

**LIFE OF CHRIST**  
from the gospel of  
**Mark**

**LESSON 4**

**JESUS PRAYS EARLY**

**MARK 1:35-39**

# Life of Christ

## Jesus Prays Early

## Mark 1:35-39

### Younger Verse

Spend a lot of time in prayer.

Colossians 4:2

### Older Verse

Spend a lot of time in prayer. Always be watchful and thankful.

### Lesson Goals

**To recognize how important prayer was to Jesus**  
**To learn to begin each day in prayer**  
**To understand how important prayer is in our lives**

### Opener

*Have you ever needed directions on how to do something? What did you do? Did you talk to someone that could tell you what you needed to know? Let's look at what Jesus did.*

### Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

Last week, we learned that Jesus took care of many people by healing them. He continued healing people on into the night. After all the people had left for the evening, Jesus and his followers spent the night at Simon and Andrew's home. Have you ever had friends spend the night at your house? It must have been exciting for Simon, Andrew, and all the others to get to have Jesus spend the night with them.

The next morning, Jesus woke up before sunrise and went outside. He had something very important to do. What do you think it was? (wait for responses) Jesus looked around and found a place that He could be alone. Then He began to pray to His Father. That means He was talking and listening to God. Prayer must be very important to Jesus if that was the first thing He did right after He woke up.

Pretty soon, Simon and some of the other people started to wake up. Everyone started to look around. "Where is Jesus? Have you seen Him?" they asked each other. Finally, after much searching, they found Him, praying to His Father.

"Everyone has been looking for you!" they said as they ran up to Jesus. Jesus looked at them and said, "It is time for us to go to another place. There are more people living in other towns and villages nearby. I need to tell those people about God's love, too. Telling people about God's love is why I am here." Jesus and his followers went to many other towns and spoke to people. Jesus loved getting to talk about His Father with people.

Jesus knew how important it was for Him to pray. He started the morning by praying so that He would know what He needed to do. In order for Jesus to be ready to talk and share with all the people, He had to pray. That was how Jesus got ready. It is important for us to

pray, too. God loves it when we talk with Him. We can talk with Him about anything. We can talk to Him anytime. We can follow Jesus' example and start our day by talking to God. Spending time with God first thing in the morning will get our day started right. It is a way to invite God to be with us and guide us throughout our day.

What are some things we can pray about? It is always good to begin our prayers by worshipping God and thanking Him. We can list the things we are thankful for. It is important to tell God our sins and ask Him to forgive us. Then we can ask God to take care of our needs. We can pray for people who are sick. And it is good to pray for people who need Jesus in their lives. There is a lot to pray about!

Jesus made it possible for us to have this wonderful gift of prayer. When He died on the cross and came back to life, He made the way for us to be able to talk to God and be with Him forever. If you want to know more, please talk with me about it.

### Review Questions

alone)

1. When did Jesus wake up to go pray? (before sunrise)
2. Where did Jesus go to pray? (outside in a place where He could be alone)
3. Why did Jesus need to pray? (to know what God wanted Him to do; to be ready to do God's will)
4. What did Jesus say to His friends when they found Him? ("It is time to go to other places and tell more people about God's love.")

### Prayer Time

Ask the children if they have anything to pray about. Pray for those things. Pray for the children to use prayer every day. Pray that they will enjoy talking with God as much as Jesus did.

### Life Application

In Matthew 6:6, Jesus talked about how to pray. He said, "When you pray, you should go into your room and close the door. Then pray to your Father. . . ." It is okay to pray at church with other people or at home with family and friends. But Jesus knows that we also need "alone time" with the Father, like He did when He was on the earth.

Think about your friends. Are there times you need to be alone with them to talk about important things? You can't really do that when a lot of people are around. It is the same way with God. Look for a time and place you can be alone with God. It may be hard if you have younger brothers or sisters, but be creative. God is waiting to talk with you!

Planning for Lesson 5  
Jesus Heals a Man with Leprosy  
Mark 1:40-45

## **Preschool Lesson For Jesus Prays Early**

Today's story takes place early in the morning. (Have the children stretch out their arms and legs like they just woke up.) The night before, Jesus had seen many, many people. Last week, we talked about how all those people came to Jesus so that He could heal them. So he spent the night at Simon and Andrew's house. Wouldn't that be fun to have Jesus spend the night at your house?

Well, like I said it was very early, so early it was still dark outside. Have any of you ever gotten up early? Jesus wanted to do something very special. (talk in a soft voice.) He walked outside very quietly. He looked around for a place where He could be alone. Then he began to pray! Jesus wanted to start His day by talking to God. He knew God would help Him get ready for the day.

