

JESUS IN THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE

Objective

The children learn how Jesus wrestled in prayer, to be able to fulfill his Father's will.

Contents

- The events in the garden of Gethsemane (Luke 22:39–46).
- The betrayal and arrest (Luke 22:47–54).
- Loving one's neighbour, as well as obeying and submitting to God's will.



Lesson Plan

Lead-In

Workbook, Exercise 1

The children work on exercise 1.

Implementation

Question Prompt

What happened after Jesus had eaten the Passover meal with the Apostles?

Discussion

First, gather the children's previous knowledge without going into the correct sequence of events.

Workbook, Text

The children take turns reading "Jesus' Battle in Gethsemane" to one another. Give them time to imagine what they would have done in the place of Jesus when his disciples fell asleep. After all, Jesus had asked his disciples to pray. One would think that he would have been disappointed or even reacted angrily. But he did not hold this against them.

Workbook, Exercise 2

The further sequence of events is elaborated on using the exercise, and perhaps with the help of the text.

The children number the statements and read them aloud in the correct order.

Teacher's Presentation

Point out to the children that Jesus' arrest is also described in the other Gospels.

As an example, read Matthew 26:47–56. Discuss with the children that the reports of Matthew and Luke differ slightly. However, they agree on the essential points.

Take up Jesus' remark in Matthew 26:53–54 which is read aloud by a child.

Bible

Matthew 26:53–54:

"Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be?"

Discussion

Explain to the children that a legion comprised approximately 3,000 men at that time. Let them calculate how many angels the Lord Jesus could have asked for (over 36,000).

Question Prompt

In Gethsemane, however, the Lord Jesus was not interested in avoiding his arrest; he wanted to fulfill God's commission.

From beginning to end, his life was characterized by obedience to God and surrendering to his Father's will, but also by his love for the people. That is why he now was prepared to sacrifice his life for man's redemption.

Jesus is our greatest example. How do we show that our life is characterized by

- obedience to God?
 - We inquire into God's will.
 - We try hard to fulfill his will.
- our surrender to God's will?
 - We accept what God permits.
 - We are even able to master difficult circumstances because we know that all things work together for the good of those who love God (Romans 8:28).
- love for our fellow-man?
 - Besides loving our neighbour as ourselves, we make people aware of God's work of salvation.

Conclusion

Workbook, Exercise 3

Discussion

The children complete exercise 3.

Emphasize that, after Jesus prayed in Gethsemane, an angel came to strengthen him. Talk with the children about the fact that, also in the Old Testament, there are several reports of angels helping. For example,

- Daniel in the lions' den (Daniel 6:23),
- the three men in the fiery furnace (Daniel 3:24–28), and
- the prophet Elijah (1 Kings 19:5–8).

