

“24” - LESSON 4

“Time To Pray”

Main Focus:

When you face difficulty, pray to God for strength



Power Verse:

“Keep watch and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation...”
- Mark 14:38



Watt’s Up:

“On My Very Worst Day,
You Know I Will Pray!”

LEADER’S INFO

When life’s most difficult circumstances hit us, our reaction is key. Often, people go into “panic mode” and start to lose control of their emotions. Other times, people start to blame others (and sometimes God) for their problems.

Jesus gave us the perfect example of what to do when you are facing a difficulty that is bigger than you are. He didn’t complain or freak out...He prayed.

In this lesson, your children will learn from Jesus’ example in the Garden of Gethsemane. They will learn that, if they will humble themselves and pray, God will give them strength to make it through life’s most difficult tests.



“The Spark” Intro Video

Special Agent Jack Bowow



“Watt’s Up?” Teaching Video

Skittles teaches “Watt’s Up?”



Character Skit

“Tic Toc”



Offering Time



Game On!

“We Knee(d) To Win!”



Bible Story

“Jesus Prays In The Garden”



Power Verse Video

“Keep watch and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation...”

- Mark 14:38



Call To Action

“Time To Pray”



Brain Drain

PowerPoint Review Game



Small Group Experience

Main Focus:

When you face difficulty, pray
to God for strength



Power Verse:

“Keep watch and pray, so that
you will not give in to temptation...”
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Watt’s Up:

“On My Very Worst Day,
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Brain Drain

PowerPoint Review Game

Small Group Experience

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CHARACTER SKIT

Character: “**Tic Toc**” (or Theadora Tocopolous, is obsessed with time. She knows the precise amount of time it takes to do anything, as well as many important events and people throughout history. She claims to be a time traveler & adventurer, but most people thinks she’s a little crazy.)

TIC TOC: (comes out talking on her cellphone) I know, it IS amazing, isn’t it?

Leader: Hey everybody! It’s Tic-Toc! I wonder who she’s talking to on the phone?

TIC TOC: (laughs hysterically) Oh Graham-Cracker, you’re so silly!

Leader: (taps on Tic-Toc’s shoulder) Um, Tic-Toc? I hate to interrupt, but who is Graham-Cracker?

TIC TOC: (covers the phone with her hand, noticing the leader) `Oh hey, I’m on the phone with Alexander Graham Bell!

Leader: (confused) Alexander Graham Bell?? You mean the inventor of the telephone?!

TIC TOC: Yeah! Graham-Cracker’s a nickname I gave him. He loves it! (back on the phone) Don’t you Graham-Cracker? (giggles)

Leader: Hold up – Alexander Graham Bell died almost 100 years ago! That CAN’T be him!

TIC TOC: Silly, I’m a TIME TRAVELLER! Remember? I went back in time and gave him a cellphone! You know, to speed things up a little. You’re welcome!

Leader: How many times do we have to tell you? Time Traveling isn’t REAL!

TIC TOC: That’s what Graham-Cracker said before I showed him how to play (says whatever app game is currently the most popular with kids) He’s got a decent score now! I even hooked him up with a Twitter account! (back on the phone) Okay, I’ll talk to you later! Text me! Bye! (laughs, then looks down at her phone and begins texting)

Leader: (sighs, frustrated) Who are you talking to now?

TIC TOC: Thomas Jefferson. I’m sending him suggestions for the Declaration of Independence.

Leader: Enough with the phone nonsense!

TIC TOC: Well excuuuuuuuse me. Just talking to one of the Founding Fathers of our country, no big deal. (puts away her phone) Now, we’re talking about praying today, right?

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CHARACTER SKIT

(continued)

Leader: How do you know that?

TIC TOC: *(laughs)* I'm a Time Traveler, of course! Today's lesson is all about how we should pray to God for strength whenever we face difficulty! I already know because I've already been here!

Leader: *(rubs their temples dramatically)* I'm having a difficult time with your silliness.

TIC TOC: Well, then you should talk to God about it! And tell him the whole truth. Be honest with God about how you feel!

Leader: *(sighs, looks upward, praying)* God, I'm having a rough day! I'm trying to help the kids learn how to pray to you but this crazy person who CLAIMS to be a Time Traveler always interrupts us!

TIC TOC: *(looks around, confused)* There's someone else in here who falsely claims to be a Time Traveler?

Leader: *(frustrated, looking upwards)* HELP!!