Back at Simon and Andrew's house, everyone else began to wake up, too. Soon they noticed Jesus was nowhere to be found. (Look around frantically.) They called out His name, "Jesus! Jesus! Where are you?" Do you remember where He was? (wait for responses) That's right, He was praying.

After searching for Jesus, they finally found Him. (Breathe a sigh of relief.) They ran up to Him and said, "We have been looking for you!" What do you think Jesus said? Jesus looked at them and said, "It is time to go to some new places. I need to tell more people about God's love. That is what I am supposed to do." So everyone gathered their things and followed Jesus. Many people heard Jesus and believed what He shared with them.

Jesus was showing us how important it is to spend time praying. Praying is talking with God. God loves for us to talk with Him. You can talk with Him anytime, anywhere. He will listen to you. You can share anything you want. Let's pray to God right now and thank Him for giving us a way to talk with Him.

**Hands-on Activities  
For  
Jesus Prays Early**

Play Hide-and-Seek, with one person pretending to be Jesus, and the rest of the kids looking for Him.

Start a prayer board or list. Keep it in a place where the children can see it every time they come to Bible study so they can see how God answers their prayers.

Sing the song “Seek Ye First.” Talk about how we can seek God first by starting our day with prayer and reading His Word, the Bible.

Bring an alarm clock. Talk about setting our clocks a little earlier in the morning to have time to spend with God.

Make thank you letters to God.

Try an outdoor prayer and worship activity.

