

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.*

LEADERNOTES:

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.**

Worship & Story 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."

What You Do: Introduce the 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."

PLAY BIBLE STORY VIDEO

Check diapers and serve snack.

Activities

Depending on the size of your group, you may lead each activity two or three times. Not every child may want to participate in the activities. That's okay.

1. Teach me to Pray

What you Need: Prayer Chains Activity page (1 per kid cut into strips), tape/stapler, crayons, pencils

What You Do:

- Pass out the Prayer Chains Activity page strips (6 strips for each kid)
- Kids can color and decorate each strip.
- When kids are done coloring help them put their strips together to make a paper chain.
- Remind them of the ways we can pray to God like Jesus did in the garden. And pray together using the FAST Prayer
- Send the paper chain home with each kid

What You Say: 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 paper chains 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.

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1's and 2's