TIC TOC: Ah, perfect! That's the SECOND thing you should do! When you're facing difficulty, ask God for HELP! He's all-powerful and He loves you! He's the best source of help you could ask for!

Leader: You're right, Tic Toc. I'm sorry for getting so frustrated. You're actually helping a lot by being here. I guess it's just -

TIC TOC: *(interrupts)* It's just God's will for me to be here? *(looks at her watches)* Yep, right on time. And that's the third thing you have to remember when praying through difficulty! Just pray for God's will to be done! Because in the end, He's the one that knows what's best to do!

Leader: As much as I hate it when you interrupt me, you're absolutely right.

TIC TOC: I know! Isn't it great? Whoa! *(jumps, reaches for the phone in her pocket)* Getting a text! *(looks down at the phone and laughs)* It's Napoleon Bonaparte! Silly man. He knows I don't speak French!

Leader: Tic Toc, just stop. You know and I know and the KIDS know that Time Travel ISN'T REAL!! If it were real, where in the world is your TIME MACHINE??

TIC TOC: I couldn't POSSIBLY tell you that! But...I'll give you a clue. It involves a Chinese restaurant...and your grandmother's dentures.

Leader: That doesn't make ANY sense!

Tic Toc: Who says it has to? I'll see you later boys and girls! I'm Tic Toc, and I'm OUTTA TIME! SEE YA!
(bear hugs the leader and skips away as her theme music plays)



GAME ON!

“We Knee(d) To Win!”

Items Needed For Game:

“Lesson 4 Game Intro” Video

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Preparation:

Play Agent Bowow’s “Lesson 4 Game Intro” video.
Choose four boys and four girls to compete in this game.

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How To Play:

This is a relay race. The contestants will be on their knees the entire time. One at a time, the contestants will walk on their knees to a turnaround point of your choice. Once they have walked all the way to the turnaround point and back, they must tag the next person in line.

The first team to have all players complete the task is declared the winner!



Bible Story

“Jesus Prays In The Garden”

Materials Needed:

The Data Disc; the PowerPoint presentation for Lesson 4; begin with the slide that says “Bible Story”; follow the instructions below, changing the slides to follow along with the story (*as shown*)

Preparation:

Familiarize yourself with the story in Matthew 26:36-46; have your open Bible in your hands as you tell the story

The Story:

We’ve been learning about the events that happened in the last 24 hours of Jesus’ life on Earth. We’ve learned a lot about what happened at The Last Supper. Jesus predicted His death to His disciples and gave them some final encouraging words.



After the meal was over, Jesus asked the disciples to go with Him to pray. He walked a short distance with them to a garden called Gethsemane. (*show pic*) He told them, “My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death. Watch and pray, so that you do not fall into temptation.” With that, Jesus left the disciples to pray a little further away.



(*show pic*) Jesus knelt and prayed to God. He said, “Please take this cup of suffering from me.” What did that mean? Well, Jesus knew what was about to happen to Him. He knew that He was about to be arrested, beaten, and nailed to a cross. When He said, “Please take this cup of suffering from me,” He was asking God to please not make Him have to go through the pain of being crucified. Jesus knew how painful it was going to be, so He was asking God if there was any other way.



After a time of prayer, Jesus went back to check on the disciples. Remember, He had left them there to pray. (*show pic*) When Jesus went back to where they were, He found them all fast asleep. He had asked them to pray, but they were just too tired. That had to make Him feel completely alone. Even in His darkest hour, the disciples could not stay awake enough to pray for Him.



Jesus went back to His prayer spot. Remember, He had just prayed and asked God if there was any possible way He could save the world from their sins *without* having to suffer and die. But, then Jesus prayed something so powerful. (*show pic*) He said, “I want *Your* will to be done, not mine.” That means, “It doesn’t matter what I want. God, I want what *You* want.” That’s an amazing attitude, isn’t it?

Today, you are going to learn some important lessons from Jesus’ experience in the garden of Gethsemane. You are going to learn that when you face your toughest moment in life, there is only one thing to do...PRAY!



Call To Action “Time To Pray”

Materials Needed:

The Data CD; The DVD; large clock

Preparation:

Open the PowerPoint presentation on the Data Disc titled “Lesson Four,” begin with the slide titled “Time To Pray”; play the “Lesson 4 Call To Action Intro” Video before you begin



The Message: (title slide)

In the book of Ecclesiastes, Solomon teaches us, “There is a time for everything under the sun.” (*hold up the large clock whenever you say the word “time”*) There is a *time* to cry and a *time* to laugh. There is a *time* to rest and a *time* to work. There is a *time* to mourn and a *time* to dance. It’s important that your response matches up with what it is “*time*” for.

