

Jesus was Arrested

Bible Passage: Matthew 26:36-56

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.*

LEADER NOTES:

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.

TEACHING FOCUS

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.

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.**

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (15 minutes)

Activities that encourage preschoolers to enter the classroom and begin engaging with peers and Small Group Leaders by providing age appropriate and hands on fun while introducing new concepts they will hear in the day's Bible story.

Prepare to offer the following activities to 3-, 4-, 5- year olds as they arrive.

What Time is It Mr. Clock?

What you Need: no supplies needed

What You Do:

- Choose an adult leader to be *Mr. Clock*.
- Lead preschoolers to stand at the opposite end of the room from *Mr. Clock*.
- *Mr. Clock* should have his back to the group.
- Lead preschoolers to call out "What time is it, Mr. Clock?"
- *Mr. Clock* then calls out a time that is on the hour such as 1 o'clock or 12 o'clock.
- Preschoolers should take that many steps toward *Mr. Clock*.
- When the group gets to where *Mr. Clock* is—but not past him—and asks the time, *Mr. Clock* may call out "Midnight!" and then turn and chase the group back to the start.
- Play again as time allows.

What You Say:

"If you asked Jesus what time it was in today's Bible story, He would have said it was time for Him to do God's plan to rescue people from sin. Jesus would soon die on the cross and come back to life to save people from sin. Listen to hear what happened on Jesus' way to the cross.

Worship Time

Gather children on a rug or in a specific area of the classroom to tell the story. Some kids (especially the younger ones) may wander. That's okay. They're still listening and learning!

Play the DVD of All Star Kids worship (choose 1 song for today)

What You Say: "Way to go! You are such amazing singers. Now let's sit down to learn from the Bible today."

Story Time: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

Engage kids' hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible story and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

Bible Story

What You Need: Bible

What You Do: Place a bookmark at Matthew 26 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it.

What You Say: " God's words are in the Bible, and God's words are true! Today's Bible story comes from the Book of Matthew. Matthew is the first book in the New Testament.

PLAY BIBLE STORY VIDEO

Talk about the Bible Story:

"After Jesus ate the special meal with His friends, He and His friends went to a garden to pray. Three of His friends went further with Him. Jesus asked them to wait while He prayed. Jesus was very sad. Jesus knew it was time for Him to die on the cross to rescue people. Jesus prayed, "My Father, if it is possible to rescue people another way, let it happen. But I will do Your plan." Then Jesus went back to His friends, but they were asleep! Jesus woke up the friends. Judas was coming, and Judas brought people with him! Judas kissed Jesus and said, "Hello, Teacher!" Then the people grabbed Jesus to take Him away. Jesus' friends ran away. Jesus said, "This is happening like God said it would."

Learn the Big Picture Question

What You Say: *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.* 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.

Practice the Memory Verse

Open your Bible to 1 John 4:10. Read the memory verse aloud several times.

What You Say: "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)**

Transition to small group.

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (25 minutes)

Create a safe place to connect through activities that are written to reach every learning style while reinforcing the Main Point that was introduced during the Bible Story and applying it to real life

experiences. In addition, these activities provide preschoolers with an opportunity to build relationships with their Small Group Leader.

1. Jelly Bean Prayers

What You Need: Jelly Beans (need 4 different colors of jelly beans), jar or plastic container/zip-top bag, Jelly Bean Prayer Card (printed on labels)

What You Do:

- Give each kid a container to store their jelly beans in.
- Have them stick the sticker to the outside of the container.
- Then pass out a small bag of jelly beans
- Ask kids to put their jelly beans in the container.
- **As they put the jelly beans in, help them pray like this:** **Focus** on God by thanking or praising Him, **Ask** God for what you need, **Say** that you are sorry for your sins, **Trust** God to help you take the right path and not stumble.

What You Say “ When Jesus prayed in the garden, He was taking time to be with God and ask Him for big things. We can do the same when we pray, and trust that God will see His plan happen. Jesus’ friends fell asleep while He was praying. **Jesus was arrested, but He did nothing wrong.** Jesus knew God’s plan was for Him to die to rescue people from sin. Jesus did not fight back when He was arrested and His friends left Him. He wanted to do His Father’s plan no matter what.

2. Practice signing the Memory Verse

What you need: Memory Verse Poster

What You Do:

- Show the poster to the kids
- As you say the words point to them on the poster
- Create simple hand motions to teach toddlers the memory verse. Sample hand motions include “**This is real love** (draw a heart)—**not that we loved God** (point to heaven), **but that he loved us** (point to each kid) **and sent his Son** (rock a baby)**as a sacrifice to take away our sins** (make a cross with your body). **1 John 4:10**

What You Say: Who loves you? (allow kids to answer) Who loves you most? (allow kids to answer). God loves us most. He sent Jesus to live a perfect life as God, die on the cross, and raise in 3 days so that we could know God. That is real love.

Pray and Dismiss:

What You need: no supplies needed

What You Do:

- Pray- " God, thank You that even though His friends left Him and people said things about Him that were not true, Jesus did not fight back. Thank You that He did Your plan to rescue us from sin. Amen

What You Say: Tell parents something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Send home the Jelly Bean Prayers and tell families, we are talking about Jesus sacrifice for our sins and God’s love for us in allowing Jesus to do and be that for us.