Preschool–Grade 5

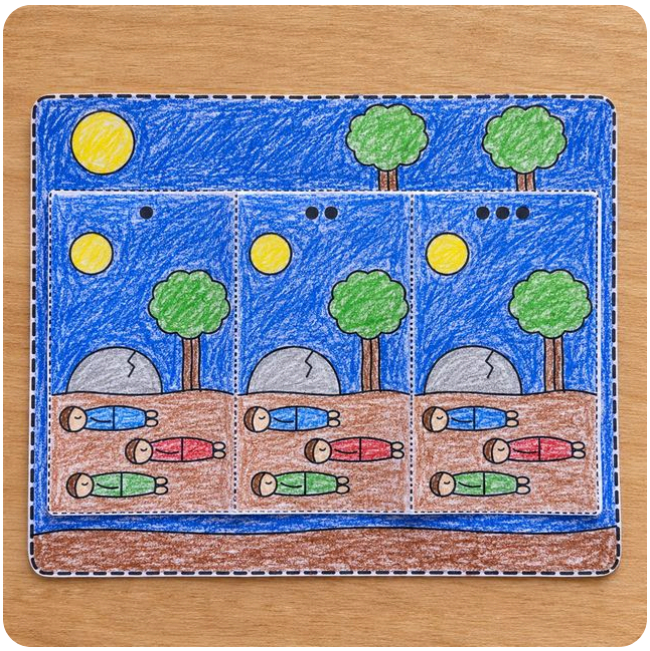
Garden of Gethsemane Craft

Three times He prayed · Matthew 26:36–46 · print page 2 for each child (and page 3 for the harder level)

What it looks like finished



Easy and medium



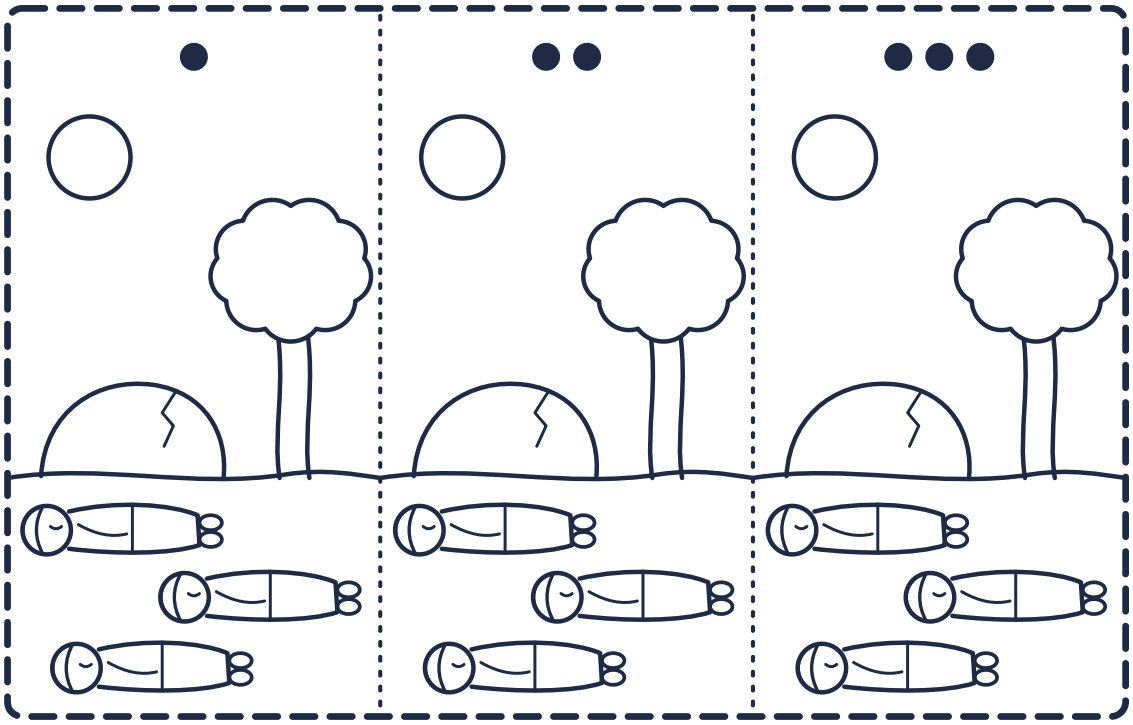
Harder

Both levels are a three-prayers fold: a strip of three night pictures of the garden that folds up like a fan. Each panel has a full moon, an olive tree, the rock where Jesus went a little further to pray, and the three disciples asleep. One, two and three dots show the three times Jesus went away and prayed (Matthew 26:39, 42, 44). Jesus is not drawn. Medium (left): the fold, open. Harder (right): the same fold glued on a night garden card.

