

# Lesson Nineteen – CHRIST’S FINAL DAYS:

## GETHSEMANE

### Mark 14

## OBJECTIVES

### STUDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO...

- Explain how the process of pressing olives three times was used as an image for Jesus returning to pray three times on the Mount of Olives, seeing this imagery is one of great anguish and suffering
- Identify Jesus as 100% God AND 100% man, seeing how the suffering he experienced as a man was crucial in the atonement AND crucial for us when we go through suffering

## SUPPLIES

- Bibles / *Big Picture Bible*
- Pictures of Mt. of Olives; olives & olive press
- Olives & olive oil with pita bread

Review the NT Moving-Thru from **LAST SUPPER** to **HOLY SPIRIT DESCENDED**; then review all the motions.

## GATHERING ACTIVITIES

- **“THREE” activities** – worksheets/games/puzzles with **3** as its emphasis
- **OLIVE TREE craft** – have children stick “olive stickers” (w/ words about olive oil) onto the tree
- **DOMINOES/MARBLE run** – to show how things can go “downhill” or worse and worse
- **PLAYDOUGH** – for the children to squish (“crush”)

## INTRODUCTION

**Show olives.** Talk about what they are. Ask what they think olives could be used for at the time of Jesus. Have the children share all of the different ways one can use an olive. Be sure to include the following (if the children do not think of everything):

- Olives for eating
- Olives for olive oil...
  - Cooking
  - Ceremonial anointing
  - Cosmetics
  - Healing (ointment)
  - Fuel for burning light

**As you talk about olives/olive oil, pass out the bread and oil for the children to taste.** Talk about the following:

- There are many uses for olives/olive oil. In the ancient world, olive oil was very important.
- In Israel, olive trees can grow almost anywhere – in all kinds of soils – and live for many hundreds of years. They have an amazing ability to withstand many harsh conditions. Even if it seems like it has died, it can come back to life by adding a shoot into the trunk (called grafting) and that new branch will become a part of the tree and produce olives!
- The Bible uses the olive tree as the symbol for Israel – because of Israel’s ability to withstand hard times and “return to life” over and over again.

**How do you think you get oil from an olive?** Discuss. **It takes a great deal of pressure forced on top of it.**

**Do motions to show the process of harvesting the olives and then pressing them; show the pictures of the process while you explain it as well.**

Here is the process that Jesus and the people of Nazareth would have had to do to get oil from the olive:

- The olives are beaten from the tree and taken to the millstone to be crushed
- All of the pulp (olive and pit) are then put into baskets and put into the press in order to press/squeeze out the oil
- The olives are pressed three times – each time with greater and greater weights placed on the press so that by the last time, everything is pretty much crushed



- The oil that came out first was the best oil – it was used for anointing and for the temple – it was holy
- The oil that came next was used for everyday uses (cooking, cosmetics, salve...)
- The last bit of oil that was squeezed out was used for lighting oil lamps

The big thing to remember was that the olive was **CRUSHED** in order for the oil to be produced...and it was crushed three times to get all of the oil out! So, while the olive itself is helpful (like for eating), it is **BEST** when it is **PRESSED** into oil. The oil is used for **SO** much more!

Today, we are going to think about how **JESUS** was being crushed and pressed **LIKE** the olive. In fact, our story will take place on the Mount of Olives in a Garden called Gethsemane. And – amazingly – Gethsemane means **OIL PRESS!**

