

YEAR C | QUARTER 1

12

The Ultimate Friend

Service
Jesus is our example in service.

POWER TEXT

"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).

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
- student story on page 132 of this guide

OUR BELIEFS

- No. 4, The Son
- No. 9, The Life, Death, and Resurrection of Christ
- No. 8, The Great Controversy

OBJECTIVES

The students will:

- **Know** that they can trust God to help them serve.
- **Feel** that they want to know God's will for their lives.
- **Respond** by choosing to trust God and serve others.

POWERPOINT

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

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Even in the life of Jesus there are unpleasant things that have to be done. Though Jesus wishes He could avoid the pain of the trial and crucifixion, He asks God for the strength to endure. Three times Jesus asks His Father if it is possible to change the plan of salvation. God responds, not by taking away the pain or the situation, but by strengthening Jesus and enabling Him to succeed. In this, as in everything else, Jesus lives His life in total submission to His Father's will.

This is a lesson about service.

Just as God had a plan for saving the world and a plan for Jesus' life, so He has a plan for each of us. By following His plan we will serve others and be a blessing. God still gives us the strength for serving others, whatever the circumstances.

Teacher Enrichment

"The powers of good and evil waited to see what answer would come to Christ's thrice-repeated prayer. Angels had longed to bring relief to the divine sufferer, but this might not be. No way of escape was found for the Son of God. In this awful crisis, when everything was at stake, when the mysterious cup trembled in the hand of the sufferer, the heavens opened, a light shone forth amid the stormy darkness of the crisis hour, and the mighty angel who stands in God's presence, occupying the position from which Satan fell, came to the side of Christ. The angel came . . . to strengthen Him to drink it, with the assurance of the Father's love. He came to give power to the divine-human suppliant. . . . He assured Him that His Father is greater and more powerful than Satan, that His death would result in the utter discomfiture of Satan, and that the kingdom of this world would be given to the saints of the Most High" (*The Desire of Ages,* p. 693).

What situation in my life do I need strength? How am I submitting to my Father's will?

Welcome

Welcome students at the door and direct them to their seats. Ask them how their week has been. Encourage learners to study their Sabbath School lesson regularly, and use several minutes to debrief students on the previous week's lesson.

Ask: **What was the most interesting part of the Bible story? What activity did you find the most helpful? Which activity was the most fun?** Invite students to share their experiences and/or the handiworks they created for Sabbath School during the week. (The leader should be familiar with the previous lesson to be able to direct the discussion.) This is also a good time to have students recite the power text.

Have students begin the Readiness Activity of your choice. »

Program notes

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	Ongoing	Greet students at door. Ask about their week.	
1 Readiness	10-15	*A. Service Though Power* *B. Together We Stand*	
* Prayer and Praise	15-20	See page 127. Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.	songbooks, offering plate/basket
2 Bible Lesson	15-20	Introducing the Bible Story Experiencing the Story Exploring the Bible	heavy book Bibles, pens/pencils, paper, video/tape recorder (optional) Bibles, pens/pencils, paper
3 Applying the Lesson	10-15	*Scenario*	
4 Sharing the Lesson	10-15	*Keep Up the Good Work*	service project supplies
* Closing		A. Prayer and Closing Comments B. Reminder to Parents C. Coming Up Next Week	

1

READINESS ACTIVITIES

Select the activity or activities that are most appropriate for your situation.

A

Service Through Prayer

Say: **Let's name some leaders in our church** (possible answers may include the pastor, an elder, a youth leader, etc.). **These people are committed to serving God, and many times they face challenges as they seek to serve the people in our congregation. We can help by praying for them.**

Ask students to pair up with a prayer partner to pray for some of the leaders who have been mentioned. Indicate by a loud amen the end of the prayer time.

Debriefing

Ask: **How did you feel about praying for others instead of for yourself? How was your prayer a form of service?**

Say: **In our lesson today Jesus asked His disciples to pray for Him as He was facing the most challenging moments of His life, including His trial, crucifixion, and death. In those dark moments in the Garden of Gethsemane, while His friends fell asleep instead of praying for Him, Jesus prayed not only for Himself but for the entire human race, whom He came to save—and that includes you and me. His sacrifice is the greatest act of service in human history.**

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

B

Together We Stand

Divide the group into pairs. Have them sit back to back on the floor and link arms. Then ask them to stand up together. They may not put their hands on the floor. When two pairs have accomplished this, have the four sit down again, facing outward, link arms together, and all four stand together. Continue adding pairs until the whole group can stand up together.

Debriefing

Ask: **How did it feel not being able to stand by yourself? Why were you sure that your partner would let you down? not let you down? What did it feel like to trust someone else completely?**

Say: **In our lesson today Jesus began to dread what was going to happen to Him because of sin. Three times He asked His Father if there were another way to save the world. His Father didn't change what Jesus needed to do, but gave Him the strength to do it.**

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

Accommodation for students with special needs

Students with physical disabilities may not be able to participate in this activity. Consider having them observe and contribute during the debriefing.

Prayer and Praise

Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). If they have given you permission, share one or two special items from students' Bible study during the week. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

"Behold What Manner of Love" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 42)
"For God So Loved the World" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 43)
"Think About His Love" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 40)

Mission

Use *Adventist Mission* magazine for the mission story. You can go to https://am.adventistmission.org/mq-children or go to www.juniorpowerpoints.org and click on MISSION.

Offering

YOU NEED:

- ☐ offering plate/basket

Say: **This month we are studying about serving others. Ask God to use your gifts to bring someone to Him. One way we serve God and others is through our offerings.**

Prayer

Take a minute to think about Christ's willingness to obey His Father in Gethsemane. Ask the students to pray "We commit [them/it/ourselves] in service to You" after each line of your prayer.

