

# Jesus Prays for His Disciples

LOWER ELEMENTARY LESSON



**Theme:** Jesus prays for His disciples.

**Scripture:** John 17:6-19

**Memory Verse:** "I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to You. Holy Father, protect them by the power of Your name." John 17:11

**Get Ready:** Click [here](#) to get your complete supply list for this lesson.

## The Children's Sermon

### You'll Need:

- **"[Never Lost](#)"** handout - one per child
- **Pencils** - one per child

### Do This:

**SAY:** (Hold up the "Never Lost" maze handout.) **Have you ever worked one of these—a maze? You begin where it says, "start" and try to find an open path in the maze that will lead you all the way to the finish. There's no crossing through any lines; that would be too easy!**

**Try doing this one for yourselves.** (Give each child a maze and a pencil. Allow kids to start working. When kids come to dead ends, point out that mazes can be difficult

when one comes to a dead end, but they just need to back up and start again. After a few minutes, finish a maze to help kids find their way to the end.)

**Finding your way through life can sometimes be like finding your way through a maze. Each day we have to make choices and we don't always know which way to go. Sometimes we even choose the wrong path, and we have to back up and start over again.**

**ASK:**

- **Tell about a time you made a mistake or did something wrong?**
- **How did you back up and start over?**

**Jesus knew that life in this world is difficult. That's why He prayed for His disciples when it was time for Him to leave this world. He prayed to God, "While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe. No one was lost, but now I am coming to You and I ask You to protect them and keep them safe."**

**We, too, have guides to help us make our way through the maze of life—the Bible and prayer. Life may not be easy, but with God leading the way, we know that we will never get lost.**

**PRAY:** God, as we search for the path that will lead us safely through this world, we place our trust in You and ask for Your guidance and protection. In Jesus' name, amen.

## Bible Memory Verse

**“I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to You. Holy Father, protect them by the power of Your name.” John 17:11**

### **You’ll Need:**

- **“[World Puzzle](#)” handouts - one per small group**
- **Scissors**
- **Bibles - one per child**
- **Paperclips**

**Get Ready:** Before class, print and cut out puzzle pieces of the “World Puzzle” handouts. Use a paper clip to keep each puzzle set together.

### **Do This:**

Lead kids in these steps:

- Divide the class into small groups.
- Invite kids to turn in their Bibles to John 17:11.
- Give each group the puzzle pieces from one “World Puzzle” handout.
- Challenge them to put their puzzles together as quickly as possible.
- Once they have completed their puzzles, read the verse together as a class.
- Begin to take away puzzle pieces and see if they can still say their verse from memory.

**SAY:** Today we are going to hear a prayer that Jesus prayed for His disciples as He was leaving the world and returning to His Father. His disciples would still be in the world and would need help living like He taught them.

# Bible Interactive Experience

## You'll Need:

- **Bibles - one per child**
- **Construction paper - one per child**
- **Scissors**
- **Pens or pencils - one per child**

## Do This:

Lead kids in this experience with these steps:

- Give each child a piece of construction paper and ask them to fold it in half.
- Explain that they need to place the pinky side of their hand along the fold and trace their hand with fingers together like a praying hand.
- Help kids cut out their praying hand leaving the folded side intact so the praying hands open as a book.
- Invite kids to turn in their Bibles to John 17:6-19.
- Explain to kids that they'll be looking for what, specifically, Jesus prayed for His followers.
- Together, read the following groupings of verses, and determine what Jesus was praying for the disciples. Have kids list or draw each thing inside their hands before moving onto the next verses:
  - John 17:11 - Protect them. (Draw a shield)
  - John 17:13 - Continue their joy. (Draw a smiley face)
  - John 17:17 - Teach them truth. (Draw a Bible)

- John 17:19 - Make them holy. (Draw a halo)
- On the front of the prayer hands, invite kids to write, "Jesus prays for his disciples."

### **ASK:**

- **Which of Jesus' requests stands out to you most?**
- **Why does that stand out to you?**

### **Virtual Lesson Tip**

*Have kids hold up their praying hands to share their drawings when finished.*

## Jesus Prays

### **You'll Need:**

- **"[Jesus Prays](#)" video**
- **Something to play the video**

### **Do This:**

Show them the video.

### **ASK:**

- **What did you learn from Jesus' prayer for His disciples?**
- **What does it mean to you that Jesus prayed for His followers?**
- **How can you pray for others like Jesus?**

# Out & in This World Snacks

## You'll Need:

- **Vanilla yogurt**
- **Blue food coloring**
- **Green food coloring**
- **2 large bowls**
- **Small plastic cups - one per child**
- **Spoons - one per child**

**Get Ready:** Before class, use blue and green food coloring to dye the vanilla yogurt.

Leave blue and green yogurt in separate containers with their own spoons.

