

Unit 26 • Session 4
Jesus Was Arrested

BIBLE PASSAGE:

Matthew 26–27

STORY POINT:Jesus allowed His enemies
to arrest Him.**KEY PASSAGE:**

Philippians 2:8

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

What did Jesus do to save us? Jesus lived a sinless life, died on the cross, and rose from the dead.

APPLY THE STORY**(25–30 minutes)****LEADER Bible Study**

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 4:27). 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 Isa. 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.

The BIBLE STORY

JESUS WAS ARRESTED

Matthew 26–27

Jesus came 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.**

The men who arrested Jesus led Him to the house of Caiaphas the high priest. The religious leaders wanted a reason to kill Jesus, but they couldn’t find one. The high priest asked, “Do You have anything to say? Are You the Messiah, the Son of God?”

Jesus replied, “Yes, that’s right.”

The high priest said, “Ah ha! He has spoken against God.” **Caiaphas and the religious leaders did not want to believe that Jesus is God’s Son. They said Jesus was lying, but Jesus was telling the truth! The crowd said, “He deserves to die!”** They spit in Jesus’ face and hit Him.

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!”

The next morning, the religious leaders decided how they would kill Jesus. Then they took Him to Pilate, the governor.

Christ Connection: Jesus knew that 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 Jesus followed His Father’s plan in order to bring salvation to the world.

APPLY THE STORY

Session Title: Jesus Was Arrested

Bible Passage: Matthew 26–27

Story Point: Jesus allowed His enemies to arrest Him.

Key Passage: Philippians 2:8

Big Picture Question: What did Jesus do to save us? Jesus lived a sinless life, died on the cross, and rose from the dead.

Key passage activity (5 minutes)

Key Passage Poster
index cards
pen

Write each word or phrase of the key passage on a separate index card. Invite volunteers to say the key passage from memory. Praise each kid's effort

and encourage all the kids to continue working on the key passage. Then, distribute each card to a kid. Ask the kids to arrange themselves in key passage order and sit down. Then say the key passage with each kid standing when his word or phrase is spoken.

Say • Jesus chose to lay down His life so that we could live with God forever. Jesus is the Son of God, and He obeyed God perfectly, even going to the cross. **Jesus allowed His enemies to arrest Him.** Jesus willingly laid down His life.

Bibles, 1 per kid
Story Point Poster
Small Group Timeline and Map Set (005802970, optional)

Discussion & Bible skills (10 minutes)

Distribute a Bible to each kid. Help kids find Matthew 26. Encourage the kids to use the table of contents to find Matthew. Remind them that Matthew

Option: Retell or review the Bible story using the bolded text of the Bible story script.

is the first book of the New Testament. Ask a volunteer to provide the names of the book before and the book after Matthew. (*Malachi, Luke*) You may allow a strong reader to read a few verses from Mathew 26.

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

What did Jesus pray in the garden? (*"Let this cup pass from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will," Matt. 26:39*)

Which disciple betrayed Jesus and how? (*Judas, with a kiss; Matt. 26:47-49*)

How did Jesus respond when the high priest told Jesus to say if He is the Messiah? (*Jesus agreed, Matt. 26:64*)

Why do you think Peter denied knowing Jesus? *Guide kids to discuss the fear Peter surely felt. If the religious leaders had arrested Jesus, what would stop them from also arresting and punishing Jesus' followers? Peter was focused on his own physical well-being and comfort, not on Jesus.*

When might we feel tempted to pretend we don't know Jesus? *Guide kids to discuss the pressure the world will put on them to disobey God. Remind them that Satan is always working to convince people to worship things or people other than God. It may feel easier or more comfortable to ignore Jesus, but we are called to boldly preach the gospel to all.*

What is something difficult or scary that God may ask you to do? *Guide kids to think through situations they may face now or in the future. Remind them that no matter what situations we face, we always have hope for the future. Someday Jesus will return and destroy all evil, fixing the world for us to live with God forever.*

Say • **Jesus allowed His enemies to arrest Him.** He knew that God's plan would be painful, scary, sad, and very difficult. He obeyed anyway and went to the cross to take the punishment we deserve. He is our Savior.

