short and simple is perfect)

God, thank you for this day and for each other. We need your help. Help us to learn about you this day. Amen.

TELL

- Easter is on April 4th this year.

- As we approach Easter, we remember the stories of Jesus' arrest and crucifixion before we celebrate his resurrection.
- For this session, we're going to read the story of Jesus' arrest.
- His arrest eventually led to his crucifixion.
- As you listen, listen for the ways different people in the story either oppose or fail to support Jesus.

READ Luke 22:39-60

³⁹Jesus came out and went from Jerusalem, as he had done every other night during the Festival of Unleavened Bread, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. ⁴⁰When he reached the place, he said to them, "Pray that you may not come into the time of trial." ⁴¹Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed, ⁴²"Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but your will be done." ⁴⁴In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground. ⁴⁵When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of grief, ⁴⁶and Jesus said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial."

⁴⁷While he was still speaking, suddenly a crowd of Pharisees, Sadducees, priests and their servants came, and the one called Judas, one of the twelve disciples, was leading the crowd. He approached Jesus to kiss him on the cheek (a common greeting at that time); ⁴⁸but Jesus said to him, "Judas, is it with a kiss that you are betraying the Son of Man?" ⁴⁹When the other disciples close to Jesus saw what was happening, they asked, "Lord, should we fight them with the sword?" ⁵⁰Then, without waiting for an answer, one of them struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear. ⁵¹But Jesus said, "No more of this!" And Jesus touched the servant's ear and healed him. ⁵²Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple police, and the elders who had come for him, "Have you come out with swords and clubs as if I were a criminal? ⁵³When I was with you day after day in the temple, why did you not arrest me then? Because you were afraid to be seen. So now, at night, when no one can see what you are doing is when you arrest me. This is your hour of power!"

⁵⁴Then they arrested Jesus and led him away, bringing him to the high priest's house.

ASK

- When Jesus asked the disciples to pray, what did the disciples do instead? (fall asleep)
- When the Pharisees, Sadducees and priests came to arrest Jesus, what did one of the disciples do? (attack them)
- What did Jesus do when that happened? (Stopped the fighting; healed the servant who'd been struck)
- Do you think if the disciples had prayed instead of slept that their response would've been different?

TELL

- In this story, we see how in prayer, Jesus gets clear about what he's to do and we see how those who don't pray, don't know what to do.

- And what Jesus gets clear about is that he is going to live God's way instead of his own way.
- If more people had done what Jesus had done, it's possible that we'd have a different story other than the one we read today.
- The same can be said for today.
- If more people would do what Jesus did, then it's very likely that we'd be living differently than we are right now.
- And one of the things that Jesus did was pray.
- So today in class we're going to work with the other classes and make a reminder for our congregation to keep praying.

EXPLAIN art activity

- On this large piece of paper (approximately 2 ½ feet wide by about 6 feet long), we have a picture of two people praying and the words of Jesus' prayer from the story we just read.
- We're going to color in these words and pictures by using Q-tips to dot the paint on to the pictures.
- This is called pointillism
- Here's a picture that uses pointillism:



- You can also look at the other posters in the Round Room as being done in the same style.
- Everyone needs to get a smock on.
- And then I'll assign two or three of you to an area to fill in with certain colors
- You start out with the darkest color
- And then you fill that in with mid-tones
- and then finish with the lightest color.
- For example, if the shirt is red, you will use darker red dots at the edges and in the creases first.
- Then you can work with the main red color and then add any highlights last.
- The painting of areas should incorporate a variety of colors with the main color being primary.
- For example: you might paint dark reds, add a few dots here and there with other darker colors and then use the primary red for 80% of the area and then add highlights with lighter colors.
- See the sample for visual help.

DO activity

- Spread the children out so that they have room to work -- space them around the table.
- If a group completes an area, have them throw out the Q-tips they are using and put the paint back in the main paint tub (clean up) BEFORE giving them another area to work on.
- The first group should work on the background and then what ever they can complete of some of the figures.
- The older kids/class should do the more detailed parts (if possible.)
- Allow about 5 minutes for clean up and hand washing. Encourage them to clean up and rinse out the painting cup for reuse.

**CLEAN UP
DISMISS FOR SINGING**



Abba, Father,
if you are willing,
remove this cup from me.
Yet, not my will
but yours be done

Jesus praying in Luke 22:42