

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL - MATTHEW 26:36-46

05.04.20

GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE



***Going a little farther,
he fell with his face
to the ground and
prayed, “My Father,
if it is possible, may
this cup be taken
from me. Yet not as I
will, but as you will.”
Matthew 26:39***

Hello Parents and Kids!

I hope everyone is staying safe and well during this time. During these crazy times we often find ourselves prompted to focus on what is most important. Family, friends, our health etc. Things we so often take for granted.

We are only a week away from Easter, arguably the most important time of the year for a christian. This season brings much time to reflect on what is most important; our salvation through Jesus Christ. In this weeks devotion we'll be reading from Matthew 26, where Jesus was just days away from his death. One night Jesus took his disciples to the Garden of Gethsemane so he could go and pray to the Father. Although Jesus was 100% God, He was also 100% man. Jesus knew it was his mission to die for the sins of his people, but he was also scared! He felt real human emotion in these moments; anxiety, worry, confusion, sadness, anger and many more.

Leading into this season of Easter we can learn from Jesus' obedience to the Father. Even though so much is happening in our world today, we can trust that God hears our prayers and understands how we feel. Just like with Jesus, God has a plan for our lives. All we need to do is trust that Jesus died for our sins, repent and obey.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to myself or the pastoral care team if you or your family need any assistance.

Haylee Morgan

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 *“These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.”*

Garden of Gethsemane

Main Idea - Jesus accepts the will of the Father.

We are only a week away from Easter, the most important day of the year for Christians. On Easter we celebrate Jesus' resurrection from the grave. We remember that we serve a living God who overcame death and can give us eternal life. But before we get to that story, I want to go back, a little further in time, to a story from the Old Testament.

We're going back to the book of Jonah which tells the story of - who else? - Jonah. Jonah was a prophet, a man God used to deliver messages. God asked Jonah to deliver a message to the wicked city of Nineveh. If Nineveh did not change its wicked ways and ask forgiveness, God was going to destroy that city!

It was an important message that God entrusted to Jonah, but Jonah didn't



want to do it. Instead, he got on a boat headed out to sea - the opposite direction of Nineveh. Jonah didn't want to go to Nineveh, and he didn't want to see the people of Nineveh saved. God had to send a storm and a giant fish to put Jonah back on track!

What does this have to do with the Easter story? Think about that question as we read today's scripture.

Read Matthew 26:36-46

In this story, we see Jesus was facing a tough choice of his own. Like Jonah, God had asked Jesus to do something he did not want to do. Jesus was fully God and man, but while the divine side of him knew his mission was to die, the human side wasn't ready to die!

It wasn't just death that waited for Jesus. Jesus was arrested, put on trial,

beaten, forced to wear a crown of thorns, spit upon, cursed at, and finally nailed to a cross to suffer the most agonising death ever devised by man!

Like Jonah, Jesus had a choice. He could obey, or he could run. Jesus did not run. He knew this was God's will, and he was obedient to the very end.

There are two lessons we can take from the Garden of Gethsemane. First and foremost, Jesus really loves us. I mean he really, REALLY loves us. In our world today, there aren't too many people who would die for someone, especially someone they never met. Jesus died for his friends, his enemies, for you, and for me. He obeyed God because he knew by obeying God, he could give all of us a new life.

The second lesson is a challenge for all of us. Jesus was obedient to God, and he challenges us to be obedient too. We need to obey our parents, teachers, coaches, and other mentors, but more than anything, we need to obey God.

God has a plan for every one of you. For some, it will mean serving God right where you are, in school or at home or someplace else close. For others, it may mean going out on a mission trip. It may one day even mean going someplace dangerous to share the good news.

Whatever God calls you to do to, do it. Do it with all your heart. Do it knowing that God will go with you.

Jesus didn't want to suffer. If there was another way, he'd have gladly taken it, but he was never, ever going to run. Jesus was obedient. That incredible obedience means we can have eternal life. It means we are amazingly loved. And it means we need to prepare our hearts to be just as obedient.

Let's thank God for the obedience of Jesus, and ask him to help us to be just as obedient when the time comes.

Pray

Dear God,

Thank you for sending your son to die for our sins. Help us to remember you and the importance of Easter over these next couple of weeks. Help us to be more obedient to you and your word. Thank you for your goodness and kindness to us always.

Amen

Questions...

Where did Jesus go to pray?

Who was with Jesus in the Garden?
Why them?

How can we show God we love him
through our obedience?

How can we remember Jesus this
Easter?