Father, we thank You for our feet.
We commit them in service to You.
Father, we thank You for our hands.
We commit them in service to You.
Father, we thank You for our eyes.
We commit them in service to You.
Father, we thank You for our ears.
We commit them in service to You.
Father, we thank You for our mouth.
We commit it in service to You.
Father, we thank You for the ability to think and reason.
We commit ourselves in service to You.

Close by thanking God for the ultimate act of service to humanity: Sending Jesus to die for us.

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.

Notes

2

BIBLE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ heavy book

Introducing the Bible Story

Bring a very heavy book. Ask the students to hold the book with an outstretched hand. See how long they can hold up the book.

Say: **What happened the longer you held the book? In our lesson today Jesus was weighed down by the terrible burden of the world's sins. This weight was so great that He felt He couldn't go on. Yet Jesus chose to honor His Father's will. He decided to save the world even at the cost of sacrificing His life. His sacrifice for us is the greatest evidence of His amazing love for you and me! God heard Jesus' prayer, and although He didn't change what Jesus needed to do to save the world, He gave Jesus the strength to face the road that led to the cross.**

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ pens/pencils
- ☐ paper
- ☐ video/tape recorder (optional)

Experiencing the Story

Ask students to find and read with you Matthew 26:36-46. Ask them to get into groups of two or three and choose one of the following activities, preparing to present their work to the rest of the group.

1. One member of the group will be a reporter for the Jerusalem *Post* and the other one (or two) will be one of the following characters: the high priest; Judas; one of the sleeping trio: Peter, James, or John; Jesus; someone Jesus had helped in the past. The reporter is to interview the person/s about events around the time Jesus was taken prisoner. The interview could be oral, written, or tape-recorded.

2. Write a song or poem about how one of the people involved might have felt.

Give each group an opportunity to present their work.

Debriefing

Ask: **How would you feel if someone came up to you at school, in your room at home, or on the playground and arrested you? Would it make a difference if you were guilty or innocent? In which case would it be easier? More difficult?**

Say: **What Jesus and His Father agreed He would do for us was the most difficult thing any person has ever had to do. Jesus was successful in His battle with Satan, sin, and death, because He followed God's will for His life and He trusted completely in Him. We can also experience victory when we accept God's will for our lives and are led by Him. We may be called upon to do some difficult things in service to God and others, but**

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

3

APPLYING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ pens/pencils
- ☐ paper

Exploring the Bible

Divide students into groups, each with an adult facilitator. Ask each group to chart the similarities and differences among the Gospel accounts of one of the events below:

1. Jesus' prayer in Gethsemane (Matthew 26:30, 36-46; Mark 14:26, 32-42; Luke 22:39-46; John 18:1)
2. Jesus betrayed and arrested (Matthew 26:47-56; Mark 14:43-52; Luke 22:47-53; John 18:2-12)

Debriefing

Say: **Just as Jesus relied completely on His Father, the Gospel writers relied on the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to guide them in writing about these important events. Just as each of us is gifted in a different way for service, each Gospel writer was guided to write through his own experiences and perceptions. However God calls and inspires us. Let's say our power point together:**

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

Accommodation for students with special needs

Use the Bibles with tabs so that students would become familiar with the books of the Bible. Use questions and create categories for similarities and differences (setting, what happened, the outcome, characters).

Scenario

Continue with your study of spiritual gifts if you have begun one, or read the following scenario to your students:

Helga is a good student. She is not too sure what she wants to be. Her father is a doctor and wants her to follow in the family tradition. Helga is not very good at science subjects, but is very good with the arts and has a natural aptitude to teach. She got average grades in her first year of medicine, but she struggled and didn't enjoy her course. She wonders if she should change to a teaching course. She wonders what God wants her to do with her life, how she can serve Him and others best. What advice would you give Helga? (Allow time for responses.)

Debriefing

Ask: **How can you apply the advice you would give to Helga to your life? How do you think you can serve God best now?** (Answers here should be concrete enough to use for Sharing the Lesson.) **in the future? How can serving God involve serving others?**

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

4

SHARING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ supplies for ongoing project

Keep Up the Good Work

If you have an ongoing service project that you began at the beginning of this month, continue discussion of that now.

If not: Take some of the ideas of ways to serve God that the students suggested in Applying the Lesson. Divide the students into small groups of three to four and ask them to plan how to put the ideas into action. Have each small group report back to the larger group.

Encourage the larger group to give input to clarify and refine the ideas. Help the group decide which projects they want to adopt, and make sure that each person has something to do during the week, either researching the project or participating in an activity. Stress that even though they may feel nervous, when they trust totally in God He will give them the ability to serve others.

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

Today is Global Youth Day!

Closing

Prayer and closing comments:

Ask God's blessing on and empowerment for the plans the students have made to serve.

Reminder to parents:

Say: **Check out the student Bible study guide to find Parents' Pages for your use in family worship, or however you wish to use them to guide your children spiritually. You may listen to the podcast of the lesson online at www.juniorpowerpoints.org/podcast.php?channel=1.**

Coming up next week:

Say: **Jesus is alive! When Jesus changes us, we can't wait to tell others.**

Notes

Student lesson

The Ultimate Friend

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, 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.

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

KEY REFERENCES

- Matthew 26:36-46
- *The Desire of Ages*, chap. 74, pp. 685-697
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 9, pp. 55-60 ("Feet Jesus Washed"); pp. 73-77 ("Night in Garden")
- Our Beliefs, nos. 4, 9, 8

POWER TEXT

"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).

POWER POINT

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

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.

Sabbath

DO Do this week's activity on page 89.

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 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.

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 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 His disciples as He prepared for the ultimate service.

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.