



UNIT 26 | SESSION 3

# JESUS WAS ARRESTED

MATTHEW 26; MARK 14; LUKE 22

## CHRIST CONNECTION

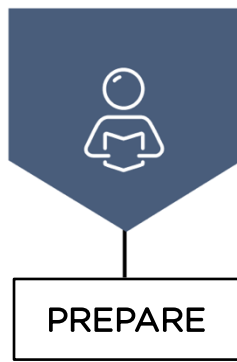
Jesus knew His death was God's plan to save people from sin.

## BIG PICTURE QUESTION

How is Jesus the perfect Priest? Jesus was the perfect sacrifice for sin, and He speaks to God the Father for us today.

## MEMORY VERSE

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 kids 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

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to build relationships and help new kids connect to your group.

### ACTIVITY PAGES

Invite kids to work on their coloring or activity pages before heading to Large Group.

- K12 has the “Hidden Objects” activity page.
- 345 has the “What Did Jesus Pray?” activity page.

**Connect the Dots:** To help prepare kids for the Bible story in Large Group, you can ask something like, “What was a difficult task you have been given before? Why was it difficult? Did you complete it? Why or why not?”

### MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

- Give each table a memory verse puzzle and have them work together to put the pieces in the right place. Then, have them read the finished verse together.
- Once each table has completed the puzzle, make it a competition and see which table can do the puzzle the fastest.
- Remind the class that next week is Bible Bucks day!



## AFTER LARGE GROUP

### ACTIVITY

#### Scatter!

- Begin the game by leading kids to line up single file behind you. Perform any movement you choose, such as walking, skipping, or hopping while directing the kids to follow you.
- After 10 to 15 seconds, yell out “scatter!” Tell kids that when they hear “scatter,” they should run away to avoid being tagged by you.
- Any kid who is tagged is out. Continue the game until only one kid remains. Allow the last kid remaining to become the new leader and play again. Repeat as time allows.

**Connect the Dots:** To help kids connect the Bible story with the activity, you can say something like, “Each time you heard the word ‘scatter,’ you all ran away. Today, we’re learning how Jesus’ disciples all scattered and ran away when He was arrested. Jesus knew His friends would abandon Him during His most difficult time on earth. He also knew His death was God’s plan to save people from sin.”

### K12 CRAFT

#### Garden in a Cup

- Give each kid 1 cup and have them put green pom-poms and small pebbles inside it. Using the popsicle sticks and green construction paper, have them create 3-4 trees.
- Tape the trees along the inside of the cup, creating a garden. Write “Garden of Gethsemane” on the outside of the cup using a sharpie.

**Connect the Dots:** To help kids connect the Bible story with the craft, you can say something like, “Before he was arrested, Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane. He prayed for his disciples, He prayed for the future church – you! – and He prayed that God’s will would be done.”

### 345 CRAFT

#### Paper Chains

- Give each kid 15 strips of paper. Have the kids use the paper strips to create a chain 15 links long. Write “Jesus knew that his death was God’s plan” on the links (one word every other link).

**Connect the Dots:** To help kids connect the Bible story with the craft, you can say something like, “Jesus had the ability to stop what was happening. He chose to follow the will of God and willingly allowed Himself to be arrested, put on trial, and crucified. That willing sacrifice is what allows all of us to be forgiven, declared righteous and have a relationship with God!”



## AFTER LARGE GROUP

### REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

Distribute Bibles to each kid who needs one and have everyone open them to **Matthew 26**, **Mark 14**, or **Luke 22**. Then, read and review the Bible story below.

### JESUS WAS ARRESTED

At the Last Supper, Jesus told His disciples that one of them—Judas Iscariot (iss KAR ih aht)—would betray Him. Then Jesus said the disciples would abandon Him, just like the prophet Zechariah said.

Peter spoke up, “Everyone else may leave You, but I will never leave You!”

Jesus said, “I tell you the truth: Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.”

“I won’t,” Peter said. “I will follow You, even if I have to die with you.”

Then Jesus went with His disciples to a garden called Gethsemane (geth SEM uh nih). He said to them, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” Jesus took three of His disciples into the garden, and Jesus became very sad and troubled. Jesus told the three disciples to stay there, and He went a little farther. Jesus fell facedown and prayed, “Father! If it is possible, spare Me from this. But I want to do Your plan.”

Jesus came back and found the three disciples asleep. He asked Peter, “Couldn’t you stay awake with Me for one hour?” Jesus went away and prayed a second time. Then He found His disciples sleeping again. He said, “Are you still asleep? Get up, for it is almost time. Someone is going to betray Me.”

Suddenly Judas arrived with a large crowd carrying swords and clubs. Judas kissed Jesus so the crowd would know which man was Jesus. The men grabbed Jesus and arrested Him. Peter pulled out his sword to fight the men, but Jesus told Peter to put away his sword. Jesus said, “Isn’t this what God planned all along?” Jesus’ followers ran away, but Peter stayed nearby to watch.

As the men who arrested Jesus led Him away, a servant saw Peter and asked, “Aren’t you one of Jesus’ disciples?” “No, I’m not!” Peter said. Twice more as Peter watched what was happening to Jesus, someone asked him if he was a follower of Jesus. Peter lied. “No!” he said. “I don’t even know Him!”

### CHRIST CONNECTION

**Jesus knew His death was God’s plan to save people from sin.** Jesus’ friends turned against Him and He was arrested and put on trial, but He followed His Father’s plan in order to bring salvation to the world.



## AFTER LARGE GROUP

### DISCUSS THE BIBLE STORY

After reading the Bible story, ask the following questions and lead the group to discuss.

- What do we do if we have wronged a friend in some way?
- Jesus' friends left Him and Judas betrayed Him. How did Jesus show that He loved them? Why will Jesus never turn against you?
- Jesus was not guilty of any crimes or sin, but we are guilty before God. Why did He take our place?
- How can we trust God even when our circumstances are difficult? Peter denied knowing Jesus three times. Should we ever be ashamed of knowing and trusting in Jesus? Why not?

### HAVE EXTRA TIME?

**Play Tic-Tac-Toe Review!** See the sheet in your binder for instructions on how to play.

### BEFORE YOU GO...

Review the gospel and encourage kids to speak with you or another leader if they have questions. Then pray, thanking God for Jesus' power over sin and death. If time allows, let kids keep working on their coloring or activity pages.

**THANK YOU FOR SERVING WITH US!**