**Sunday School from Home!**

**Week of March 22**

Today’s story is found in Matthew 26:31-56. Read it from any Bible you have at home or online. In this story Jesus goes to the garden with his disciples and prays.

* Read the story twice if needed. Re-tell the story round-robin style: One person tells the first part of the story, the next person tells the second part, etc. until you have reached the end of the story.
* What human feelings do you think Jesus was experiencing in this story? What makes you feel better when you feel that way? How does prayer influence your emotions? While we are practicing social distancing, how can we reach out to others who may be feeling sad, scared, or anxious? Make a plan to reach out as a family this week – use the internet, the church directory, school directories, or the church staff (Kim Rhoton!) to find addresses, email, or phone numbers.
* When we think about things we are missing, it often helps to remember the things we still have and find ways to be grateful. Try starting a gratitude journal, or create a gratitude board display for your family with a white board or chalk board. Add to it during the week and talk about what you are grateful for as a family.
* The story this week takes place in a garden with olive trees. Research olives trees and how they grow. Taste olives and olive oil if you have some. Learn how olive oil is produced and what it can be used for other than cooking. Try making something to eat with olive oil, such as salad dressing. Notice what happens when you pour oil and vinegar into the same container!
* Try an experiment with oil and water: <https://www.metrofamilymagazine.com/simple-science-experiment-oil-water-and-food-coloring/>
* Use olive oil and crayons to create a unique work of art! Use crayons to color a picture. This will work best if you press firmly to make bold marks. When your picture is complete, put a little olive oil on a cotton ball and rub it over the BACK of the paper. Hang it up to dry and observe what happens!
* Research the climate of the Holy Lands where the story takes place. What kinds of plants and animals are native to the area? Compare that to western PA. Take a walk and notice the plants and animals you see in your neighborhood. Spring is beginning to bloom!
* Use paper or fabric scraps to create your own garden. Hang them on a wall of your house and encourage pretend play. Maybe you will lay down and fall asleep in your garden just like the disciples. ☺
* Use any seeds and pot or cups you have to plant some seeds. Learn what plants need to grow. Observe your plant daily for changes. Or for a peek inside the soil, “plant” your seed in a plastic bag with a damp paper towel. Look here for instructions: <https://lifeovercs.com/germinating-seeds-bag-science-experiment-kids/>
* Go outside and play a game. Try Sleep, Sleep, WAKE! This is played with the same rules as Duck, Duck, Goose, except everyone sitting in the circle pretends to be asleep.
* Are you still singing this? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qp5Ck6BsWJQ>

Do you have instruments you can play while you sing? Try making instruments out of objects around the house. Use a canister of oatmeal as a simple drum. Do you have plastic Easter eggs? Put some objects inside them to make a shaker. Try a variety of items to see what different sounds you can make!

* Here is another song to learn this week: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GG3PHLCw0Tw> If you were at VBS a few years ago this might be familiar. You can sing along with the video and do the motions. Or, try creating your own interpretive dance that reflects the music. Play a game in which one person is the leader and the others copy his or her movements. Try adding props like scarves.