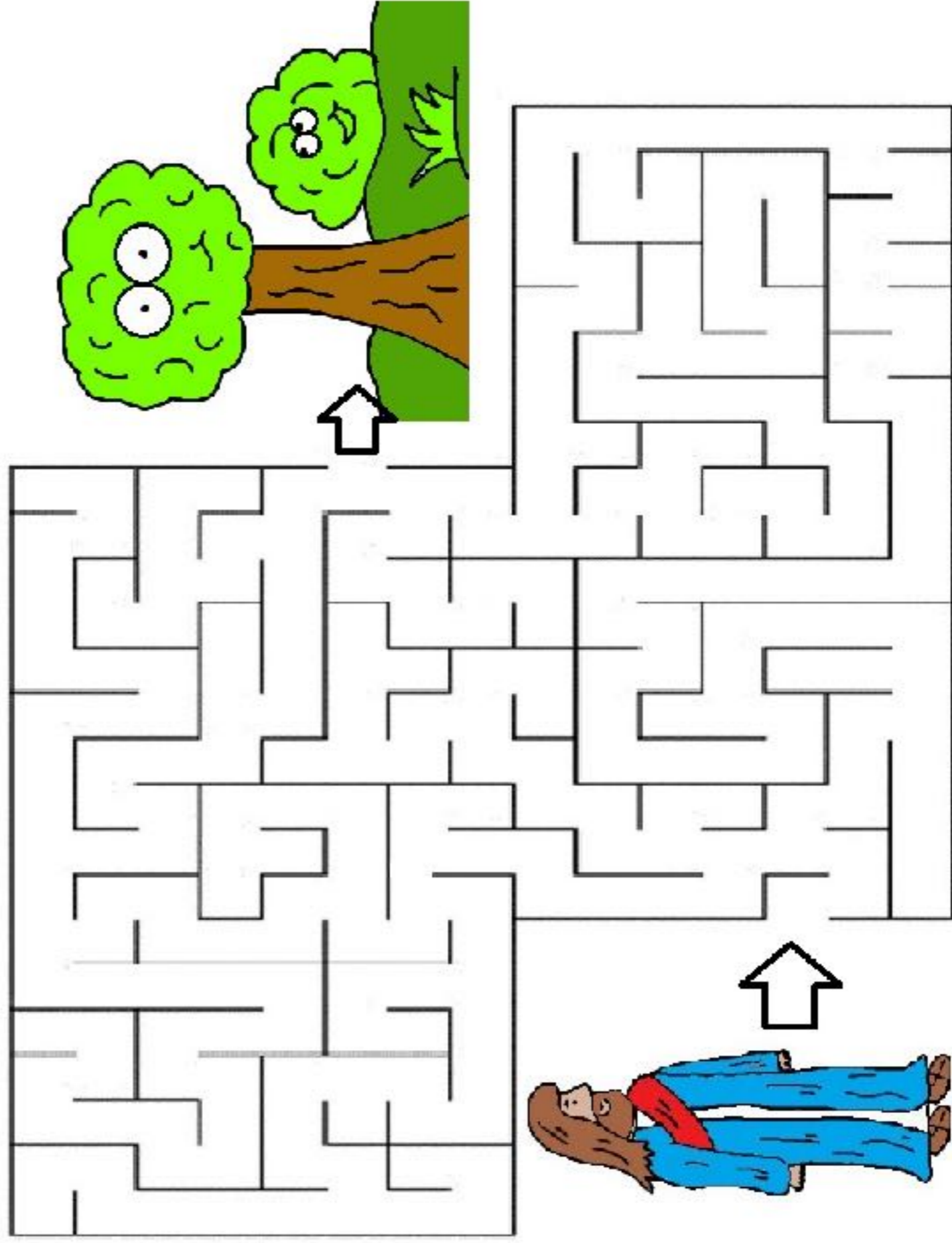


Garden of Gethsemane Maze

John 18:1-When Jesus had spoken these words, he went forth with his disciples over the brook Cedron, where was a garden, into the which he entered, and his disciples.

Matthew 26:36 Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder.

Get Jesus to the Garden of Gethsemane.



Craft: Praying Hands Card

Materials:

Paper / Card stock , scissors , crayons / pencils

Directions:

1. Have children put their left hand on fold of card, and then draw around hand.
2. Have children cut out around the hand. Be careful not to cut the fold of the card.
3. Now have them colour and decorate the outside of the hand.
4. On right the inside of card have them put items that they need to pray for. (For younger children they could colour a picture or have the teacher write it for them.)
5. Explain to the children that God wants them to talk to Him in prayer. And that He is always listening.

