



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

Spoon the Eggs

What You Need: plastic spoon (1 per kid), 4 bowls or buckets, plastic Easter Eggs (50 per group), sticker for prizes

What You Do:

- This is a minute to win it game with 2 teams.
- Break your group into 2 teams.
- Each team will take turns (1 player at a time) scooping eggs with a spoon in their mouth to another bucket.
- Each player gets 30 seconds to scoop as many eggs as they can into the bucket.
- When their time is up the next person gets 30 seconds to scoop as many eggs as they can into the bucket.
- Keep playing until all the eggs have been moved or each person gets a turn, whichever comes first.
- Team with the most eggs moved wins.

What You Say "Way to work together to move those eggs. In our stories the next few weeks we will be looking at the last days of Jesus' life. Throughout the whole story we can see where God was working to make everything happen at just the right time to give us a way to have a relationship with Him. Let's get ready to hear about it."

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.
- 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.



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Kinder – 2nd grade

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, Memory Verse Word Cards (printed and cut apart- 1 set per group)

What You Do:

- Review the Memory Verse as a group together out loud a few times.
- Lay the Memory Verse Word Cards on the floor/table face down.
- Take turns picking up a card at a time and putting it in order.
- Keep going until all the words have been turned over.
- Read the verse together one more time.

What You Say "Who loves you? (allow kids to answer) Who loves you most? (allow kids to answer). God loves us the most. He proved by sending His Son to live a perfect life and be the blameless sacrifice for us to be made right with God because of our sins. That is true love."

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.**