12

The Ultimate Friend

Key References: Matthew 26:36-46; *The Desire of Ages,* chap. 74, pp. 685-697; *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 9, pp. 55-60, 73-77; Our Beliefs, nos. 4, 9, 8















Sabbath

DO Do this week's activity on page 89.

powertext

"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).

powerpoint

We can love and serve others when we trust totally in God.

Recall a time when you felt let down by your closest friends. Or a time you felt totally alone and that no one cared about you. Jesus felt like that in our lesson today, but He discovered that even when He felt like that God was with Him and cared about Him.

Judas crept through the dark, quiet streets to the palace of the high priest Caiaphas. He was surprised to be confronted by small groups of priests arguing and discussing something heatedly. What was going on?

"Why have you come back to us?" asked the priests. "We already paid you for betraying your master. What do you want from us now?" Suddenly everything became very quiet. One by one all the priests began to focus their attention on Judas. "What are you doing here?" demanded the high priest.

"Well," Judas replied confidently, "I came to tell you that Jesus and His disciples ate the Passover meal, and they are headed to the Mount of Olives. That is the place where Jesus usually goes to pray with His disciples."

"So how does this concern us?" asked the high priest. "We are having an important discussion right now."

"I have come to offer you my help," said Judas. "If you command your armed servants to come with me, I will show them where they can find Jesus."

Judas smiled to himself. He was sure they would accept his offer.

"This very night," Judas continued, "Jesus could be in your hands!"

The priests discussed Judas's offer. Finally the chief priest spoke: "We will accept your offer."

They agreed to send the Temple servants with Judas to find Jesus.

Feeling very satisfied with the success of his plan so far, Judas started giving instructions to the servants of the high priest and gave them a sign for identifying Jesus: "The one I kiss is the man; arrest Him and lead Him away under guard." The priest's servants and the mob joined together and followed Judas through the dark streets of Jerusalem that led to the Mount of Olives. They were determined to finally seize Jesus.

Soon after Judas left to talk to the priests, Jesus and the other disciples headed out to the Garden of Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives,

12

Sunday

READ Read Philippians 2:5-11 and this week's story, "The Ultimate Friend."

LEARN Start to learn this week's power text, Matthew 26:39.

IDENTIFY In your Bible study journal, list things with which you have a hard time trusting God.

PRAY Ask God to help you trust Him more.

Monday

READ Read Galatians 6:2. What does it tell us to do?

THINK How can you bear someone else's burden today?

DO Surprise someone today by doing something good for them without being asked. Try to keep the fact that you did the job a secret.

PRAY Ask God to help you understand what He did for you on the cross.

Tuesday

READ Read Matthew 26:36-38.

TALK Ask three people how they know God has led them in their service for others. Ask them to share their favorite Bible promise.

WRITE Write their favorite promises in your Bible study journal.

PRAY Thank God for Christian friends who support and encourage you.

the place where Jesus often went to pray. As they neared the garden Jesus walked with much difficulty. The disciples noticed that He seemed to be in great pain. They had never seen Him like this, so sad and withdrawn. At the entrance to the garden Jesus said, "Sit here while I go over there and pray."

He motioned for Peter, James, and John to go with Him. When they arrived at a familiar spot, Jesus told the three disciples to stop. "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with Me." Jesus went a little farther and fell to the ground. He felt the sins of the world were separating Him from His Father.

"My Father," He cried, "I can't bear the thought of being separated from You. Yet I love You. I trust You. Your will be done." The thought of being separated from His Father was too overwhelming for Jesus to bear, yet He entrusted His life completely to His Father's care.

Jesus returned to His disciples, longing for their help and support, but found them sleeping. When Peter awoke, he was startled to see Jesus so sad. Just then Jesus turned to him and to his companions. "Couldn't you keep watch with Me for one hour?" He asked. Peter rubbed his eyes. Jesus continued, "Be careful that you do not give in to temptation. You are willing to follow Me, but your bodies are weak" (see Matthew 26:40, 41).

