



Jesus was Arrested

Bible Passage: Matthew 26:47-56

Memory Verse: 10 This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. 1 John 4:10 (NLT)

Bottom Line: I love Jesus because He loves me.

Big Picture Question: Why did Jesus die on the cross? Jesus died on the cross to forgive us from our sins and came back to life to show that we are forgiven.

Christ Connection: *Jesus was betrayed and arrested. What happened to Jesus was not fair. He did not deserve to be betrayed by His friends. He did not deserve to be treated like a criminal. He did not deserve to be arrested and killed. But Jesus was willing to suffer and die so that we could be forgiven and have eternal life—life forever with God! This is grace, favor we do not deserve. We cannot save ourselves, but we can look to Jesus and trust in Him for our salvation.*

10 Minutes SOCIAL: SETTING THE TONE OF THE EXPERIENCE

Scrambled Eggs

What You Need: 5 paper bags, 75 eggs (need at least 15 different colored or patterned eggs per group)

What You Do:

- This is a partner game that uses a paper bag and plastic Easter eggs.
- Prior to playing, ask a volunteer to prepare your paper bags.
- You'll need one paper bag filled with mixed-up eggs for each pair of children.
- On "GO," the partners have to work together to take the mixed-up, or scrambled, eggs out of their paper bag and fix them by putting matching tops and bottoms back together.
- The catch? They can each only use one of their hands during this minute... the hand they DON'T write with.
- They have to keep their writing-hand behind their back during the game, working together to take the eggs out, pull them apart, and snap them back together correctly.
- At the end of one minute, the pair with the greatest number of matching eggs is the winner.

What You Say "Way to go teams. Did you think that was going to be easy? In our Bible stories the next few weeks we are going to hear some hard things about Jesus and how people treated Him. The Jewish leaders did not believe He was God. All along though God is working things out in the perfect way to make a way for us to have a relationship with Him. Let's get ready to hear about it now.

10 Minutes Worship: CELEBRATING WHAT GOD IS DOING

SONGS, OFFERING AND PRAYER

15 Minutes LARGE GROUP: COMMUNICATING GOD'S TRUTH IN ENGAGING WAYS

TEACHING FOCUS (Matthew 26)

The night before Jesus was crucified, He went to the garden of Gethsemane (geth SEM uh nih) to pray. Jesus knew what was coming. He knew that God's plan was for Him to be the Savior of the world, and that meant He would die on the cross. Jesus could have said, "No, I won't do it," but that's not what He said. He prayed and said, "If there is any other way, spare Me from this. But I want to do Your plan."

This was the only way. Sinners cannot save themselves. Sin separates people from God because God is holy. The Bible says that when we sin, we deserve to die. God would be right to punish us in this way. But God loves us and sent His Son, Jesus to be the Savior of the world.

Jesus never sinned. The religious leaders tried to find a reason to kill Jesus, but He had done nothing wrong. Jesus came to save us by being our substitute. He took our place by living the perfect life we cannot live and dying the guilty



death we do not want to die. When Jesus was arrested, He was treated like a criminal. Jesus is not a criminal; He is the Messiah—the One whom God promised to send.

CHRIST CONNECTION: Jesus was betrayed and arrested. What happened to Jesus was not fair. He did not deserve to be betrayed by His friends. He did not deserve to be treated like a criminal. He did not deserve to be arrested and killed. But Jesus was willing to suffer and die so that we could be forgiven and have eternal life—life forever with God! This is grace, favor we do not deserve. We cannot save ourselves, but we can believe in Jesus and trust in Him for our salvation.

CONTEXT

The Pharisees and other Jews in Jerusalem did not like Jesus. He didn't play by their rules (Matt. 12:1-14), He claimed to be God (John 8:58-59; 10:22-33), and He extended salvation beyond the Jewish people (Luke 4:29). So they plotted several times how they might kill Him.