**Spend a lot  
of time in  
prayer.**

**Colossians 4:2**

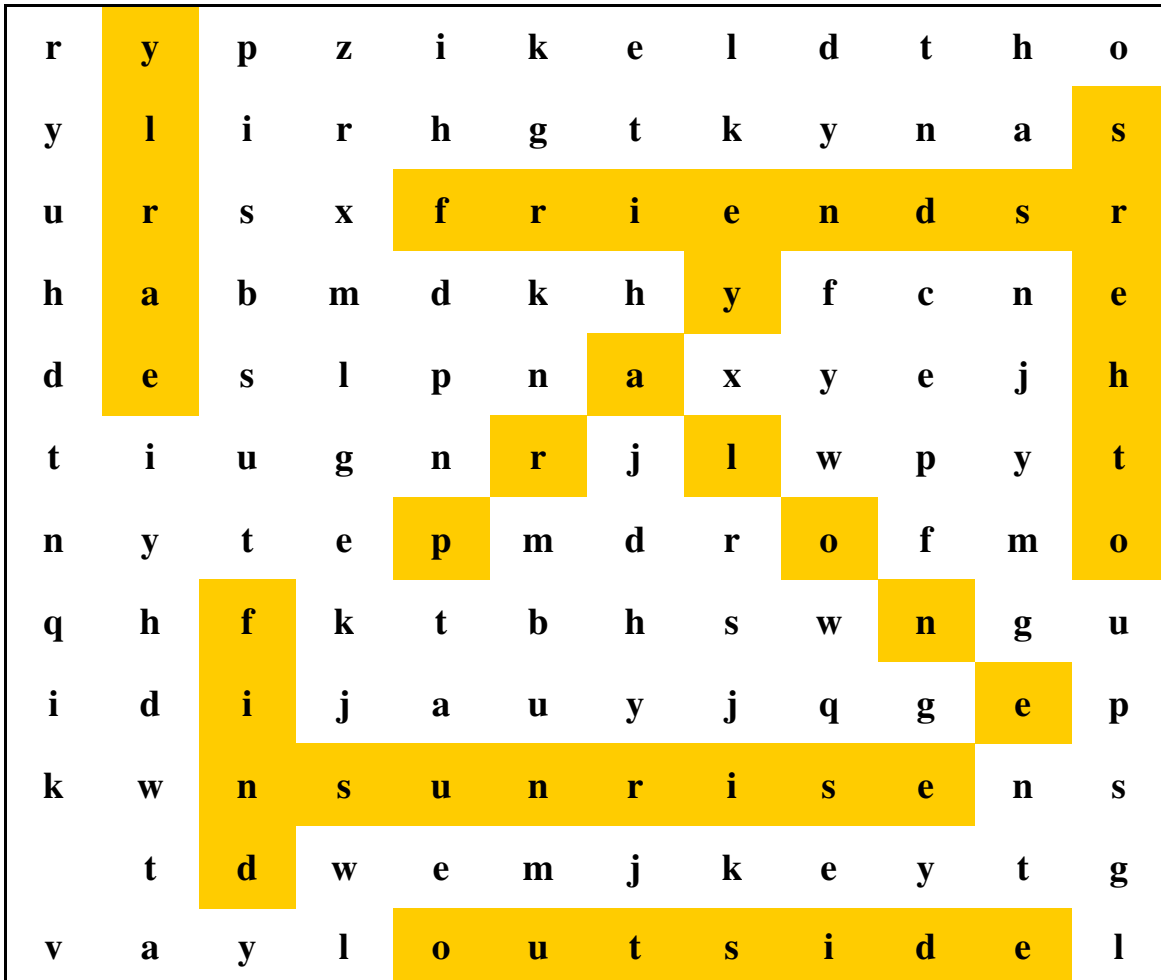


**Spend a lot of  
time in prayer.  
Always be  
watchful and  
thankful.**

**Colossians 4:2**



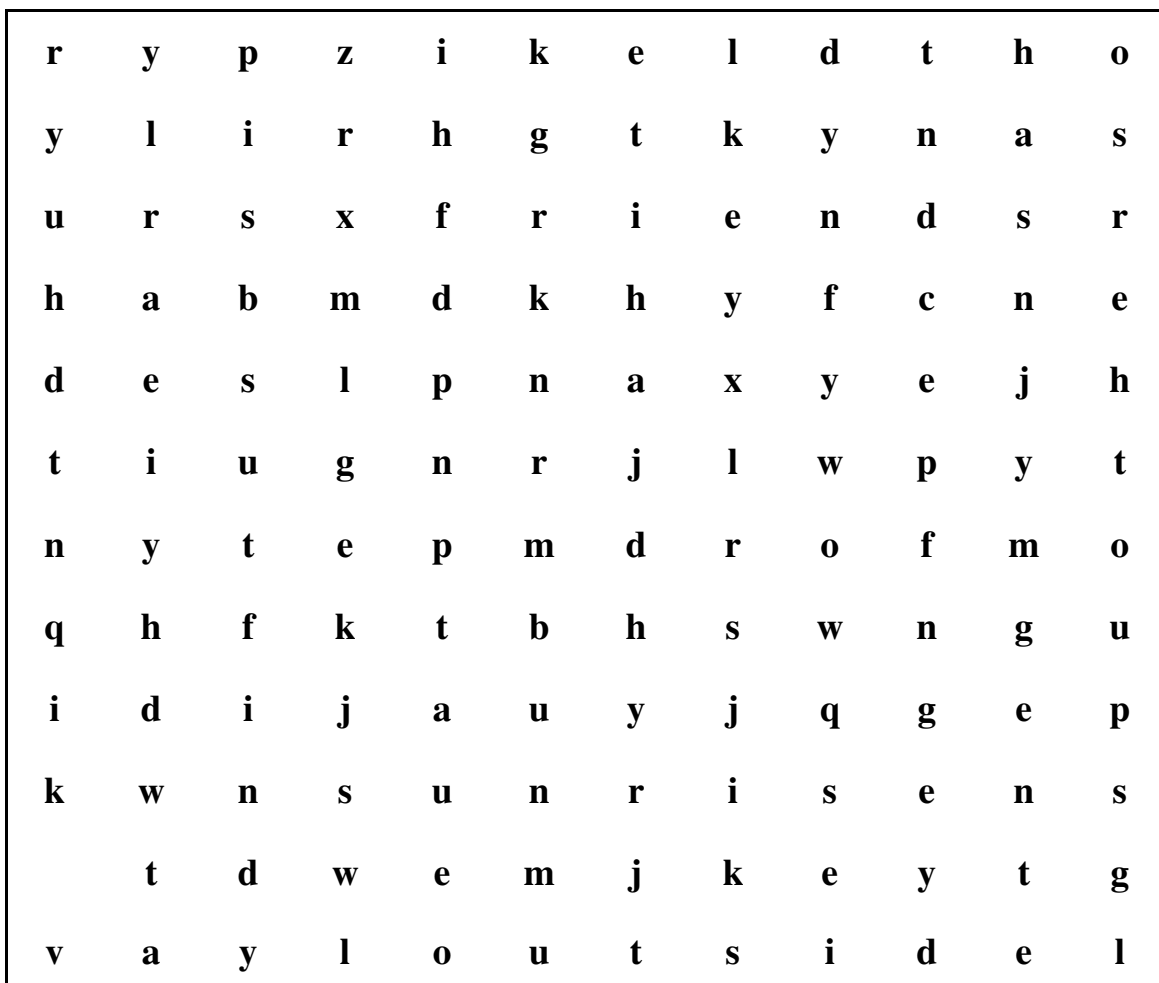
# Word Search



pray	early	outside
sunrise	find	others
alone	friends	Father



# Word Search



Fill in the blanks to complete the Bible verse.

Spend a lot of time in

\_\_\_\_\_.

Always be \_\_\_\_\_ and

\_\_\_\_\_.

Colossians \_\_\_\_\_

What did Jesus do early in the morning?

PRAYED