

# Jesus Prays for His Disciples

## PRESCHOOL LESSON



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

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

**Memory Verse:** "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
- Crayons - one per child

### Do This:

**SAY:** (Hold up the "Never Lost" maze handout.) **Have you ever worked one of these—a maze?** (Give each child a maze and a crayon.) **You put your crayon down where it says, "start."** (Pause to show "start.") **Then you draw a line down the open path. You want to try to find an open path all the way to the finish. There's no crossing through any lines; that would be too easy!**

**Try doing this one for yourselves.** (Check that preschoolers understand the rules for completing a maze. 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 do the wrong thing and choose the wrong path, and we have to back up and start over again.**

**ASK:**

- Tell about a time you did something wrong.
- Tell about a choice preschoolers might make that could lead to trouble.

**Jesus knew that life can be hard. That's why He prayed for His friends, the 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."**

**Jesus knew when He left the world that God would help His people make the right choices in life. We can ask God for help anytime, and we can use the Bible to help us make choices, too. And when we do, God will help us find our way.**

**PRAY:** God, as we make choices in life, we place our trust in You and ask for Your help. In Jesus' name, amen.

## **Bible Memory Verse**

**"Father, protect them by the power of Your name." John 17:11**

## You'll Need:

- A Bible

## Do This:

Lead kids in these steps:

- Gather children in a circle.
- Remind kids that the Bible message today tells about how Jesus was leaving the world and He prayed to God for His friends.
- Read aloud John 7:11.
- Have kids repeat the shortened verse together.
- Then choose one child at a time to receive an affirmation. That child will stand in the center of the circle.
- The kids around him or her will make prayer hands and repeat the shortened verse, inserting the child's name in place of "them" in the verse.
- Repeat for every child.

**SAY:** Today we're learning about the 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:

- A Bible
- "[Jesus' Praying Hands](#)" handout - one per child
- Crayons

## Do This:

- Give each child a handout.
- Remind kids that they're learning about Jesus' prayer for His friends.
- Explain that they'll be learning from the Bible together about some of the things Jesus prayed for His friends, and they'll draw a picture for each thing inside the prayer hands.
- Read aloud the following verses, and explain what Jesus was praying. Point out the word on the handout, and invite kids to draw a picture under the word to show the idea:
  - 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)

## ASK:

- **Which of the things Jesus prayed for is most important to you?**
- **Why is that thing most important to you?**

## Virtual Lesson Tip

*Have kids hold up their "Jesus' Praying Hands" handout 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?**
- **How can you pray like Jesus for others?**

## Pray for the Snack

### You'll Need:

- **["Jesus' Praying Hands"](#) handout - one per child**
- **Dry cereal or snacks, such as Chex, pretzels, or Goldfish crackers**

## Do This:

Follow these steps for the snack:

- Have kids place their handouts in front of themselves.
- Give each child a handful of the snack.
- Have kids use the snack pieces to outline the prayer hands.
- Remind children that Jesus said prayers for His friends because He knew God would listen and respond.
- Invite children to take turns saying what they would like prayer for. Allow them to eat a snack piece each time someone shares.
- Continue as time allows.

**SAY:** Jesus cares about your prayer needs and He shares these with God, too.

**ASK:**

- How does it make you feel to know that Jesus cares about you?
- What would you like to tell Jesus you need right now?

**SAY:** We can talk to Jesus and God anytime we need help in this life. God will hear and He has the power to protect us, care for us, and give us everything we need.

## Pass the Prayer

**Do This:**

Follow these steps to play the game:

- Gather children in a circle.
- Explain that they're going to pass a prayer around the circle by whispering to their neighbor.
- Begin by whispering one of the following examples of Jesus' prayers to the child on your left.
- Have that child pass the prayer to his or her left, and so on until it gets back to you.
  - God, protect them.
  - Continue their joy.
  - Teach them truth.
  - Make them holy.

- If time allows, invite children to share other prayers they hope Jesus has for them.

**SAY:** Jesus prayed many things for His friends. He knew God would take care of them when He left earth. God will take care of us and protect us, too.

### Virtual Lesson Tip

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

## Cover the World in Prayer

### You'll Need:

- Paper plates
- Blue and green crayons
- An image of the world
- Finger paint
- Hand wipes
- Disposable table cloths or butcher paper

**Get Ready:** Cover the childrens' workspace with a disposable table cloth or butcher paper. Choose a few finger paint colors. Squeeze each one onto a separate paper plate. Ensure you have an additional paper plate for each child.

### Do This:

To make the craft, have kids follow these steps:

- Give each child a paper plate.
- Explain that the world is round and when you look at it from far away, it mostly looks blue and green because of the water and plants.
- Show the image of the world.
- Invite children to use the crayons to color their plates like the world.
- Remind children that before Jesus left the world, He prayed for His friends.
- Have kids stamp their hands in the finger paint and make hand prints on their worlds to remind them how Jesus prayed for people before He left.

**SAY:** Jesus knew life can be hard, and He wanted His friends to have the power and protection of God when He left the world. So He prayed. Keep these world crafts to remind you that Jesus wants us to have God's power and protection, too.

### Virtual Lesson Tip

*Have kids hold up their decorated paper plates to share when finished.*

## Prayer for Our Friends

### Do This:

- Explain that we can pray for our friends to have God's power and protection like Jesus did.
- Invite each child to name a friend they want to pray for.
- Lead kids in a brief prayer, naming each child and his or her friend.



**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.

### Virtual Lesson Tip

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

## 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 wanted God to help them and lead them in their lives. Let's sing about that now.

Lead children in singing "Lead Me, Lord."

### Complete Supply List:

- "Never Lost" handout - one per child
- Crayons - one per child

- A Bible
- “Jesus’ Praying Hands” handout - one per child
- “Jesus Prays” video
- Something to play the video
- Dry cereal or snacks, such as Chex, pretzels, or Goldfish crackers
- [Paper plates](#)
- [Blue and green crayons](#)
- An image of the world
- [Finger paint](#)
- [Hand wipes](#)
- Disposable table cloths or [butcher paper](#)

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# Jesus Prays for His Disciples

## AT HOME LESSON

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

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

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**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.

## 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.

## 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 a 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 five pieces of colorful paper with a prayer on it.
- 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.

## Complete Supply List:

- "Never Lost" handout - one per child
- Pencils - 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
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