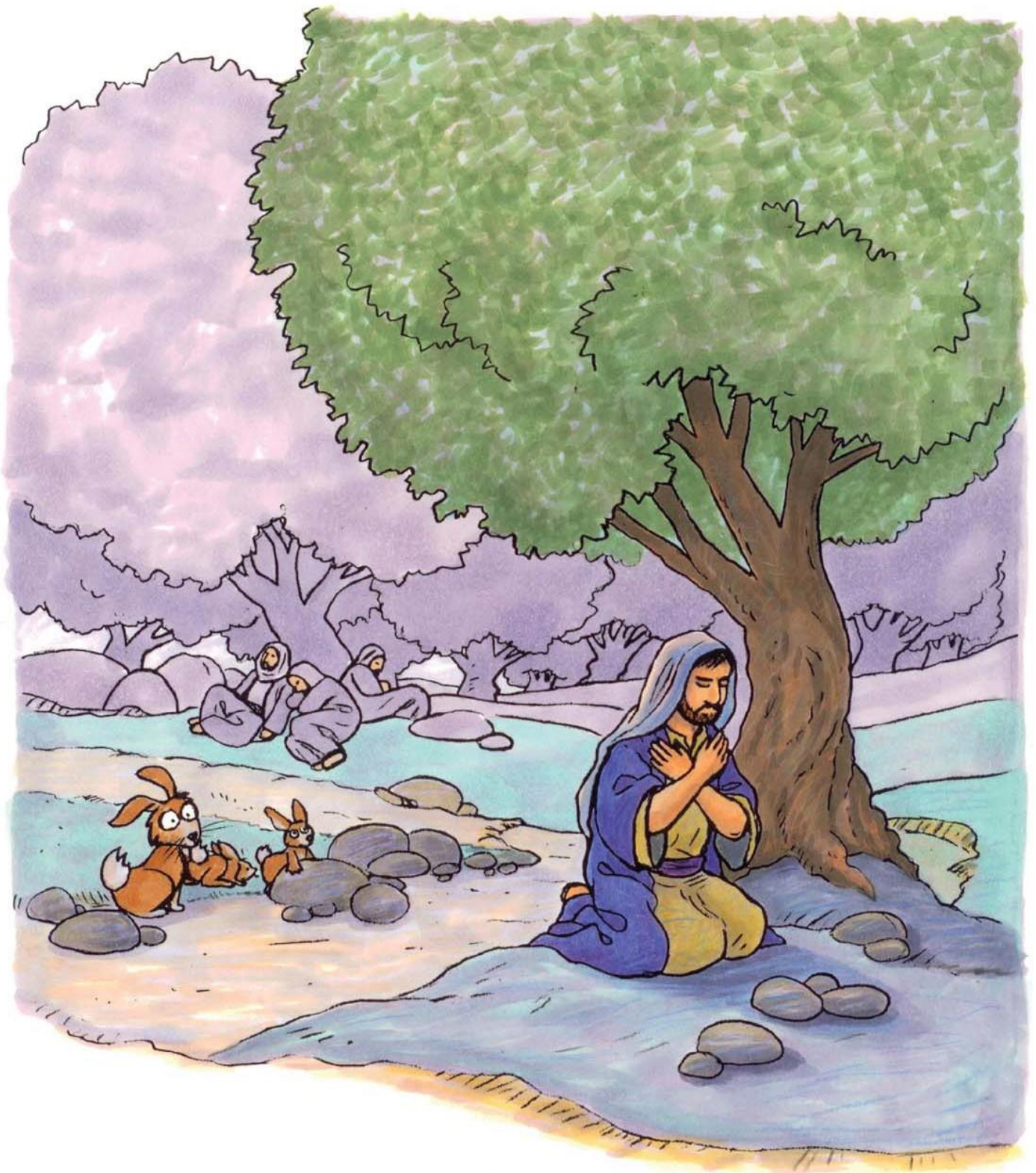


JESUS' PRAYER IN GETHSEMANE

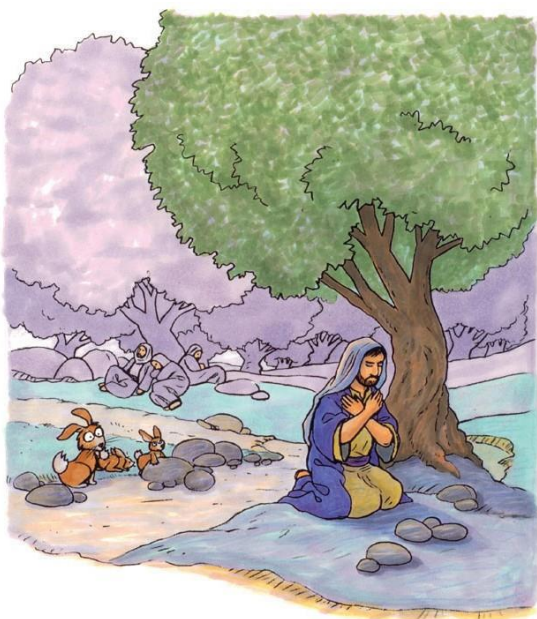
Matthew 26:31-46



Contents

Message	As Jesus accepted the will of God, we will do the same.
Learning Objectives	The children will learn: <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Jesus accepted what would happen to Him.■ We should seek to know and to do what is the will of God.■ God will comfort and strengthen those who try to fulfill His will.
Bible Text	Matthew 26:31–46

Jesus' Prayer in Gethsemane



On the way to the garden of Gethsemane Jesus told His disciples, "In a few hours you will all abandon Me. But I will be resurrected after My death and come to you again."

Peter argued with Him, "Even if all the others run away, I will not leave You."

Jesus replied, "Before the rooster crows tonight, you will deny Me three times."

Peter cried, "I would rather die with You than do such a thing!" The other disciples agreed.

When they arrived at the garden of Gethsemane Jesus told His disciples to sit down to one side while He prayed.

He took Peter, James and John with Him. Jesus was very, very sad. He said to the three of them, "Stay awake and pray." He went on a little further, threw Himself down on the ground and prayed, "Father, if it is possible, let this pass from Me. Whatever happens, it is not My will, but Your will be done."

When He returned, the disciples had fallen asleep. He shook Peter and woke him up,

"Are you sleeping? Can you not stay awake for one hour? Stay awake and pray."

Once again Jesus walked off a little way to be alone and prayed the same prayer.