## LESSON

### FEELING CRUSHED

- Ask the children to think of a time when they knew something **BIG** was about to happen (like the night before a big test or taking a trip on a plane for the first time or even something a little scarier – like going in for a surgery). Talk about how the children felt when they knew something was about to happen that was not necessarily something they were looking forward to. Ask the children what **BIG** event was about to happen to Jesus that he knew was coming. Ask them how he might be feeling.
- Instruct the children to turn to Mark 14 in their Bibles (page 1115).
  - After the Last Supper ended, Jesus took his followers to the hill that overlooked the city of Jerusalem. It was a garden filled with olive trees; **show the pictures of the Mt. of Olives and olive trees.** The garden on the mount was called Gethsemane. It is here that Jesus prayed to God, his Father...knowing that he was going to go to the cross soon. Let's see what happens.
  - **Read Mark 14:32-42.** Here we see an amazing picture of Jesus.
- Have the children talk about another story where Jesus showed a lot of emotion (like when he got angry in the temple or when he got angry and wept at Lazarus's tomb).
  - We have already seen and learned that Jesus was **TRULY, 100% God**. But, in this story, we can see that Jesus was also completely human.
  - Jesus was a true and complete **HUMAN (100% human!)** This is an amazing idea. Jesus was a man who got angry and sad just like us.
  - What emotion do you feel in this story? *Sadness, desperation, fear, great concern*
    - Jesus was not looking forward to all the pain he would have to go through on the cross, but Jesus was willing to do it.
    - How do you know from the text? *He said "Not what I will, but what you will."*
    - That means, even in the most horrible time of suffering, Jesus trusted his **DADDY** to take him through it. Why do I say **DADDY**? That is the word **ABBA**. One of the first verses we learned at the beginning of the year had **ABBA, FATHER** in it. It was the verse that said **WE** who are in Christ Jesus can call God **ABBA** too – we can call God our **DADDY**. Wow! That's an amazing relationship.

God loves us better than the best Daddy in the world!

### FEELING CRUSHED AGAIN AND AGAIN

- After Jesus prayed to God, he came back to his disciples. What were they doing? *Sleeping.*
- How did it make Jesus feel when he saw his close friends all asleep when he was so upset? *He wasn't happy; he was even more distraught; he got more upset.*
- He told them to keep watch and pray. How many times did he go to pray? *Three times. YES – three times. Where did we hear about "3 times"?* *When olives are pressed, they are pressed three times; each time more and more weights are added – pressing the olives more and more until all of the oil comes out.*
- In this story we see how the picture of the olive being pressed into oil is seen in Jesus' very hard time of prayer. He was suffering – bring pressed more and more each time he went to pray.

Read the story from the *Jesus Storybook Bible*.



## BEING CRUSHED COMPLETELY

- **BUT** – Jesus had to go through this – because it was only when the olive is pressed fully and completely that the oil is produced.
- **Remember:** the **OLIVE TREE** was the tree used as a picture of **ISRAEL**...now, we see **JESUS** being the same picture because he was the **TRUE AND BETTER ISRAEL** who needed to be **CRUSHED** and **PRESSED** for sin – not only for the sin of Israel but for **EVERYONE!**

Explain that Jesus was (and is) 100% God and 100% man. It is only because of this truth/reality that he was able to take our place, being **CRUSHED** for our sins (a verse in Isaiah – long before Jesus came – talked about this... **But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. Isaiah 53:5**)

Talk about ways Jesus is like the olive...asking the children to review what olive oil was used for – **LIGHT, ANOINTING,** and **HEALING!**

- Jesus was **THE ANOINTED ONE** (the King or Messiah)
- Jesus was the **GREAT HEALER** and he heals us completely when we come to him
- Jesus was the **LIGHT** of the **WORLD**.

We can see how Jesus brought all of these about as the **King** who died. But just like an olive tree, Jesus came back to life! After being fully and completely dead, he rose again / came back to life / resurrected!!!

## CONCLUSION

### What did we learn today?

- Today, I wanted you to see how the making of **OLIVE OIL** fits with this story of Jesus in Gethsemane.
- Jesus was crushed and pressed (3 times) because he felt the weight of his coming death. He was sad, upset, deeply distressed because he was fully / 100% human.
- He knew what would happen, yet he still went to the cross willingly because he loved his followers...and he loves **YOU**. He was willing to be crushed completely for us and our sins!

