

Jesus Was Arrested

BIBLE PASSAGE: Matthew 26:36–27:2

MAIN POINT: Jesus was betrayed and arrested.

KEY PASSAGE: Luke 4:18

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why do believers share the Lord's Supper?

Believers share the Lord's Supper to remember Jesus' life and death and to proclaim Him until He returns.

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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 4:29). 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.



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The BIBLE STORY

Bible Storytelling Tips

Jesus Was Arrested

Matthew 26:36–27:2

- **Move with the story:** Designate one side of the stage to be the garden. Dim the lights and speak in a quiet tone in the garden. Use brighter lights, a louder voice, and move to another side of the stage to represent Caiaphas' house.
- **Use sound effects:** Play nighttime sounds to represent Jesus' time in the garden. Play noisy crowd sound effects when Jesus faces Caiaphas. Be sure you use sounds to enhance the story, not distract from it.

Jesus came with His disciples to a place called Gethsemane (geth SEM uh nih). He said to them, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” Jesus became very sad and troubled. Jesus went a little farther. He 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 disciples asleep. He asked Peter, “Couldn’t you stay awake with Me for one hour?” Jesus went away and prayed. 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. A large crowd carrying swords and clubs was with him. Judas kissed Jesus so the crowd would know who Jesus was. The men grabbed Jesus and arrested Him. Peter pulled out his sword and tried 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 were trying to find a reason to kill Jesus, but they could not. The high priest asked, “Do You have anything to say? Are You the Messiah, the Son of God?”

Jesus replied, “Yes, that’s right.”

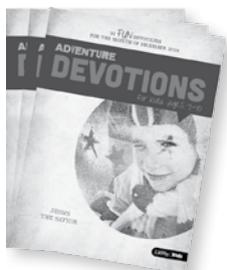
The high priest said, “Ah ha! He has spoken against God.” Caiaphas and the religious leaders did not want to believe that Jesus is God’s Son. They said Jesus was lying, but Jesus was telling the truth! The crowd said, “He

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 said no.

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.



**WANT TO
DISCOVER
GOD’S WORD?
GET
ADVENTURE!**

Invite kids to check out this week’s devotionals to discover how God’s Word can help them grow in the gospel. Order in bulk, subscribe quarterly, or purchase individually. For more information, check out www.lifeway.com/devotionals.

Introduce THE STORY

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BIBLE PASSAGE: Matthew 26:36–27:2

MAIN POINT: Jesus was betrayed and arrested.

KEY PASSAGE: Luke 4:18

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why do believers share the Lord's Supper?

Believers share the Lord's Supper to remember Jesus' life and death and to proclaim Him until He returns.

Welcome time

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group. As kids arrive, ask them if they can remember a time they got in trouble for something they didn't do. Maybe they got in trouble for talking in class, even though they weren't the ones talking. Or maybe a sister or brother blamed them for something they didn't do.

SAY • It's not fun to get in trouble for something you didn't do, is it? In today's story, Jesus was arrested, even though He never did anything wrong. How do you think that made Him feel? We'll learn a lot more about Jesus' today!

Activity page (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete the "Path to Caiaphas" on the activity page.

SAY • When Jesus was arrested, the guards took Him to see the high priest Caiaphas. Jesus didn't deserve to be arrested but willingly allowed Himself to be led to Caiaphas because He knew it was God's plan for Him to die on the cross.

- "Path to Caiaphas" activity page, 1 per kid
- pencils or markers

Session starter (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: Withholding the prize

Provide a bag of small, individually wrapped candy. One by one, approach each child and give her a piece of candy. Say that you are giving her this piece of candy because you know she has good self-control and won't eat it until after class when she has asked permission from her parents. Intentionally skip one or two children. When the skipped children ask why they didn't get candy, say those kids would just eat the candy without waiting to get permission. When the children object, tell them that you were only trying to show the class what it is like to be falsely accused. Reiterate that the skipped children did nothing wrong, and give them a piece of candy.

SAY • Just like some of our friends in class were skipped over without any good reason, Jesus was arrested in our story today without any good reason. We'll find out why in our Bible story.

OPTION 2: Secret betrayer

Divide the room into groups of three, four, or five kids. Give each group a task to accomplish using the supplies in the room, such as stacking blocks to make a tower or wrapping a box with construction paper. Shortly after the groups start their task, whisper to one child in each group to secretly work against his teammates. After a few minutes, call children together and reveal your secret betrayers.

SAY • *Betray* is a hard word. It means to work against or to hurt someone on purpose while pretending to be a friend. Just like each team had a betrayer, Jesus had a betrayer too. Pay close attention to see who the betrayer was and how he betrayed Jesus.

LOW PREP

- individually wrapped candy, 1 per kid
- Allergy Alert download

Tip: Choose to skip kids you know well and would be OK with the exercise. If need be, merely discuss what it would feel like to be skipped.

- classroom objects

Note: Whisper encouragement to many different kids so that it is not too obvious when you are whispering new instructions to the "secret betrayers."

