



UNIT 26 | SESSION 3

JESUS WAS ARRESTED

MATTHEW 26; MARK 14; LUKE 22

CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus obeyed His Father's plan no matter what.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

How is Jesus the perfect Priest? Jesus gave His life for us.

MEMORY VERSE

Jesus lived a perfect life. Hebrews 4:15



LEADER BIBLE STUDY

Christ's arrest and betrayal remain some of the darkest accounts we read in the Scriptures. The sinless Savior experienced rejection at the hands of His closest friends, knowing the darkness of death He would soon encounter in the hours that followed. The recurring theme that resurfaced throughout each unfolding event was that Christ foreknew all that would come next, yet He took to the cross for our salvation anyway.

The all-knowing Jesus recounted to His disciples the deceitfulness of not only the chief priests and elders, but also of His own follower, Judas, and of the other disciples who would likewise flee in fear of persecution. Each time the Lord shared the truths of the darkness to come, His followers failed to acknowledge the reality of their own faithlessness.

Christ foresaw the betrayals of them all yet forgave them of their sins and continued to walk toward the cross. With each new turn, the Savior remained faithfully in step with the Father's love. Amid the striking and scattering of His disciples—just as Zechariah 13:7 prophesied—Christ remained resolute, His trust in the Father unfaltering.

We see His dedication to God through His time spent praying in the garden, as well as in His invitation to the disciples to join Him in prayer. While Jesus earnestly poured out His prayers to the Father, the disciples chose sleep over prayer. And yet, Christ remained steadfast in following His Father's plan; His eyes toward the suffering He would endure on the cross for sinners.

Explain to preschoolers that Jesus knows our greatest sin, struggles, and inconsistencies but still loves and pursues us despite it all, just as He did with His disciples. Our faith in Him as the Savior was never based on our ability to follow Him perfectly, but rather on Christ's abilities to obey the Father perfectly. In Him we place our faith as the One who knew our darkness and chose us anyway. Though we do not know what awaits us, we know who remains steadfast amidst the darkness and the unknown: Jesus alone.

People to Know

Judas: Judas Iscariot, the only disciple from Judea, acted as treasurer for the disciples but was known as a miser and a thief (John 12:4–6). Judas betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver.



OPENING & ACTIVITIES

WELCOME

Play music in the background as you greet children coming into the classroom. Help them transition in and feel welcome as they play games and interact with other children.

ACTIVITY — OPTION 1

Play Dough Faces

- Give each child a piece of paper, crayons, and play dough. Show children how to draw a large circle on their papers.
- Explain that they will be creating different emotions using the play dough and this will be the face.
- Assist children as they roll out and shape the play dough to form the mouth, eyes, noses, and any other features they like.

Say: "Who can show me an excited face? How about a sad face? We used play dough to form some faces showing different emotions. Our Bible story today is filled with all kinds of big emotions like surprise, sadness, anger, and fear."

ACTIVITY — OPTION 2

Tend a Garden

- Set out artificial flowers, child-size gardening tools, work gloves, and the other provided items to pretend to take care of a garden.
- Retell the Bible story as children tend their pretend garden.

Say: "We created a pretend garden and took care of it. Have you ever been to a garden? In our Bible story, Jesus went to a garden to pray with His disciples. While there, Jesus was arrested. His disciples left and Peter said he did not know Jesus. How do you think Jesus felt? Jesus said, 'This is happening just like God said.' Jesus knew this was all part of God's plan and wanted to follow it. Jesus is our perfect Priest. Jesus followed God's plan to rescue people from sin and wanted to do His Father's plan no matter what."



OPENING & ACTIVITIES

CRAFT

Nighttime Garden Scene

- Give each child a piece of dark blue or black construction paper as well as a few of the provided stickers.
- Encourage them to make a nighttime garden scene like the image below with the provided supplies. Talk about what they think it was like the night Jesus and His disciples went to the garden to pray.

Say: "The Bible says Jesus and His disciples, Peter, James, and John went to a garden to pray at nighttime. Jesus' friends fell asleep while Jesus prayed. Later that night, Jesus was arrested. Jesus said, 'This is happening just like God said.' This was part of God's plan. Jesus followed God's plan to rescue people from sin. Jesus' friends left Him and He was arrested, but Jesus did not fight back. He wanted to do His Father's plan no matter what."





PREPARE

Open your bible to **Matthew 26, Mark 14, or Luke 22** and tell the following story.

THE STORY

JESUS WAS ARRESTED

At the Last Supper, Jesus told His followers that one of them — Judas — would turn against Him. Then Jesus said the disciples would leave Him.

Peter spoke up, “I will never leave You!”

Jesus said, “I tell you the truth: Before the rooster crows, you will say three times that you don’t know Me.”

Jesus and His disciples went to a garden to pray. Jesus told eight of His disciples to stay at the garden gate. Three of the disciples went into the garden with Jesus. He told them, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.”

Jesus was very sad. He fell facedown and prayed. “Father! If it is possible, do not let this happen. But I want to do Your plan.”

Jesus went back to His disciples, but they were sleeping. “Couldn’t you stay awake with Me for one hour?” He asked Peter. Jesus left again to pray. He came back and His disciples were sleeping again. “Get up,” Jesus said. “It is almost time.” Jesus knew it was time for Him to do God’s plan to rescue people from sin.

Suddenly, Judas came into the garden. A large crowd was with him, and the people carried swords and clubs. Judas kissed Jesus so the crowd would know which man was Jesus. The people in the crowd grabbed Jesus to arrest Him. Peter pulled out his sword to fight the crowd, but Jesus told him to stop. Then Jesus said, “This is happening just like God said.” Jesus’ disciples all left, but Peter followed from a distance.

As Peter watched, a servant came up to him. “Aren’t you one of Jesus’ friends?” he asked. But Peter said, “No! I’m not!” Two more times, people asked Peter if he was Jesus’ friend. Peter lied. “No!” he said. “I don’t even know Him!”

CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus knew God’s plan was for Him to die to rescue people from sin. Jesus’ friends left Him and He was arrested, but Jesus did not fight back. He wanted to do His Father’s plan no matter what.



SNACK & CLOSING

SNACK TIME

Wash hands or use hand sanitizer. Serve a snack. Show children the Bible story picture as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

1. What was your favorite part of today's Bible story?
2. What did you learn about God in today's Bible story?
3. Which disciple betrayed Jesus?
4. How is Jesus the perfect Priest? **Jesus gave His life for us.**

CLOSING ACTIVITIES

Pick up toys and games from around the room and put them away. After the room is cleaned up, set out markers or crayons and let children work on today's Bible Story Coloring Page or Activity Page until their parents arrive.

You can also choose a book to read to the children as they work or for those who don't want to work. Please make the effort to have the children quietly engaged in the last few minutes of the service. When parents arrive to pick up their child, share about something their child enjoyed doing or did well today.

BEFORE YOU GO...

Please clean up by doing the following:

1. Spray down toys with disinfectant
2. Spot sweep if needed
3. Return toys to closet, close door
4. Throw away any trash left on counters and in room
5. Return tan storage cubes to **Room 108**

THANK YOU FOR SERVING WITH US!