

## WEEK 4: Jesus Prays in the Garden

**Big Idea:** We can pray every day.

### HANGOUT

1. Before the children arrive, set up a version of Pin the Tail on the Donkey. Make a sign with the Big Idea (**We can pray every day**) printed on it. Circle the text. Hang the sign at the children's eye level. Write the days of the week on small pieces of paper. Prepare enough days for each person in your group. Stick a loop of tape on the backs of the days.
2. Guide everyone to line up near the Big Idea sign. Give each child a day paper. Explain that the object of the game is to stick their day inside the circle with the Big Idea in it. Direct the first child in line to close their eyes (or use a blindfold), then direct them toward the sign. To make it more challenging, gently spin the child three times first. When everyone has had a turn, celebrate their efforts! Emphasize that **we can pray every day**.

### HEAR

3. Tell the children that in today's story from the Bible, Jesus asks his friends, the disciples, to be with him as he prays. But they keep doing something else instead! Challenge everyone to listen carefully to find out what happens to the disciples.
4. Use a children's Bible to read about Jesus praying in the garden (from Matthew 26:36-46).
5. Discuss:
  - What happened to the disciples while Jesus prayed? (they fell asleep)
  - How did Jesus feel? (sad)
  - Who did Jesus talk to about it? (with his friends and also with God)
  - Who do you tell when you are sad?
  - Do you ever talk to God when you feel sad or mad?
  - Is there anything in this story that surprised you? If so, what was it?
6. Emphasize that **we can pray every day**, anytime, and about anything—even the hard stuff!

### HUDDLE

7. Review this month's Key Verse ("Never stop praying." 1 Thessalonians 5:17, NLT) with the children. Gather them to stand in an open area. Demonstrate how to wave an index finger to indicate "no" and shake your head as you say, "Never." Put out both hands, palms forward, as you say, "stop." Fold both hands and bow your head as you say, "praying." Do all the actions and say the words with the group. Repeat until everyone is familiar with the verse.
8. Gather the group to sit down together. Chat about what the children would like to pray about today. Ask if there's anything that makes them feel happy or sad that they'd like to tell God about. Remind them that we can tell God anything. Ask if there's anything they'd like to thank God for. As they share, write down their prayer requests. Pray for everything they mentioned, then pray a blessing over the whole group.