When He came back, the disciples were sleeping again. They just could not keep their eyes open, and they did not know what to say to Him.

For the third time Jesus prayed alone and once again Peter, James and John fell asleep.

When Jesus returned He woke the disciples up and ask them to rise because He knew He was being betrayed.

Jesus' Prayer in Gethsemane

Suggestions for the Teacher

Lead-In

Show the picture to the children. Discuss with them what they see. Ask what she/he may feel....

Let some of the children play the story in a role-play. Instruct them before.

Provide disguise / fancy dress....

Lesson Instructions

Begin telling the story...

Discuss with the children...

- Why does Jesus pray so intensely in the Garden of Gethsemane?
(He knows what lays ahead. He is both the Son of God and man, who experiences fear.)
- He is afraid and although He prays for a different outcome, He accepts whatever will happen.
- What does he expect from the prayer? (The closeness of God during prayer)
- Jesus is almighty. Why does He not defend Himself?
(Because the will of God has to be fulfilled)
- Judas Iscariot betrays Jesus. How would you feel if someone you trust betrayed you?

Have the children repeat...

- Jesus accepted what would happen to Him.
- We also want to do the will of God.
- God will strengthen those who try to fulfill His will.

Real-Life Application (explain the following)

- Jesus knew that God would never leave Him alone.
- He also trusted that God would give Him the necessary strength to carry everything.
- In need, God comforts and strengthens all those who plead with Him.

Repeat the Message
As Jesus accepted the will of God, we will do the same.