

# Session 1

## Peter in the garden of Gethsemane

Don't fight; rather pray with and for each other

**Scripture:** Luke 22:47–53

**Supplies:**

- Copies of the paper with four blocks and headings
- Colour pencils/paint/crayons



### Welcome

**Snap and clap game:** (*Welcome the children and tell them that you're going to play a revision game.*) I'm going to tell you about Peter and the other disciples. If what I say is true, clap your hands twice. If what I say is untrue, snap your fingers twice.

1. Matthew was the disciple who doubted. (Wrong: Thomas doubted.)
2. Judas betrayed Jesus. (Correct)
3. The disciples got a fright when they saw Jesus walking on water. (Correct)
4. John got out of the boat and walked on water. (Wrong: Peter walked on water.)



### Worship

**Settle-down ritual:** (*Let the children close their eyes and guide them through this worship moment. Play a quiet worship song in the background.*) Pretend that you're sitting in your favourite spot where you can freely talk to Jesus. See how Jesus is walking towards you. Run to Him and give Him a big hug. Go sit with Him in your favourite spot. Tell Him how much you love Him. Listen to what He is saying to you. (*When the time is right, the children can open their eyes again.*)



### Word

Have you ever had to do something you didn't really want to do? Have you ever felt like you'd rather fight someone even if it's wrong? Have you ever fought someone to protect someone else? Today we are going to listen to such a story from the Bible, but I need your help. You must be artists today. An artist depicts something in a specific way as he sees it. They can paint, draw, work with clay, make music, do woodwork, etc. to portray and share what they see with others. Today we are all going to be artists. We are going to use pencils/crayons/paint to share what we hear with other people.

(Give each child the handout with the four parts. Have them fold it in half [horizontally] and then open it again to A4 size. Have them fold it in half again [vertically] and open it again. There will then be 4 folded squares, each with its own inscription: "The Garden of Gethsemane", "The Cup", "The Kiss", "The Sword". Give each child a pencil/crayons/paint [whatever is available].)

But before we listen to this story, we as artists are going to calm down first.

Artists, are you ready to listen to the story and start on your art afterwards? (Let the children answer.)

Gethsemane means "oil press". An oil press is used to put olives under a lot of pressure to press out all the oil. This garden was not filled with flowers, but rather a lot of trees. Jesus and his disciples visited the garden often to rest and pray. The garden symbolises the pressure that Jesus felt.

(*Let the artists draw what they think the garden looked like in the first block.*)

“Jesus went out into the garden of Gethsemane. He did so every night since he came from Jerusalem. The disciples went with Him. When they arrived there, Jesus said to the disciples: ‘You must pray that you will continue to follow Me even when things are hard.’

Jesus walked a little bit away from them, about as far as you can throw a stone. He knelt and prayed and said: ‘Father, if You want to do it, please take this suffering away from Me, don’t give me this cup to drink from. But don’t do as I say, do as You know is good.’ Then an angel came down from heaven. He appeared to Jesus and gave Him strength. Afterward Jesus became afraid and began to pray. His sweat became like drops of blood and it dripped onto the ground.”

The cup is not a real cup that you fill with water. It’s a symbolic cup that is filled with the sins of this world and the suffering that Jesus would bear on our behalf. The first thing Jesus did was to pray alone to God, his Father.

*(Let the artists draw the cup that holds all our sin and suffering in the next block.)*

“When Jesus was done praying, He stood up. He went to the disciples and found them sound asleep. They were tired because they were very worried about Jesus. Jesus asked them, ‘Why are you asleep? Get up and pray that nothing will happen to make you sin.’ Jesus was busy talking when a group of people arrived there. Judas, one of the disciples, was in front. He approached Jesus to kiss him. Jesus then asked him, ‘Judas, are you betraying the Son of man with a kiss?’”

In their culture men kissed each other on the cheek as a sign of friendship and acceptance. But Judas kissed Jesus on the cheek as a sign of betrayal.

*(Let the artists draw a kiss/lips in the third block.)*

“The disciples who stood around Jesus realised what was going to happen and they asked Jesus: ‘Lord, should we attack these people with our swords?’ Peter swung his sword at the high priest’s slave. (The high priest was the most important priest. He was head of all the priests. A slave is someone who belongs to someone else and must work for them.) He chopped off the slave’s right ear.”

The disciples’ reaction to Judas’ betrayal was to fight back. Peter plucked out his sword and chopped off the slave’s right ear. This is the wrong way to solve a problem. Today people are still trying to solve their problems with violence. This is how the world solves problems, but we are different.)

*(Let the artists draw a sword in the last block.)*

“But Jesus said to the disciples: ‘Stop!’ Jesus touched the slave’s ear and healed him. Then Jesus asked everyone who came to arrest Him, the priests, the officers, and the heads of families: ‘Why have you brought swords and sticks? Do you think I want to fight against the government? I was with you in the temple every day and you did not arrest Me. Now it is nighttime, the time when the enemies of God choose to do bad things and now you can do what you came here to do.’”

Children reflect on the story:

1. I wonder how Peter felt after he chopped off the slave’s ear.
2. I wonder what you do when you’re scared or angry.
3. I wonder what would happen if you prayed to Jesus every time you were scared or angry.
4. I wonder what would happen if you prayed for your enemies.



## **Working and Playing**

Let each child show their artwork to someone else and explain what the garden, the cup, the kiss, and the sword symbolise. Let them take it home to show their parents or guardians as well.

### **Close with the blessing:**

Jesus loves you very much.

He fixes what is wrong.

May we remember to pray

when we are angry or sad.

**The garden of Gethsemane**

**The cup**

**The kiss**

**The sword**