Transition to teach the story

Teach THE STORY

SESSION TITLE: Jesus Was Arrested

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Countdown

• countdown video

Show the countdown video as your kids arrive, and set it to end as the session begins.

Introduce the session (3 minutes)

• leader attire
• small box
• marker

[Leader rushes in from the rear of the class again. A box is near the center of the stage.]

LEADER • There it is! *[Grab the box and use a marker to write LIVING ROOM on it.]* My last box! Boys and girls, I am so excited to finally be done packing and moving. I have spent weeks getting things packed away and ready for the big move. But unfortunately, I'm going to have to rush off right after church today so I can finish loading the truck at home. I thought I would have plenty of time, but all my friends I asked to help me called me this morning and said they were too tired to help me move. I feel so let down by them! I was really counting on their help, and it hurts for them to sleep instead of helping me.

You know, today's story started off in a very similar way. Jesus needed help from His disciples. He didn't need help moving; He needed His disciples to help

Him by praying. But they let Him down too, just like my friends let me down. Maybe I should take a look at how Jesus responded to His friends to see how I should respond to my friends.

Big picture question (1 minute)

LEADER • Last week, we learned about the Last Supper that Jesus shared with His disciples. What Jesus said at that Last Supper was so important that we still celebrate that meal today. We call it the Lord's Supper now, and we eat the bread and drink from the cup to remember how Jesus said He was making a new covenant by His life and death. ***Why do believers share the Lord's Supper? Believers share the Lord's Supper to remember Jesus' life and death and to proclaim Him until He returns.***

Giant timeline (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline or big story circle.

LEADER • Before we get to the story, let's review the last few weeks, where we looked at what Jesus did to prepare for His death and resurrection. Three weeks ago, we learned that Mary anointed Jesus with expensive oil. **Jesus said Mary anointed Him for burial.** Then we learned about the time Jesus drove out the people who were misusing the temple. Last week, we learned that **Jesus and His disciples ate the first Lord's Supper at Passover.** Jesus told them He was going to make a new covenant in His blood when He died on the cross and rose again on the third day. Today's story happened right after the Last Supper.

• Giant Timeline or
Big Story Circle

- Bibles
- “Jesus Was Arrested” video
- Big Picture Question Poster
- Bible Story Picture Poster

Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Matthew 26:36–27:2. Use the Bible storytelling tips on the Bible story page to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “Jesus Was Arrested.”

LEADER • Jesus was betrayed and arrested, even though He had done nothing wrong. The Pharisees hated Jesus because He preached that no one could work hard enough to earn forgiveness for his or her sin. God’s plan was for Him to do all the hard work by sending His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross to take our punishment for sin. All we have to do to receive forgiveness is trust in Jesus as our Savior. But the Pharisees did not want to do that, so they waited for a chance to trap Jesus. They waited for one of His disciples to betray Him.

Judas was one of the disciples who had been with Jesus for about three years. Judas had seen miracles, had witnessed healings, and had heard Jesus’ teachings. But Judas helped the men who wanted to arrest Jesus, even though Jesus had done nothing wrong. The people who were arresting Jesus probably thought they were in control, but they never could have arrested Jesus if He didn’t let them do it. Jesus—who is fully God and fully man, who had performed healing miracles and walked on water, and who is God’s own Son—could have gotten out of being arrested at any moment. Yet He allowed Himself to be arrested because He knew God had been planning this all along. Jesus had to be arrested so that all His followers could be set free from sin and from death.

Christ connection

LEADER • 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.

Note: You may use this opportunity to use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.

Key passage (5 minutes)

Show the key passage poster. Lead the boys and girls to read together Luke 4:18.

- Key Passage Poster
- “On Me” song

LEADER • Our key passage says that Jesus came to set the captives free. Yet in this story, Jesus was arrested and became a captive Himself. Jesus was willing to be a captive so that captives could be set free from sin and death.

Lead boys and girls in singing “On Me.”

Discussion starter video (4 minutes)

LEADER • Before we take this a little deeper, let’s watch a quick video.

- “Unit 25, Session 4” discussion starter video

Show the “Unit 25, Session 4” discussion starter video. Ask your kids the following discussion questions:

- Why did the girl keep saying “no” to activities she was invited to?
- What sorts of things are difficult to you? Are there any difficult activities that you do anyway? Why do you do those things?
- Why do you think Jesus was willing to do the difficult actions of being arrested and dying on the cross?
- Are there any difficult things that you could do to serve and help others?

LEADER • Remembering Jesus’ death for us can help us want to do difficult things to help others. That’s why we celebrate the Lord’s Supper, to remember that Jesus did the difficult action of dying in our place. *Why do believers share the Lord’s Supper? Believers share the Lord’s Supper to remember Jesus’ life and death and to proclaim Him until He returns.*

Sing (4 minutes)

• “It Had to Be” song

LEADER • Jesus is worthy of our praise because He is the all-powerful Son of God who could call down angels to free Himself from being arrested at any time. He is also worthy of our praise because He didn’t call down those angels but humbled Himself and submitted to God’s plans to die and save people from their sins. Let’s sing some songs of praise to Him.

