**1. In the Garden**

**[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]**

*Made to Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment*

**What You Need:** Bible,a variety ofprops, camera *(optional)*

**What You Do:**

* Open the Bible to Matthew 26. Ask leading questions to help kids recall the story.
* Choose volunteers to play the different parts: Jesus, three disciples, Judas, and the soldiers. Some kids can even be trees, rocks, or plants!
* Help kids put on their costumes. Distribute any props accordingly.
* Lead kids to dramatize the story, reenacting the following key points:
	+ After a special Passover meal, Jesus led the disciples out of the city toward the Mount of Olives.
	+ When they reached the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus told them to sit there while He went to pray. He took Peter, James, and John with Him.
	+ Jesus went a little farther and prayed. He begged for God to take away what was coming, and yet He trusted God's plan.
	+ He returned to His friends and found them sleeping.
	+ Jesus went to pray a second time, but again, He came back and found the disciples sleeping.
	+ He left them and went away to pray again.
	+ For the third time, He prayed the same thing—begging for God to take away what was coming but trusting God’s plan.
	+ Jesus returned to the disciples, who were still asleep.
	+ Judas arrived with a large crowd that was carrying swords and clubs. The Jewish religious leaders had sent the mob.
	+ The mob arrested Jesus and led Him away. His friends, who had promised to stay with Him through anything, ran away. Jesus had chosen the path that would bring life for everyone, but it would cost Him everything.
* *Variation:* Guide kids to “picture pose” key scenes. Take pictures of each pose, and, at the end, play a slideshow.

**What You Say:**

“How do you think the disciples felt when they saw Jesus being taken away? *(Scared, sad, confused)* The disciples thought that Jesus was going to become a king right away. They didn’t know that God had a different plan—a plan that seemed upside down from what everyone thought was going to happen. And because they were sad and confused and scared, they missed a chance to put Jesus first. Instead, they ran away when Jesus needed them most.

“There might be times when you’re sad or confused, too. Someone in your family may be really sick. Or something sad might happen. But even when you’re sad or confused or scared, God can help you ***[Bottom Line]* put others first.** You can pray for others, you can give them a card, or you can make cookies for them.

***[Make It Personal] (Tell kids a way that you’ve put others first. Explain how it helped the other person and how you felt afterward.)***

“What are some ways that you can ***[Bottom Line]* put others first?** *(I can share my candy, I can let my brother have the last cupcake, I can let my friend choose which game we play.)* Great ideas! There are lots of ways that you can ***[Bottom Line]* put others first!”**