

# LENTEN DEVOTIONALS

## WEEK 3: JESUS PRAYED WHEN HE NEEDED HELP

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### SCRIPTURE: LUKE 6:12-13

*Now during those days Jesus went to the mountain to pray; and he spent the night in prayer to God. And when day came, he called his disciples and chose twelve of them, whom he also named apostles.*

### REFLECTION

Jesus, like all of us, made many decisions during his life. Some of them were easy and some were difficult. The Bible has many stories that show us that with decisions big and small, Jesus spent a lot of his time in prayer with God.

In our passage this week, we learn one place Jesus prayed was in the mountains. This time, he spent the whole evening in the mountains, praying to God. The writer wants us to know that Jesus was about to do something really important and before he could do that important thing, he needed to talk to God about it. That important thing was choosing twelve people who would join him while he taught and healed people.

Why do you think this was a big decision? One reason is the disciples became important parts of Jesus' story and were the first Christians who spread Jesus' message of love and hope to others in the world. Prayer like this gives us time to think about big choices, ask God for wisdom, and help guide us to a decision.

Just as Jesus asked for God's guidance while making decisions, Jesus invites us to do the same. Think of all the decisions we need to make in one day, one week, or one year. Some of these decisions like wearing shoes outside or looking both ways before we cross the street are decisions that eventually don't require a lot of thought. But there are many others that take up a lot of space in our brains. Some decisions we make are difficult or complicated or maybe even scary. Jesus teaches us that God wants to hear from us and wants to guide us as we face the important moments of our lives.

## DISCUSSION

As you color the coloring page, ponder these questions together:

- How do you make decisions? Do you make them quickly or does it take you a lot of time to make up your mind?
- What are some things that are difficult for you? Do you ask others for help? Why or why not?
- Think of a decision or a choice you need to make in the near future. Do you feel comfortable talking to God about it? What would help you talk to God about it?

## ACTIVITY

*Supplies needed: This week's activity page, shoe box, wooden box, or cardboard box, markers/crayons/pencils, fabric, glue*

This week, take some time as a family to create a prayer box. If you enjoy working with wood or other material, consider crafting your own box. Or you can purchase a box or repurpose a shoe or other small shipping box in your home. Decorate the box with your family and color in the "Prayers" sign, cut out and glue onto the box and maybe include your family name on the box, too.

For the rest of the season of Lent, write or draw prayers on pieces of paper. Four squares are included on the activity page. Specifically, write prayers that involve a decision or difficulty you are facing. Keep those prayers in the box. After Easter, open up the box and look at the prayers and reflect on how God guided you during the season of Lent.

# PRAYER

Dear Guiding One,  
You are one who walks with us  
And remains with us  
You help us with the everyday  
And with the unexpected.  
Help us learn to turn to you  
To lean on you  
To draw wisdom from you  
So we can grow in faith and confidence each day.  
**Amen.**