



BIBLE STORY

The Way (Jesus Prays in Gethsemane) • Matthew 26:36-56 (Supporting: Luke 22:39-46)

MEMORY VERSE

Don't do anything only to get ahead. Don't do it because you are proud. Instead, be humble. Value others more than yourselves.
Philippians 2:3 (NIRV)

LIFE APP: HUMILITY

Putting others first by giving up what you think you deserve.

BOTTOM LINE

Put others first.

MEDIA LINK

[Elementary Video](#)

STORY OVERVIEW

We start off the month in **Matthew 26:36-56**. Jesus had been with His disciples at a special Passover meal where He demonstrated service and humility as He washed their feet. Afterwards, Jesus led them to the garden to watch and pray. Jesus gave us an important lesson in humility as He prays to His Father, "Not my will, but Your will." Jesus was soon arrested and put on trial to humbly face the darkest moments of His life.

Bottom Line: **Put others first.** As we look at some of Jesus' last interactions with His closest followers, we pray that we will understand the importance of putting others first. This isn't always our initial response, but when we choose to show humility and put others first, we get to point others to Jesus.

BEFORE THE LESSON ACTIVITY: Got Your Back

What You Do:

- Scatter around the room.
- Outdoor option – you could play this outside if you have a yard/patio. I recommend a designated play area.
- On your signal, everyone has five seconds to get behind someone else, and there can't be more than one person behind another.
- When you shout, "FREEZE!" whoever is not behind someone is out. (Kids will likely continue to jockey for position after you say, "Freeze." Use your judgment to decide who's out and who's still in. **Parents – remember to play along and model gracious winning and losing for your kids)
- Play until only two people are left.
- Repeat the game as time allows.



Two-Person Option:

Each person takes a turn standing behind the other. Place your hands on your family member's back and then say a kind and encouraging word about that person. Finish by saying, "I've got your back!"

What You Say:

"What does it mean to 'have someone's back'? (*Let kids respond.*) It's more than simply standing behind someone, isn't it? When you have someone's back, you're looking out for them. You're on their side protecting them and ready to help. **In our story today, Jesus asks His disciples to do something that was similar to having His back. Let's find out what it was and how well they did it.**"

WATCH THE ELEMENTARY VIDEO

AFTER THE LESSON ACTIVITY: Wake Up, Disciples

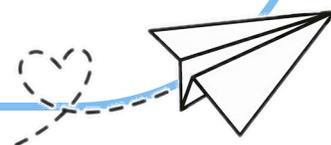
What You Need: Bible, penny, nickel

What You Do:

- Sit in a tight circle on the floor with a penny and a nickel in the middle of the circle, within reach of everyone in your family.
- Ask your kids if they remember anything involving some coins in today's Bible story.
 - *For a few coins, Judas led a mob of men to where Jesus was, though he knew they would harm him.*
- Everyone place their hands in their laps, close their eyes, and lower their heads as if they're asleep.
- Explain that you will read a statement about today's Bible story then you will pause.
- When they hear you say, "Wake up, disciples!" they should try to be the first to grab the nickel if the statement is true or the penny if it's false.

Game variation: If the competitive nature of anyone in your family will distract from the story review...place a nickel and penny in front of each person. They can pick up the one in front of them to answer each question.

- Replace the coins after each round.
- Read from the following list of review statements or add others of your choosing.
 - *For months the Jewish religious leaders had been plotting to kill Jesus. (True)*
 - *Judas was paid 20 pieces of silver to betray Jesus. (False; 30 pieces)*
 - *Jesus' disciples stayed up all night praying in the garden. (False; they fell asleep)*
 - *Peter promised Jesus he would never turn away from Him. (True)*
 - *Jesus prayed all night in the Garden of Eden. (False; Garden of Gethsemane)*
 - *In the garden, Jesus prayed for God's will to be done. (True)*
 - *Judas told the mob sent by the Jewish religious leaders that he would shake Jesus' hand and then they'd know who to arrest. (False; he would kiss Jesus)*
 - *When Peter cut a servant's ear with his sword, Jesus healed it. (True)*



- *After Jesus was arrested, His disciples ran away even though they had promised to never leave Him. (True)*
 - *When the Jewish leaders came to arrest Jesus, He hid in a grove of trees and prayed they wouldn't find Him. (False)*
 - *The disciples bravely stood up for Jesus in front of the angry mob who'd come to arrest Jesus. (False)*
 - *Jesus prayed for God's will to be done even if it meant He must die. (True)*
- At the end, ask each person to share examples from the story of ways people put others first and ways they didn't.
 - Share examples from your own lives of opportunities you've recently put others first
 - Share about a time when someone put you first in a big or small way.

BONUS: Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: Bible(s), markers/pens/pencils, paper

What You Do:

- Turn in your Bible to Philippians 2:3
- Explain that the Old Testament is all about God's story before Jesus lived. The New Testament picks up God's story when Jesus was born. Philippians 2:3 is in the New Testament and is part of a letter that a man named Paul wrote to a church in a place called Philippi after Jesus was on the earth.
- Read the verse aloud by asking the kids to repeat it after you. Have each person in the family read the verse out loud from the Bible.
- Distribute paper and markers. Write out the verse on your paper.
- Ask each person to underline two words they feel are important in Philippians 2:3.
- When finished, take turns sharing the words and why they are important to the meaning of the verse.
- Tape the verse somewhere you will see it and practice saying it from memory this week.

What You Say:

"Sometimes the way God wants us to live seems topsy-turvy or upside-down from the way we feel. He tells us to **put others first**, which is usually the opposite of what we often feel like doing. We like being first, getting our way, and doing what we want. But that's not what humility is about. Putting others first by giving up what we think we deserve is what it means to be humble. The words we wrote on our paper remind us that Philippians 2:3 is an upside-down kind of verse. God is telling us to do something that doesn't come easy to any of us. But don't worry! If you ask God to turn your attitude upside down, He will help you think of others instead of yourself."