When you have a big test tomorrow, it’s not *time* to play - it’s *time* to study, right? When you are at a funeral, it’s not *time* to dance, right? It’s *time* to mourn.

Well, when you face the most difficult moment of your life, what is it *time* to do? Panic? Freak out? Blame others? Throw a fit? What is it *time* to do when you face the most difficult moment of your life? Jesus answered that question for us in today’s Bible Story. Do you remember what He did? (*allow response*) That’s right! Jesus knew that when He faced the most difficult moment of His life - it was *time* to pray! (*put the clock down*)

Jesus took the disciples to the garden of Gethsemane to pray. Did you notice what the first thing Jesus said was? He said, “My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death.” In other words, “I am so sad right now I feel like I could just die.” What was Jesus doing when He said this? He was doing the same thing that we should do when we come to God in prayer..



Be Honest About How You Feel (slide)

Jesus was really hurting, wasn’t He? He was being honest and saying exactly how He was feeling. That’s exactly what you need to do as well. When you are facing a difficult moment in life, it can be very hard on you. You get worried. You get scared. You don’t need to put on a fake “happy” face and pretend like everything is just

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Call To Action (Continued)

wonderful. You can be honest about how you are feeling. Tell your parents, your family, your friends, and your pastors how you are feeling. Be honest about how you feel. Not only that, but...

Ask God For Help *(slide)*



Jesus prayed to God and said, “*Father, everything is possible for you. Please take this cup of suffering from me.*” He knew it was going to be a difficult few hours as He was about to be arrested and put to death. He prayed to God for help. “*Please take this cup of suffering from me.*”

When you face the most difficult moments in life: a sick family member, a bully at school, a friend who turns their back on you - ask God for help! You can’t handle life’s huge problems on your own. Don’t try. Instead, do as Jesus did. Ask God for help!

Not only did Jesus ask God for help, but He added a very important part to His prayer. Do you remember what He said? Jesus said, “Yet, I want your will, not mine.” When you face life’s toughest problems...

Pray For God’s Will To Be Done *(slide)*



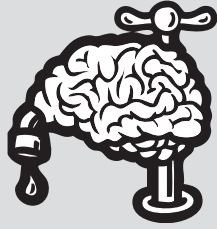
Jesus didn’t want to have to suffer, but He knew that this was the only way that you and I could be forgiven of our sins. So, He prayed for God’s strength to face the test and He prayed for God’s will to be done. That is how we need to pray as well. We don’t like to suffer and go through tough situations. But, we need to pray for God’s will to be done, not ours!

Sometimes it takes difficult situations in life to build our character and our trust in God. Although we don’t like difficulties, it is often in those difficulties that our faith grows the most. Without difficult moments in life, we would never have our faith tested. That’s why we have to pray for God’s will to be done, not our own.

One thing is for sure - God’s will is that we not just survive, but **THRIVE!** He wants us to make it through life’s toughest tests and problems with His help. So, when you face difficult moments, it’s not time to panic. It’s time to pray!

ALTAR RESPONSE: *(play soft music)*

Pray with those children who are going through one of life’s difficult moments. Lead them in a prayer of asking God for help and praying that HIS will be done.



BRAIN DRAIN

Materials Needed:

The Data Disc; The DVD

Preparation:

Play the “Brain Drain” Video Intro off the DVD; Open the PowerPoint presentation on the Data Disc titled “Lesson Four;” begin with the slide titled “Brain Drain”; there is a slide for each question

1. Watt’s Up today?

Answer: “On My Very Worst Day, You Know I Will Pray!”

2. Where did Jesus take the disciples after The Last Supper?

Answer: Garden of Gethsemane

3. What did Jesus ask the disciples to do?

Answer: watch and pray

4. Was Jesus excited to be crucified?

Answer: No

5. What were the disciples doing when Jesus came back to check on them?

Answer: sleeping

6. Whose will did Jesus pray would be done?

Answer: God’s

7. According to our lesson today, when you face a difficult moment, “Be _____ About How You Feel.”

Answer: Honest

8. According to our lesson today, “Ask God For _____.”

Answer: Help

9. According to our lesson today, “Pray For God’s _____ To Be Done.”

Answer: Will

10. Where was our Power Verse found?

Answer: Mark 14:38