



SHEPHERD OVERVIEW

Pre-K / K
Nov. 1, 2026
1st Service

Jesus' Arrest and Trial

**Matt. 26-27; Mark 14-15;
Luke 22-23; John 18**

What did Jesus do to save us?

Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead.

If God is for us, who can be against us?
-Romans 8:31

Story Point:

Jesus is perfect and listened to God.

- ☐ Welcome/Intro Activity..... 5 minutes
- ☐ Circle Time and Bible Story (Kindergarten - Large Group Lesson at 9:20)..... 15-20 minutes
- ☐ Movement Activity..... 10 minutes
- ☐ Craft 10 minutes
- ☐ Music and Friends From Afar 10 minutes
- ☐ Prayer and Bible Verse 10 minutes
- ☐ Snack and Discussion Time 5-7 minutes
- ☐ Group Game 10 minutes

SHEPHERD GUIDE

Humanity's story began with God in the garden of Eden. In this week's session, we'll read about another garden, the garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus brought His disciples to commune with the Father. Though the first man's sinfulness in the garden of Eden separated all of humanity from God, the sinless Son of Man approached the garden of Gethsemane on His way to the cross where He would give up His life to restore our relationship with the Father.

Jesus was "deeply grieved to the point of death" (Matthew 26:38), aware of the physical and spiritual anguish He would soon face alone. In this agony, He prayed to His Father and asked if there was any way to avoid the cross. "Yet," He said, "not as I will, but as You will." Jesus knew what was about to happen yet humbly trusted His Father.

Jesus was so grieved in the garden that Scripture says His sweat became like drops of blood falling to the ground. However, we know from other passages that it was "for the joy that lay before Him" that Jesus "endured the cross, despising the shame" (Hebrews 12:2). Jesus knew His sacrifice would ensure salvation for all who would turn to Him in faith. While His opposition arrived to the garden with swords, Jesus stood before them unarmed—fulfilling the Old Testament's prophecy of a silent lamb led to the slaughter (Isaiah 53:7). Jesus even told Peter to put his sword away because the battle at hand was not against flesh and blood.

That night in the garden, Jesus knew His disciples—exhausted by grief and overcome with temptation—weren't strong enough to withstand the difficulties ahead. That's why Jesus came to them—and to us: because we aren't strong enough to save ourselves. He is truly the friend of sinners, even to the point of death on a cross.

This week, lead kids to see that Jesus followed God's plan out of love for us, so we could be united with Him today and for eternity. Though we deserve God's wrath, Christ took our place, so we can experience the everlasting love of our Creator.

REMINDER: Our VIP meeting is from 8:30-8:40 in C1. Your supply bin will be in your classroom.

MAIN TAKEAWAYS: We want our kids to:

- *KNOW that Jesus is the perfect Son of God. He willingly followed God's plan and took the punishment for our sins.
- *Trust God and follow Him, even when it's hard.
- *Pray to God and obey what He says.

As children arrive - Welcome them by name and invite them to play with you and the other children.

Use this time to get to know your kids - ask them about their week, about their likes and dislikes and about their school, family and friends.

Ways to connect - Play a game from the closet, color or draw together, build with legos/blocks, etc.

When most kids have arrived for first service (by 9:05ish), ask them to clean up the toys and find a seat at one of the tables to begin the class.

**Pen Pal Kit!!*



Welcome and Intro Activity

- Red construction paper crosses

Welcome the children and mark them as present on the attendance sheet on the clipboard by the door.

Find the Matching Crosses

*Before class starts - tape 4 crosses around the room.

Greet kids as they come in and point out the Big Picture Question Poster.

Hand kids a cross and invite them to walk around the room and find the other crosses that match.

SAY: I'm so glad you are at church today! Do you know what Jesus did to save us? Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead. Can you find the crosses in the room that match this one I'm giving you? Jesus never did anything wrong. He loved us so much that He died on the cross to take away our sins and came back to life to be our King forever.



ACTIVE MINDS

9:20 - 9:30ish - Kindergarten - Whole Group Bible Lesson in Large Group 3
Pre-K - Classroom Bible Story Time

INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

- None

As they come to the rug for the Bible story, invite kids to show you how they hold their hands to pray. Demonstrate several ways to fold your hands to pray, including placing your palms together, interlocking your fingers, and holding hands with friends. Ask: Why do so many people fold their hands to pray? Explain that it doesn't make God listen to us more, it's just a way to focus our attention on God and not get distracted with what's going on around us. Tell children that Jesus asked his friends to stay away and pray when they went to a garden.