Jesus went away again to plead with His Father. Again when He returned, the disciples were fast asleep.

A third time Jesus went to pray. Once more He pleaded with His Father, but finally accepted the Father's will, asking for strength to carry it out.



12

Wednesday

READ Read Matthew 26:39-41.

CHART With the help of family members, make a time line from when you were born until now. On it, put significant world events and significant times when God has led you and your family. Include actions of service that you and your family do for others.

PRAY Thank God that He is always there to rely on as you live a life of service.

Thursday

READ Read Matthew 26:42-46.

SYMBOLIZE Draw or in some other way symbolize a scene from this week's lesson.

VISIT Visit a garden or other quiet place. Try to visualize what it must have been like for Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane.

PRAY Praise God that Jesus trusted in His Father and not in His disciples as He prepared for the ultimate sacrifice.

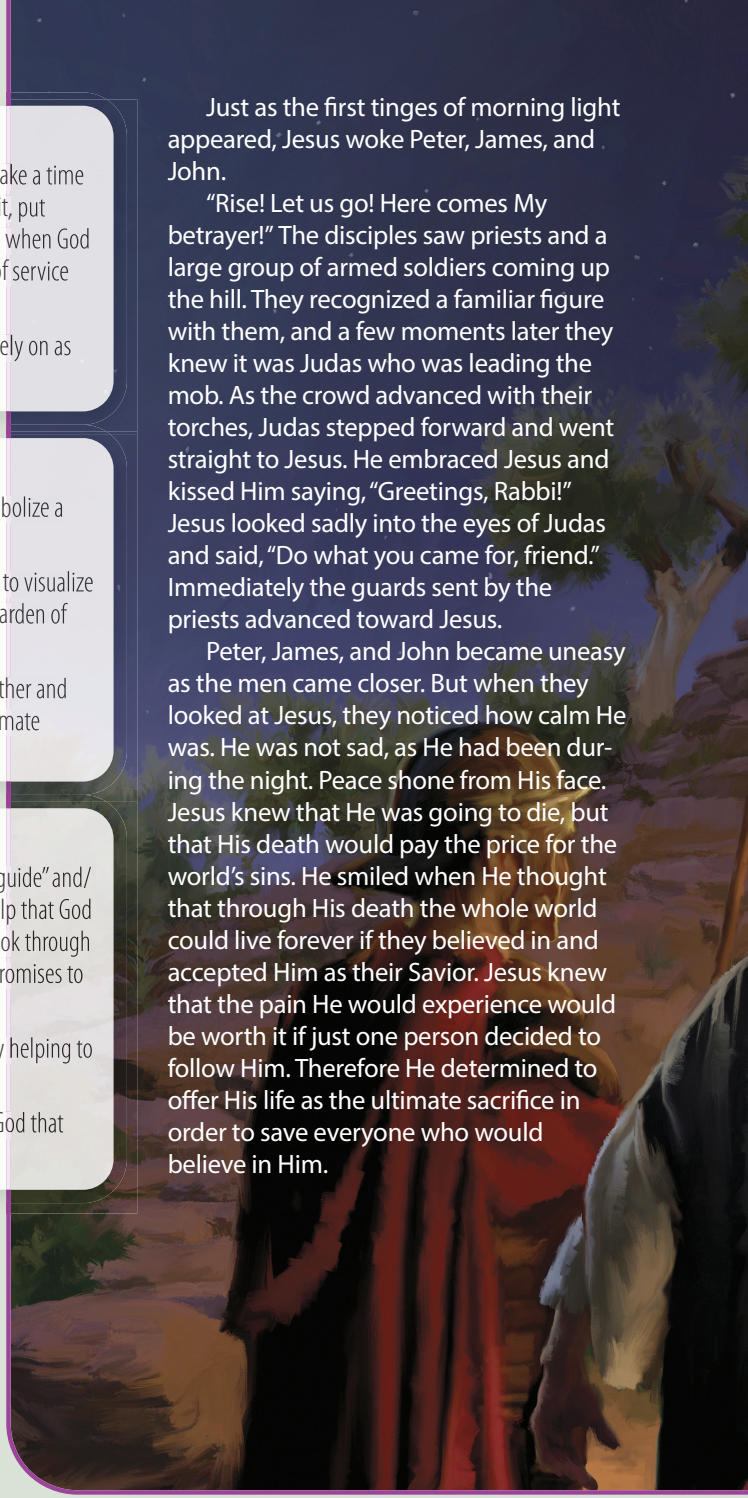
Friday

READ Read Psalm 121.