## Do This:

Follow these steps to share the "Out and in This World Snack":

- Give each child a cup and a spoon.
- Invite kids to mix the blue and green yogurt in their cups to make it appear to resemble earth.
- Enjoy.

## ASK:

- **What are some hard things we have to deal with in the world?**
- **How can we pray for our friends when they face those hard things?**

**SAY:** The reason for Jesus' prayer we are learning about today is because He was leaving the world. He was praying for His disciples that were staying in the world.

## Maze Guide

### You'll Need:

- **Blindfolds - one for every two kids**

**Get Ready:** Before class, use the furniture in the room and other items to make a maze.

### Do This:

Follow these steps to play the game:

- Pair up kids.
- Give one child in each pair a blindfold.
- Explain to the non-blindfolded child that they are to guide their partner safely through the maze using only their voice.
- After each pair has gone, allow them to switch roles. Change up the maze a bit and then let the other partner guide them through the maze.

### ASK:

- **Explain whether it was easy or hard to work through the maze blindfolded.**
- **How did your guide help you?**
- **How is this like God helping you make good choices?**

**SAY:** Because your partners could see the maze in front of you, they were helpful to guide and instruct you through the maze. In our lesson today, we learned that Jesus prayed for His disciples. He prayed for them because He knew they were staying in the world and would face trouble. Jesus is fully man and fully God so He could pray for those who needed help in life's journey. We also need help and we can look to Jesus' prayer as encouragement for our journey on earth.

### Virtual Lesson Tip

*You can do this activity with the entire family.*

## Prayer Box

### You'll Need:

- [Jesus Prays for His Disciples How-to Video](#)
- Small boxes - one per child
- Colorful paper
- Scissors
- Pens - one per child
- Markers
- Stickers
- White board or large sheet of paper

**Get Ready:** On the white board or large sheet of paper, write out some sample one-sentence prayers kids can pray each day. (A prayer for mom and dad, for other family members, for a friend, for a teacher, a prayer of gratitude, a prayer for help, etc.). Cut at least 10 colorful paper slips for each child.



## Do This:

To make the "Prayer Box," have kids follow these steps:

- Give each child a box.
- Invite kids to decorate their boxes with stickers and markers. Have them write "Prayer Box" on the top.
- Give each child 10 to 15 pieces of colorful paper.
- Invite them to write a one-sentence prayer on each piece of paper.
- When each paper has a prayer, instruct kids to place the paper in their boxes.

**SAY:** Today you have made a prayer box with short prayers you can pray each day. Take this box home and take out a piece of paper each day and pray that prayer. This box can be a great tool to help you form a habit of talking to God like Jesus did.

## Virtual Lesson Tip

*You can do this activity with the entire family.*

## Airplane Prayers

### You'll Need:

- Paper - one per child
- Pencils or pens - one per child

### Do This:

- Give each child a piece of paper.

- Invite them to write a one sentence prayer for their class on the paper.
- Invite them to fold their paper into a paper airplane.
- On “go,” have them throw their paper airplanes.
- Ask kids to pick up the airplane closest to them and read the prayer.
- Have them add another one-sentence prayer for their class to the paper.
- Again, they will fold up the paper into a paper airplane and throw their airplanes.
- Play several rounds until everyone ends up with a paper airplane with many one-sentence prayers on it.

**PRAY:** Dear God, thank You for Jesus. Thank You for His example of prayer for those He loved dearly. Help us understand just how much Jesus loves us. Help us love others and pray for them like Jesus does. In Jesus’ name, amen.

## Time to Praise God

### You’ll Need:

- Song: “Lead Me, Lord”  
[Words and Music \(pdf\)](#)  
[MP3 Accompaniment Track](#)

**SAY:** Today we learned that Jesus prayed for His disciples. He knew they would need help and guidance in this world; so He paused to pray for them. As we sing

**the words “Lead Me, Lord,” ask God to show you just how much you need His guidance.**

Lead children in singing “Lead Me, Lord.”

**If You Have Extra Time...**

Use these activity sheets to fill in any time and keep kids learning.

- [Crossword](#)
- [Maze](#)
- [Word Search](#)

## Complete Supply List:

- “Never Lost” handout - one per child
- Pencils - one per child
- World Puzzle handouts - one per small group
- Scissors
- Bibles - one per child
- [Paper clips](#)
- [Construction paper](#) - one per child
- “Jesus Prays” video
- Something to play the video
- [Vanilla yogurt](#)
- [Green and blue food coloring](#)
- 2 large bowls
- [Small plastic cups](#) - one per child

- [Spoons](#) - one per child
- Blindfolds - one for every two kids
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- [Colorful paper](#)
- [Markers](#)
- White board or large sheet of paper
- Paper - one per child

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## AT HOME LESSON

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**Scripture:** John 17:6-19

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- How can you pray for others like Jesus?

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