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Name: _____

✂ Cut on the dashed lines



1st prayer (Matthew 26:39) 2nd prayer (26:42) 3rd prayer (26:44)

Fold on the two dotted lines, back and forth like a fan. The dots show which time Jesus prayed.
Color: sky dark blue, moon yellow, leaves green, trunks and ground brown, rock gray, robes any color.

What, could ye not watch with me one hour?
Matthew 26:40 (KJV)

Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation.
Matthew 26:41 (KJV)

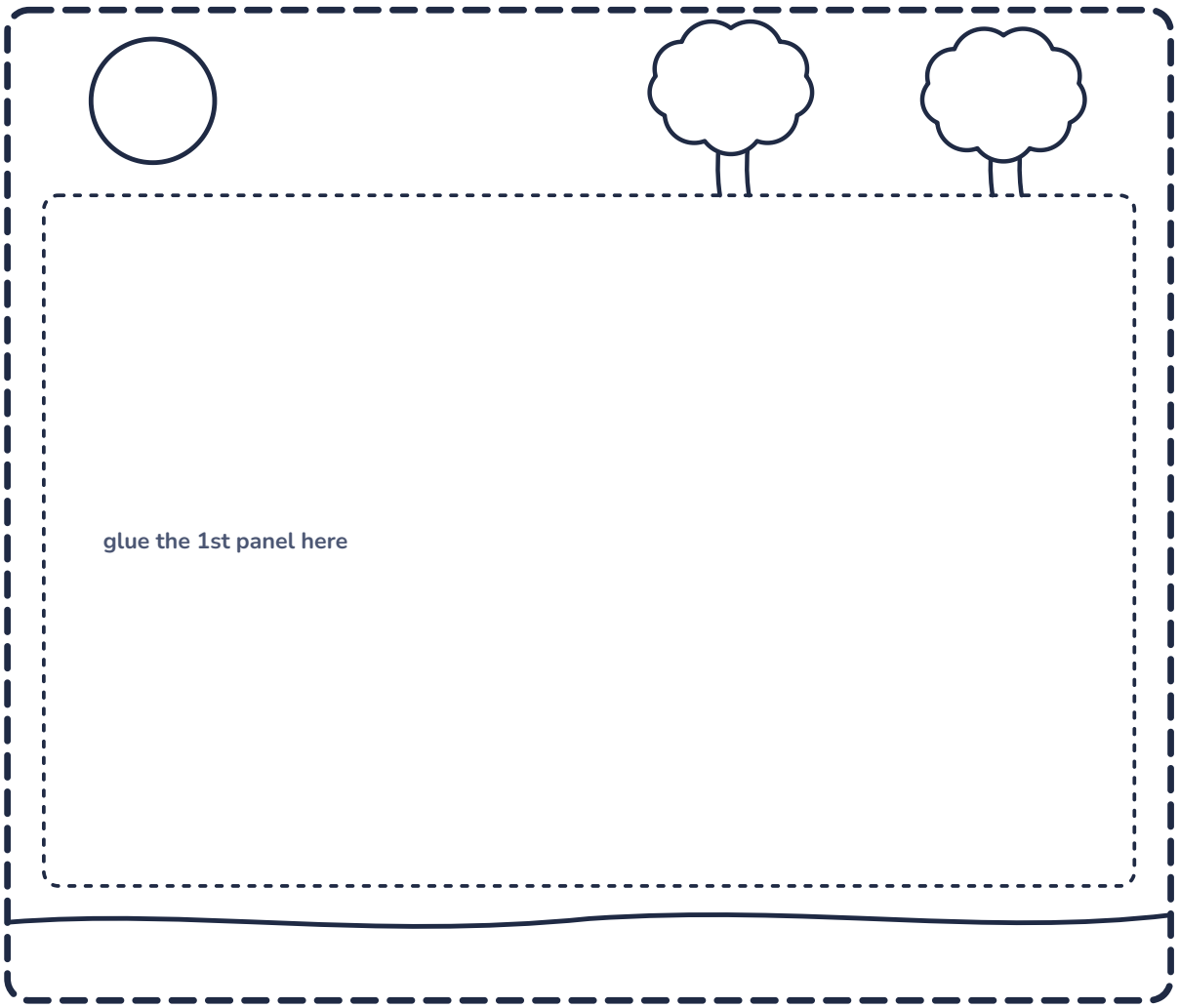
verse card: glue it on the back of the 3rd panel

Color the three panels and cut out the strip and the verse card. You also need a glue stick.