The events leading up to His death did not surprise Jesus. Each step was part of God's established plan. (See Is. 53:10; Acts 2:23.) But knowing God's plan didn't lessen Jesus' suffering as He was betrayed by His friends, arrested, falsely accused, and beaten. As you teach kids about the arrest of Jesus, help them understand the gravity of the events.

First, Jesus wanted to do God's plan. Jesus came to earth to rescue people from sin. He was committed to doing the Father's will. (Matt. 26:39,42) When Judas showed up with a crowd, Jesus didn't run. He didn't even allow Peter to stand in His defense. (Matt. 26:52) Jesus willingly gave Himself up for us because He loves us. (Eph. 5:2)

Second, Jesus was betrayed and arrested even though He did nothing wrong. The Jews tried to find a legitimate reason to kill Jesus, but they couldn't find one. (Matt. 26:59-60) Jesus did what we failed to do; He perfectly obeyed the law. His arrest was not just. The trial was not fair. But this had to happen. Only a sinless, perfect sacrifice could take away sin. (Heb. 9:11-14)

Finally, Jesus is who He says He is. After Jesus' arrest, the high priest asked Jesus if He was the Son of God. Jesus affirmed that He is. (Matt. 26:64) The high priest accused Him of blasphemy (speaking against God), but Jesus always told the truth.

Jesus felt the pain of betrayal and the agony of His imminent suffering and death. He came to do His Father's plan no matter what in order to bring salvation to the world.

TODAY'S TAKEAWAYS

- Jesus never sinned, was innocent, but they arrested Him anyway.
- Jesus was betrayed by His friends, but it was all a part of God's plan.
- Jesus was arrested so that He would go to the cross for us.
- He was betrayed and mistreated so that He would save us.
- BL: I love Jesus because He loves me.

Give kids a chance to believe in Jesus for the first time. Remind them that God loves them so much that He sent Jesus to earth to pay for their sins. Lead them to pray as you pray. Pray that believers will submit their lives to the Holy Spirit, follow Jesus, and tell others about Him

25 Minutes SMALL GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

Discussion Questions:

- What did Jesus' friends do when He was arrested?
- Why do you think Jesus was willing to follow God's plan?
- If someone were to ask you why you believe in Jesus, what would you say?

Activity: Balloon Blast

What You Need: balloons (10 per group)

What You Do:

- Inflate 5 balloons.



All Star Kids

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- Kids will take turns do the tasks below.
- Instruct children to keep a balloon from hitting the floor without holding it for ten seconds.
- Then instruct them to keep two balloons in the air for twenty seconds, then three for thirty seconds, and so on.
- The task will get progressively more difficult.
- Give each kid a balloon when you are done to take home.

What You Say It became more and more difficult to keep the balloons in the air, didn't it? But no matter how many balloons we added, it would never be as difficult as it was for Jesus to be arrested and then die in our place. Even though He knew it would be difficult, **Jesus was betrayed and arrested** because of His great love for His people. It was God's plan for Jesus to die for our sins so we could be saved.

Activity: Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: Memory Verse Poster, strips of paper (1" wide, 30 per group), tape or stapler, pencils

What You Do:

- Pass out strips of paper and instruct children to work together to write two or three words of the memory verse on each strip, using the memory verse poster as a guide.
- Then take the poster away and lead children to make a chain out of the strips of paper by making loops out of each strip and connecting them to each other in the correct order using tape.
- When finished, invite kids to say the memory verse together.

What You Say "Our Memory Verse is a good reminder of why Jesus died the way He did, when He did and who it was for. Did you ever think about it being out of love? God says, "This is real love!" Real love helped the perfect lamb be lead to slaughter and then rise in 3 days to show that He is God and always was. He was the one God would send to make us "right with Him."

Pray and Dismiss:

What You Need: no supplies needed

What You Say:

"God, thank You for sending Your Son to be betrayed by His friends, arrested for something He didn't do, and killed on a cross to take away our sins. Thank You for Your amazing plan to rescue us from sin. Amen."

5 Minutes HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage your kids to tell their parents about Jesus' last Supper. What was God doing? **BL-** : **I love Jesus because He loves me.**