Sing together “It Had to Be.”

Pray (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before dismissing to apply the story.

LEADER • God, thank You for sending Your Son to be betrayed by His friends, arrested for something He didn’t do, and killed on a cross to take away our sins. Thank You for Your amazing plan to rescue us from sin. Amen.

Dismiss to apply the story

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.



God rules. Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.



We sinned. Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



God provided. Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.



Jesus gives. Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.



We respond. Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus. Provide *I'm a Christian Now* for new Christians to take home and complete with their families.

Apply THE STORY

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Key passage activity (5 minutes)

- Key Passage Poster
- strips of paper
- markers or crayons
- tape

Pass out strips of paper and instruct children to work together to write two or three words of the key passage on each strip, using the key passage poster as a guide. Then take the poster away and lead children to make a chain out of the strips of paper by making loops out of each strip and connecting them to each other in the correct order using tape. When finished, invite kids to say the key passage together.

SAY • This chain reminds me of the type of chains that people who are arrested may have on their hands or feet. Jesus may have had chains on His arms or legs when He was arrested. He was made a captive so that all of us, who start as captives to sin, could be set free.

Bible story review & Bible skills (10 minutes)

- Bibles, 1 per kid
- Main Point Poster
- paper (optional)
- marker (optional)
- tape (optional)

Designate each corner of the room *A*, *B*, *C*, and *D*. You may decide to make paper signs and hang them to help kids remember. Tell children that you are going to give multiple choice questions, and children should go to the letter that matches the letter of the answer they think is right. After

you read the correct answer, anyone not in that corner will sit in the center of the room. Invite kids to find Matthew 26 in their Bibles to help them find the answer if they get stumped.

Ask the following review questions:

1. Where did Jesus go with His disciples to pray: A. Golgotha, B. Jerusalem, C. Gethsemane, or D. Gehenna? (*C. Gethsemane; Matt. 26:36*)
2. What did Jesus pray for God to do: A. to keep Him from having to die on the cross, B. to help Him find a good lawyer, C. to give Him everything He wanted, or D. to help Him fight off the guards coming to arrest Him? (*A. to keep Him from having to die on a cross; Matt. 26:39,42*)
3. Which disciple betrayed Jesus with a kiss: A. Judas, B. Peter, C. Matthew, or D. Stephen? (*A. Judas; Matt. 26:47-49*)
4. Who was the high priest that Jesus was brought before: A. Cornelius, B. Co-worker, C. Coriolanus, or D. Caiaphas? (*D. Caiaphas; Matt. 26:57*)
5. What had Jesus done wrong, according to Caiaphas? A. Jesus threatened to destroy the temple; B. Jesus was a thief; C. Jesus said He is the Messiah, the Son of God; or D. Jesus was crazy? (*C. Jesus said He is the Messiah, the Son of God; Matt. 26:63-66*)

SAY • Jesus was betrayed and arrested. Even though people tried to falsely accuse Jesus of different things, they could not find any reason to punish Him. Jesus had never done anything wrong. Finally Caiaphas asked Jesus if He really is the Messiah, the Son of God. Jesus spoke the truth—He is the only Son of God—and Caiaphas accused Him of blasphemy!

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

Jesus was arrested and punished because it was God's plan to rescue us from our sins.



LOW PREP

- Allergy Alert download
- inflated balloons

Tip: If a kid in your group has a latex allergy, use small beach balls or foam balls.

Activity choice (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: Balloon blast

Instruct children to keep a balloon from hitting the floor without holding it for ten seconds. Then instruct them to keep two balloons in the air for twenty seconds, then three for thirty seconds, and so on. The task will get progressively more difficult.

SAY • It became more and more difficult to keep the balloons in the air, didn't it? But no matter how many balloons we added, it would never be as difficult as it was for Jesus to be arrested and then die in our place. Even though He knew it would be difficult, **Jesus was betrayed and arrested** because of His great love for His people. It was God's plan for Jesus to die for our sins so we could be saved.

OPTION 2: Arrest tag

Select one child to be *It* for this modified version of freeze tag. *It* will run around "arresting" other children by tagging them. When a child is tagged, he must stand still with his feet and wrists together like they are chained. Other children can come and touch his hands to set him free. Play several rounds as time allows.

SAY • Jesus could have easily freed Himself from being arrested. But He chose to do the more difficult thing: to be killed in our place for our sins and then to rise again on the third day. Every time we celebrate the Lord's Supper, we remember Jesus and what He did for us. ***Why do believers share the Lord's Supper?***

Believers share the Lord's Supper to remember Jesus' life and death and to proclaim Him until He returns.

Journal and prayer (5 minutes)

Distribute each child's journal. 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 each child secures this week's sheet in the journal, and then collect them. Keep the journals in the classroom so they will be available every week or as often as you wish to use them.

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

- pencils and crayons
- Journal Page
- Bible Story Coloring Page, 1 per kid

Tip: Give parents this week's *Big Picture Cards for Families* to allow families to interact with the biblical content at home.