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Name: _____

✂ Harder level



garden card: sky dark blue, moon yellow, leaves green, trunks and ground brown

How to add the garden card

1. Make the three-prayers fold from page 2 first, with the verse card on the back of the third panel.
2. Color the garden card: the sky dark blue, the moon yellow, the olive leaves green, the trunks and the ground brown. Cut it out on the dashed lines.
3. Open the fold. Glue only the back of the first panel (one dot) inside the dotted box, on the left. Panels 2 and 3 stay loose, so they still fold over like a book.
4. Tell it: Jesus prayed three times in the garden at night (Matthew 26:36–44). Fold the panels over one by one as you tell each prayer.

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For the teacher

See it finished: a photo of the finished craft is at vbshq.com/crafts/garden-of-gethsemane-craft
Time: 15 to 30 minutes, depending on the level · **Ages:** 3 to 11, in three levels · **Cost:** under 25 cents a child for the easy and medium levels
You need: page 2 printed once per child (cardstock is sturdiest), crayons or markers in dark blue, yellow, green, brown and gray, plus any colors for the robes, scissors and glue sticks. For the harder level, also page 3 printed once per child.
Before class: for preschoolers, cut out the strip and the verse card and fold the strip ahead of time.

Three ways to make it

- **Easy (preschool, ages 3–5), about 15 minutes, no scissors:** before class, cut out and fold each child's strip and glue the verse card on. Kids color the moon, the trees and the sleeping disciples. Count the dots with them: one, two, three prayers.
- **Medium (grades K–2), about 20 minutes:** follow the steps below. Kids color, cut out and fold the strip and glue on the verse card. This is the craft in the first photo.
- **Harder (grades 3–5), about 30 minutes:** make the fold like the medium level. Then color and cut out the night garden card from page 3 and glue the first panel on it, so the fold opens like a book. This is the craft in the second photo.

Steps (medium level)

1. **Color:** color all three panels the same way: the sky dark blue, the moon yellow, the olive leaves green, the tree trunks and the ground brown, and the rock gray. Color the three sleeping disciples' robes any colors you like and their hair brown or black.
2. **Cut:** cut out the long three-panel strip and the verse card on the dashed lines.
3. **Fold:** fold the strip on the two dotted lines, back and forth like a fan, so the panel with one dot is on top.
4. **Verse:** glue the verse card on the back of the panel with three dots.
5. **Tell it:** tell it panel by panel. One dot: Jesus went a little further and prayed the first time (Matthew 26:39). Two dots: He went away and prayed the second time (26:42). Three dots: He prayed the third time, "saying the same words" (26:44). Each time the disciples were asleep (26:40, 26:43).
6. **Read:** turn it over and read the verse card together: "What, could ye not watch with me one hour?" (Matthew 26:40). "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation" (26:41).

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Questions to ask while kids work

- What was the name of the place where Jesus went to pray? *(Gethsemane, Matthew 26:36; it was a garden, John 18:1)*
- Which disciples did Jesus take a little further with Him? *(Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, 26:37; James and John, Mark 14:33)*
- How did Jesus feel? *("My soul is exceeding sorrowful," 26:38)*
- One dot: what did Jesus pray the first time? *("Not as I will, but as thou wilt," 26:39)*
- What were the disciples doing when He came back? *(Sleeping, 26:40)*
- Two dots: what did He pray the second time? *("Thy will be done," 26:42)*
- Why did they fall asleep again? *("Their eyes were heavy," 26:43)*
- Three dots: what did He pray the third time? *("The same words," 26:44)*

Tips

- **Old Bible words explained: yonder** means over there; **sorrowful** means very sad; **tarry** means stay; **watch** means stay awake and keep watch; **this cup** means the suffering ahead of Him; **temptation** is a pull to do wrong; **the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak** means inside you want to do right, but your body gets tired and weak.
- **What the Bible says:** Jesus went away and prayed three times (Matthew 26:39, 42, 44), and each time He came back He found the disciples asleep (26:40, 43). It was night: they went out after the Passover supper (26:19–20, 26:30), and the moon is drawn full because Passover was kept on the fourteenth day of the month (Exodus 12:6), the middle of the month, at the full moon. The olive trees are for the mount of Olives (26:30). The Bible does not describe the garden, so the trees and the rock are a simple picture.
- **Jesus is never drawn.** The rock is the place where He went a little further to pray (26:39); tell what He did from the story. Only the three sleeping disciples are drawn, as men with short hair in plain robes.
- **No clocks:** people then had no clocks, so the craft counts the three prayers instead. "One hour" (26:40) is on the verse card.
- **Teach the story first:** this craft goes with the free Garden of Gethsemane lesson and word search at vbshq.com/bible-stories/garden-of-gethsemane.

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