Knowing Jesus went through immense suffering before going to the cross...and then on the cross, should help us whenever we feel any kind of “weight”. We can turn to Jesus knowing that he felt a heavier weight. He felt the weight of our sins upon himself. Because of that, he understands anything you are feeling or any kind of suffering or fear you go through! And he is with you through it.

## VERSES

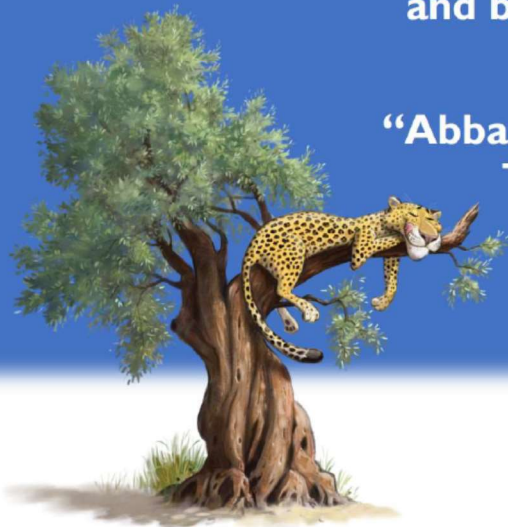
**But he was pierced for our transgressions,  
he was crushed for our iniquities;  
the punishment that brought us peace was on him,  
and by his wounds we are healed.**

**Isaiah 53:5**

**“Abba Father”, he said, “everything is possible for you.  
Take this cup from me.**

**Yet not what I will, but what you will.”**

**Mark 14:36**





Process for PRESSING olives...



## Olive Presses

*More and more weights were added each time the olives were pressed.*





**Olive Trees / the Garden of Gethsemane**





## A dark night in the garden

*The Garden of Gethsemane, from Luke 22, Mark 14, John 18*

THE WIND WAS picking up now, blowing clouds across the moon, shrouding the garden in darkness.

"Stay up with me?" Jesus asked his friends. They said yes and waited under the olive trees, but they were tired and soon they fell asleep.

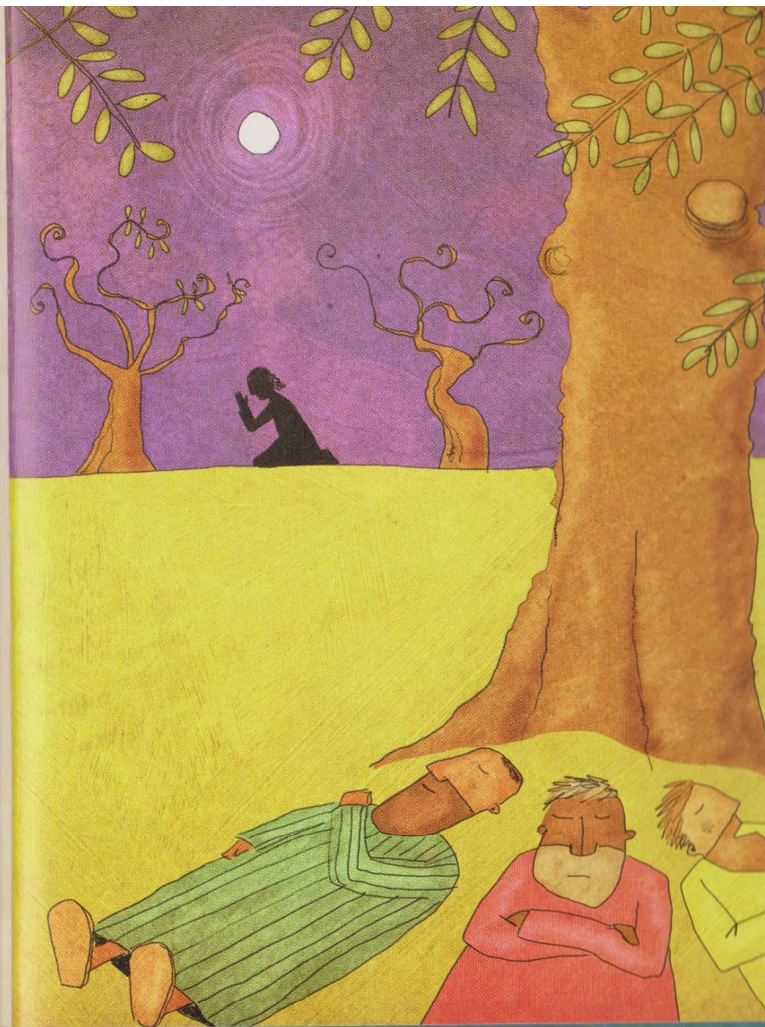
Jesus walked ahead alone, into the dark. He needed to talk to his heavenly Father.