SAY: Jesus and His friends went to a quiet garden to pray. Jesus asked His friends to stay awake, but they fell asleep. Listen to hear what happened next.

BIBLE STORY: Jesus' Arrest and Trial

After Jesus had eaten with His friends, He went to a garden to pray. He was sad and asked His friends to stay awake with Him and pray, but they fell asleep. Jesus told them to get up. "It is time," He said.

Judas, one of Jesus's friends, arrived. A large crowd followed Judas, carrying swords and clubs. Judas kissed Jesus to show the crowd which person was Jesus. The men in the crowd arrested Jesus, but Jesus did not try to run away.

Jesus was taken to the high priest who asked Him many questions.

"Are you really the Son of God?" the high priest asked.

"I am," Jesus said. The religious leaders didn't like Jesus's answer. They didn't believe that Jesus is God's Son, and they wanted to punish Jesus.

The next morning, the religious leaders sent Jesus to Pilate, the governor. Pilate questioned Jesus and said, "Aren't you going to answer? Look how many things they are saying about You!" But Jesus still did not answer, and so Pilate was amazed.

Pilate didn't want to hurt Jesus, but the people shouted, "Crucify Him!" Pilate gave in to the people. Even though Jesus had never done anything wrong, Pilate punished Jesus and let the people take Jesus away to be killed on a cross.

CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus never did anything wrong. He loved us so much that He died on the cross to take away our sins and came back to life to be our King forever.



REVIEW AND DISCUSS

- Music sticks

Guide kids to sit in a circle. Demonstrate how to hold and use rhythm sticks. Make rhythms on the ground or tap the rhythm sticks against each other. Make rhythms together as you ask and answer the following questions:

- Where did Jesus go to pray? (a garden)
- What were some things in the Bible story that made you happy or sad?
- Where did Jesus take His friends to pray? (a garden)
- What happened to Jesus after He finished praying? (He was arrested.)
- Did Jesus ever sin? (No, Jesus was perfect; He never did anything wrong.)
- Why did Jesus let Himself get arrested? (because He loves us)

SAY: Jesus prayed in a garden and asked His friends to stay awake and pray too, but they fell asleep. Later, a large crowd with swords came, and even though Jesus is perfect, He was arrested. The religious leaders questioned Jesus and sent Him to Pilate, the man in charge of that area. Pilate did not want to hurt Jesus, but he listened to the people and sent Jesus to die on a cross. Jesus allowed all of this to happen because He loves us and came to save us from our sins.



Movement Activity

Sleeping/ Wake-Up Game

Gather kids in a circle on the floor.

Walk around the outside of the circle tapping each child on the shoulder. As you tap the child's shoulder say either "sleep" or "wake-up".

If you say "sleep" have the child bow this head like he is sleeping.

If you say "wake-up" have the child jump up.

Play several rounds of the game, encouraging children to take turns being the leader.

SAY: Jesus and His friends went to a garden to pray. Jesus asked His friends to stay awake, but they fell asleep. Jesus told them to wake up. Then Judas came with a big crowd. The men in the crowd grabbed Jesus and took Him away. Jesus did not run or fight. Even though Jesus is perfect, He was arrested. Jesus never did anything wrong. He loved us so much that He died on the cross to take away our sins and came back to life to be our King forever.



Craft

Garden Sculpture

- Paper Plates
- PlayDough
- Leaves
- Sticks
- Small pebbles/rocks

Pass out a paper plate that says “Jesus is perfect.” and small lump of play dough to each child.

Place leaves, sticks and rocks on the table.

Demonstrate how to flatten a piece of play dough onto the paper plate. Invite kids to arrange the nature items in the play dough to create a garden sculpture.

SAY: Your sculpture reminds me of a garden. Jesus went to a garden to pray. Even though Jesus is perfect, He was arrested. He loved us so much that He died on the cross to take away our sins and came back to life to be our King forever.

What are some things we can remember about Jesus? [Allow time for responses.]