Activity choice (10 minutes)

Option 1: Torch pass prayer

flashlight
tissue paper
tape

Make a simple Olympic torch by taping tissue paper around the top of a flashlight. Show the torch to kids and ask if they have seen the Olympic

Tip: Use this activity option to reinforce the missions moment found in Teach the

torch on the television. Encourage kids to spread out in the room. Assign a volunteer to hold the torch and say a prayer aloud for missionaries who shared the gospel in Japan and the people who heard the gospel. After she prays, ask her to pass the torch to a friend. Continue until every kid has had a chance to hold the torch and pray.

Say • Every four years, the world holds the Olympic Games. Before the games start, a relay race carries the torch to the location where the games will happen, and a much larger torch is lit with the small one. At the 2020 Summer Olympics, missionaries in Japan created a prayer guide that went with the places where the Olympic torch would be. We can be a part of God's mission on earth when we pray for missionaries and those who hear the gospel.

Option 2: Pass the cup

plastic cup
music

Invite the kids to sit in a circle. Give one kid a plastic cup. While you play music, the kids will pass the cup

around the circle. When you stop the music, whoever is holding the cup must say the big picture question and answer, story point, or key passage from memory.

Say • In the garden, Jesus prayed that God would spare Him from dying on the cross. Even so, Jesus knew that there was no other way for us to have forgiveness and eternal life. Jesus obeyed God even though it was difficult and scary. **Jesus allowed His enemies to arrest Him.** Jesus wanted to obey God and glorify Him, even though it meant death on the cross.

Reflection and prayer (5 minutes)

pencils and crayons
paper
Bible Story Coloring Page, 1 per kid

Distribute a sheet of paper to each child. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

Tip: Give parents this week's *Big Picture Cards for Families* to allow families to

What does this story teach me about God or about the gospel?
What does this story teach me about myself?
Whom can I tell about this story?

Make sure to send the sheets home with kids alongside the activity page so that parents can see what their kids have been learning.

If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page provided with this session. Pray for your group.



Jesus allowed His enemies to arrest Him.



**He has delivered us from
the domain of darkness and
transferred us to the kingdom
of his beloved Son, in whom
we have redemption, the
forgiveness of sins.**

Colossians 1:13-14

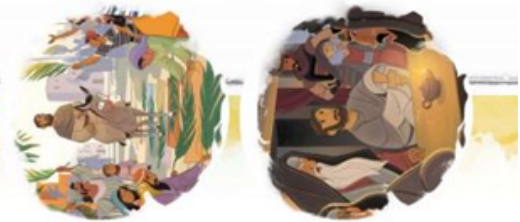


What did Jesus do to save us?



What did Jesus do to save us?

Jesus lived a
sinless life, died on
the cross, and rose
from the dead.



Spot the Differences

INSTRUCTIONS: Find and circle the seven differences between the two versions of the picture.



Unit 26 • Session 4 Jesus Was Arrested

BIBLE STORY SUMMARY:

- Jesus and His disciples went to a garden to pray.
- Jesus asked God for a way to avoid dying but said He wanted to do God's plan.
- Judas betrayed Jesus with a kiss to show Jesus' enemies who to arrest.
- Jesus allowed His enemies to arrest Him.

KEY PASSAGE: Philippians 2:8

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

- What did Jesus do to save us? Jesus lived a sinless life, died on the cross, and rose from the dead.

FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- Why do you think Jesus was afraid to die on the cross?
- Are you ever afraid to obey God?
- How can we obey God when things are very difficult or scary?

FAMILY ACTIVITY:

- Find a prison ministry near you. Contact the ministry to see if your family can put together encouraging cards and simple gifts for the prisoners. Talk to your kids about how Jesus was arrested despite never sinning.



DOWNLOAD THE
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STORY POINT: JESUS ALLOWED HIS ENEMIES TO ARREST HIM.

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