He knew it was time for him to die. They had planned it long ago, he and his Father. Jesus was going to take the punishment for all the wrong things anybody had ever done, or ever would do.

"Papa! Father!" Jesus cried. And he fell to the ground. "Is there any other way to get your children back? To heal their hearts? To get rid of the poison?"

But Jesus knew — there was no other way. All the poison of sin was going to have to go into his own heart.

God was going to pour into Jesus' heart all the sadness and brokenness in people's hearts. He was going to pour into Jesus' body all the sickness in people's bodies. God was going to have to blame his son for everything that had gone wrong. It would crush Jesus.



But there was something else, something even more horrible. When people ran away from God, they lost God — it was what happened when they ran away. Not being close to God was like a punishment. Jesus was going to take that punishment.

Jesus knew what that meant. He was going to lose his Father — and that, Jesus knew, would break his heart in two.

Violent sobs shook Jesus' whole body.

Then Jesus was quiet. Like a lamb. "I trust you, Papa," he said. "Whatever you say, I will do."





Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# KING JESUS is *crushed* as He prays...

Lessons from the olive...

## Do you remember the story?

Mark the correct answer to each question...

Where did **JESUS** take his disciples after they finished the Last Supper?

- Bethlehem
- The Temple
- Garden of Gethsemane

What does "Gethsemane" mean?

- Olive press
- Olive oil
- Olive and mushroom pizza

How many times did the Jews press olives in order to get as much oil out of them as possible?

- One time
- Three times
- Twelve times

How many different/separate times did **JESUS** pray while in the Garden?

- One time
- Three times
- Twelve times

And when he prayed, he cried out to God, calling Him "Abba". What does that mean?

- Daddy
- Father
- King

After praying so hard that sweat came down like drops of blood, **JESUS** said this:

" \_\_\_\_\_, Father...

\_\_\_\_\_ is possible for you.

Take this \_\_\_\_\_ from me. Yet not what I will, but

what \_\_\_\_\_ will."

Match the color of the letter to the lines above – writing them in order.

A E C V Y E B R Y U T B O H U A I P N G

We can see that **JESUS** is like the olive because he is the...

- ANOINTED ONE, or the

\_\_\_\_\_ **H E S M S A I** \_\_\_\_\_

- GREAT PHYSICIAN, or

\_\_\_\_\_ **H L A E E R** \_\_\_\_\_

- TRUE LIGHT of the

\_\_\_\_\_ **D L W O R** \_\_\_\_\_

And in the end, **JESUS** was crushed for our iniquities (or sins). He died in our place – and was able to atone for all the wrong we have ever done (and will do) because he is...

\_\_\_\_\_ % \_\_\_\_\_ ...and

\_\_\_\_\_ % \_\_\_\_\_ !!!

**This means that the next time you go through a hard time** (like when you are afraid, overwhelmed, sad, or anxious), **JESUS** knows exactly what you are feeling!

*Like Jesus, you can cry out to God anytime, calling him your Daddy. Take time to write a prayer asking God to help you in times of trouble... so when trouble comes, you will remember God's faithfulness...*

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