Encourage answers such as:

- Jesus is perfect.
- Jesus loves us
- Jesus died on a cross
- Jesus rose again
- Jesus is always with us
- Jesus is coming back!



Music

- Activity page

You will find music and other video resources on the USB which is already plugged into the TV. Feel free to play the videos in any order you would like! You may distribute the Activity page for the children to complete at this time, if they would prefer to sit and listen to the music.



Friends From Afar

You will find today’s activity for Friends From Afar in the Binder on the counter. The information for this month’s Global Partner family and an activity to learn about where they are serving are included. Necessary supplies are located in your bin.



Prayer and Bible Verse

- None

Prayer:

Use these words, or your own, to pray about today's Bible lesson. Take time to listen to prayer requests from the children and pray for them as well.

Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to earth to live a perfect life. Thank You that He died on the cross for our sins and rose again. I pray (Say each child's name.) will one day trust Jesus to forgive their sins. Amen.

Bible Verse:

Read the verse aloud - Romans 8:31.

Encourage the children to do the following motions when saying the verse. Repeat several times.

- If God (point upward)
- is for us (point to self)
- who (shrug shoulders)
- is against us. (make an X with your arms in front of you)



Snack and Discussion Time

- Snack (Pretzels) located under the sink cabinet

Have children sanitize their hands before passing out snacks and cups of water. During this time, you can connect with children and discuss questions regarding the lesson.

- What was your favorite part of today's Bible story?
- What did you learn about God in today's Bible story?
- What two things did Jesus talk about during the special meal?
- What did Jesus tell His disciples to do when they ate the bread and drank from the cup?
- Why is it important to remember Jesus?
- What is justification? Justification is when God says that our sins are forgiven.

SAY: JESUS TOLD HIS DISCIPLES TO REMEMBER HIM every time they shared the bread and the cup together. He shared with them that He was going to give His body and His blood for them. Jesus died and rose again so people could be saved from their sin. When we trust Him, He is always with us and loves us forever.



Group Game

I Spy

- None

Choose one item in the room, such as a window, pencil, chair, or toy.

Explain that the kids will ask questions to try to guess which item you have chosen. Encourage questions like,

- "Is it a toy?"
- "Can you write with it?"
- "Is it bigger or smaller than a book?"

Simplify the game by selecting a few items, placing them at the front of the room, and limiting questions to those items. Invite each child to take a turn choosing an item while the rest of the group asks questions if time allows.

SAY: That was a lot of questions! Those questions helped us figure out the right item. In our Bible story today, Jesus is asked a lot of questions. He answered them perfectly and without getting upset.



Additional Activities:

- None

Make a Path (Blocks)

Collect large wooden blocks and place them in an open space. Explain that the kids will work together to build a path using the blocks. Show how to line the blocks up end to end to make a path. Lead the kids to walk along the path once it is finished. SAY 1 really enjoyed building and walking along the path with you. This path reminds me of a path the large crowd may have walked along to get to Jesus. Jesus knew He was going to be punished for our sins, and He chose to die for our sins because He loves us. EVEN THOUGH JESUS IS PERFECT, HE WAS ARRESTED. Jesus let Himself be arrested and punished because He loves us.

Mirror Motions

Tell the kids they will play a mirroring game by copying the movements you make. Explain that the leader will give directions using only movements and gestures, not words. Model a few actions such as touching toes, jumping, or stretching arms. Encourage the kids to stay quiet, watch closely, and use their bodies to follow along. Switch leaders so the kids can take turns showing actions. SAY You all did an amazing job playing our game so quietly. When Jesus was being questioned by Pilate, He was silent. Jesus knew He would die for our sins and live again. He died on the cross for our sins and came back to life. When we trust Jesus, He forgives us and gives us new life with God forever.

Make a Crowd (Hula Hoop and paper)

Place a large plastic hoop on the ground. Encourage the kids to crumple up balls of paper and pretend they are people. Guide the kids to stand a few feet away from the large plastic hoop and toss the paper balls into the hoop to make a crowd. Review the Bible story as kids play. SAY You made a large crowd in that hoop! Judas, one of Jesus's friends, brought a large crowd, carrying swords and clubs. The men in the crowd arrested Jesus, but Jesus did not try to run away. EVEN THOUGH JESUS IS PERFECT, HE WAS ARRESTED. Jesus did this because of His great love for us and willingness to die on the cross for our sins.