FIND Using a concordance, find the words "guide" and/or "help" and read some of the promises of help that God has made. If you don't have a concordance, look through some of the psalms and see how often God promises to help.

SERVE Serve the rest of your family today by helping to get everything ready for Sabbath.

SING As you work, sing a song of praise to God that expresses your faith in His leading.



Just as the first tinges of morning light appeared, Jesus woke Peter, James, and John.

"Rise! Let us go! Here comes My betrayer!" The disciples saw priests and a large group of armed soldiers coming up the hill. They recognized a familiar figure with them, and a few moments later they knew it was Judas who was leading the mob. As the crowd advanced with their torches, Judas stepped forward and went straight to Jesus. He embraced Jesus and kissed Him saying, "Greetings, Rabbi!" Jesus looked sadly into the eyes of Judas and said, "Do what you came for, friend." Immediately the guards sent by the priests advanced toward Jesus.

Peter, James, and John became uneasy as the men came closer. But when they looked at Jesus, they noticed how calm He was. He was not sad, as He had been during the night. Peace shone from His face. Jesus knew that He was going to die, but that His death would pay the price for the world's sins. He smiled when He thought that through His death the whole world could live forever if they believed in and accepted Him as their Savior. Jesus knew that the pain He would experience would be worth it if just one person decided to follow Him. Therefore He determined to offer His life as the ultimate sacrifice in order to save everyone who would believe in Him.



PUZZLE 12

PRAYING IN THE GARDEN

Instructions: Decode each word by replacing each letter with one before or after it. Replace A with a B or Z, replace B with an A or C and so on. When unscrambled, each word is found in Matthew 26:36-46. As you unscramble the words, reveal the hidden phrase by moving the letters to the numbers blanks. Tell the Bible story with the unscrambled words as a guide.

KDTTT ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
33 1 97

CHTBJQMDT ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
87 49 24 44

HFSIRFNBMD ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
63 16 8 73 23

RNMR ___ ___ ___ ___
29 55

TNSSNVGTK ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
11 92 6 102 40

USNTCMFC ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
3 96 17 20

TPTK ___ ___ ___ ___
25 46 77

NWFSXIFMLDC ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
78 26 38 89 52 72 76

VZSBG ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
42 9 70

FQNVMC ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
88 71 10

OQBXDC ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
41 95 27

EBUIFQ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
48 74 2

ONTRHAMF ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
91 66 22 19 39

UZLDO ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
12 56 69

QDSTQODC ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
86 83 7 53

GNVOE ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
28 82 68

TKDDOJOF ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
99 50 80 59 75 62

TQHSHS ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
84 60

XJKKHOH ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
37 51 101 85

EMFRI ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
45 34 32

VDZJ ___ ___ ___ ___
5 93

RFDPME ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
94 58 67 35

SHLD ___ ___ ___ ___
36 54

IFZUX ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
13 100 4 81

UIJQE ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
65 30

SGDN ___ ___ ___ ___
31 64 18

CFKHWFSFE ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
47 79 14

RHMODQT ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
43 61 57

AFUQBXFS ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
90 15 21 98

Hidden Phrase:

“ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
9 10 11 12 13 14 15

___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23

___ ___ ___ ___ . ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33

___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42

___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53

___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62

___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
63 64 65 66 67 68 69

___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ : ‘ ___ ___ ___ ___
70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80

___ ___ ___ ___
81 82 83 84

___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94

___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ’” (Galatians 5:13, 14).
95 96 97 98 99 100 101 102