

Actions for *Gethsemane*

1) Teach the first chorus first: “Gethsemane, Jesus loves me, so He went willingly, to Gethsemane.”

Gethsemane: Point at the children with palm up (b/c it’s their turn to sing loudly) and/or spread arms out from your torso, palms up flat like you are showing people something in a welcoming way

Jesus loves me: Hug self and rock back and forth with a smile on your face

So He went willingly: Nod head

To Gethsemane: Point toward the door (as though you are directing traffic)

2) Teach the first verse with these actions:

Jesus climbed the hill: Pretend to climb

To the garden still: Spread arms, palms down flat like you are spreading dirt

His steps were heavy and slow: Step slowly and heavily from foot to foot so that you almost tip over (like an elephant)

Love: Make a heart with your hands

And a prayer: Fold arms and bow head

Took Him there: Point

To the place only He could go: Spread arms wide, palms up

3) Sing the first chorus with the actions you already taught:

Gethsemane: Point at the children with palm up (b/c it's their turn to sing loudly) and/or spread arms out from your torso, palms up flat like you are showing people something in a welcoming way

Jesus loves me: Hug self and rock back and forth with a smile on your face

So He went willingly: Nod head

To Gethsemane: Point toward the door (as though you are directing traffic)

4) Teach the second verse with these actions:

He felt all that was sad: Scrunch up your face like you are sad and pretend to rub your eyes as though you had been crying (I change my voice to be sad too when I sing it)

Wicked: Put on an angry face and walk side to side like an elephant again as you clench your fists

Or bad: Raise both clenched fists and shake them like you are angry

All the pain: Open your clenched fists palms up, put your hands up, and look upward like you are sad and don't understand why

We would ever know: Point to the audience, then to your head

While His friends were asleep: Pretend to be sleeping (and snore)

He fought to keep: Punch the air with one fist, then the other

His promise: Blow a kiss (or use the ASL sign for promise)

Made long ago: Place the side of one hand on top of the other (without them touching) and then make backward circles with them over your right shoulder (like you are rewinding something into the past)

5) Repeat the actions to the first chorus:

Gethsemane: Point at the children with palm up (b/c it's their turn to sing loudly) and/or spread arms out from your torso, palms up flat like you are showing people something in a welcoming way

Jesus loves me: Hug self and rock back and forth with a smile on your face

So He went willingly: Nod head

To Gethsemane: Point toward the door (as though you are directing traffic)

6) Teach the bridge with these actions:

The hardest thing that ever was done: Put a frustrated look on your face and drop your head and arms toward the floor like you are frustrated and/or depressed, shaking your hands once in the process

The greatest pain that ever was known: Clasp both hands over your heart like you are having a heart attack

The greatest battle that ever was won: Pretend to slice the air both to the left and the right with a fake sword

This was done by Jesus: Point at the children on each word of this phrase like you are strongly emphasizing each word

The fight was won by Jesus: Raise one arm with a fist and punch straight up in the air several times as though you are celebrating a victory (you can also take a step forward on a bent knee to increase the dramatic effect if desired)

7) Teach the final chorus with these actions:

Gethsemane: Point at the children with palm up (b/c it's their turn to sing loudly) and/or spread arms out from your torso, palms up flat like you are showing people something in a welcoming way

Jesus loves me: Hug self and rock back and forth with a smile on your face

So He gave His gift to me: Pretend to give a gift

In Gethsemane: Point to the floor

Gethsemane: Point at the children with palm up (b/c it's their turn to sing loudly) and/or spread arms out from your torso, palms up flat like you are showing people something in a welcoming way

Jesus loves me: Hug self and rock back and forth with a smile on your face

So He gives His gift to me: Pretend to give a gift

From Gethsemane: Act like you are receiving a gift with your hands