

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.

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**

Bible Storytelling Tips

Act it out: Recruit adult volunteers to act out the roles in the story. If available, dress in Bible times clothing and use props. Tell the story as the narrator while volunteers act it out.

Vary your voice: Change the way you speak as you read dialogue for each person or use adult volunteers to help you with the story by assigning them to "voice" a person in the story while you act as the narrator.

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.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

Leader • Jesus is God's Son, so no one could have arrested Him without His allowing them to. **Jesus allowed His enemies to arrest Him** because He knew it was part of God's plan to save us. ***What did Jesus do to save us? Jesus lived a sinless life, died on the cross, and rose from the dead.*** Through those actions, Jesus made the way for us to be declared righteous by God. Jesus took on our sin at the cross and God gives us Jesus' righteousness. When Jesus rose again, His resurrection proved His sacrifice was enough.

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.

DISCUSSION

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.

REFLECTION AND PRAYER

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

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.