

### Chapter 26 – The Hour of Darkness

#### Day One – Don't Worry

**Today's reading:** Page 367 through bottom of page 370

**This reading covers:** Matthew 26; John 13-14

**Summary:** Although Jesus is about to leave his friends, he tells them not to worry.

**Do together:** Have fun by just repeating things. You can say the alphabet, sing a silly song over and over or recite Bible verses. Anything that you do repeatedly.

**Think about:** Do you ever worry? Worry is thinking about something that concerns you over and over again. The more we think about it, the bigger the problem seems to become. Jesus' followers were worried that Jesus was going to die. What would happen to them? What would Jesus soon do to erase their worries?

**Also read:** Matthew 6:25-34; Philippians 4:6-7

**Prayer:** Dear God, thank you that I don't have to worry because I know you love me and will always be with me. Help me to trust you more and more each day. I pray in Jesus' name, Amen

**Chapter 26 – The Hour of Darkness****Day Two – Whatever God Asks**

**Today's reading:** Bottom of page 372 through bottom of page 373

**This reading covers:** Luke 22; John 18

**Summary:** Jesus chooses to follow God's way for his life.

**Do together:** Write Plan A and Plan B on separate sheets of paper. Plan A is God's way. Plan B is our own way. Place the papers in a hat or basket. Then offer the following circumstances and have the children draw a slip from the hat.

1. It's a sunny day and a carnival is in town. Should you go to school or play hooky?
2. Mom is having company and needs your help. Should you head for the kitchen or disappear to a friend's house?
3. Dad needs someone to mow the lawn. Should you get into your work clothes or pretend to be doing homework?

If they draw Plan A, they should talk about God's plan. If they draw Plan B, they should talk about our plan.

**Think about:** Every day we are faced with choosing between God's way and our own way. How do we know what to do? We can read the Bible to learn more about God's way. We can help each other make good choices so we follow God's Plan A.

**Also read:** Isaiah 55:6-9

**Prayer:** Jesus, thank you for showing me how to follow God no matter what. Help me to choose God every day. I pray in your name, Amen.

### Chapter 26 – The Hour of Darkness Day Three – A Sad Day

**Today's reading:** Middle of page 375 through page 380

**This reading covers:** Matthew 27; Luke 23; John 19

**Summary:** Jesus is badly hurt and eventually dies, all because he loves us.

**Do together:** Turn the lights out in one room and have everyone sit around in a circle in the dark. Tell the children this is how it was for Jesus when God the Father turned away from him while he hung on the cross. Describe the various sufferings of Jesus, the crown of thorns, the nails, whipping. Then explain that the absence of God the Father was the worst suffering of all, leaving Jesus alone in total darkness.

**Think about:** Discuss the effect of sin and how it separates us from a pure and holy God. Since God is light, his absence leaves us in total darkness. Help the children understand the importance of restoration and confession to God. Then turn the lights back on.

**Also read:** John 1:1-9; 1 John 1:9

**Prayer:** Jesus, I can't fully understand what you did when you died to take away my sins. Thank you for making it possible to live in the light. Help me to walk in the light every day. In Jesus' name, Amen.