

John 18:1-27

“Jesus: Betrayed & Arrested”

Scripture: John 18:1-27

Memory Verse: Jesus answered, “I have told you that I am He. Therefore, if you seek Me, let these go their way.” John 18:8

Lesson Focus: As the Gospel of John nears the death of Jesus, we see a critical component in the journey of Jesus to the cross—betrayal by one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot. In this lesson, we will learn of some of what Jesus endured to bring us salvation and encourage kids to boldly proclaim their relationship with Jesus.

Activities & Crafts: Coloring page of Jesus in the garden, word search of different key words from the lesson, Bring It Home devotional for 3rd-5th grade

Starter Activity: Split or steal game—choose two students ahead of time and explain that when the time comes one of them must pick “split”, the other must pick “steal”.

Ask for two volunteers to come and help. Tell students we are going to play a game called “Split or Steal” Show students that you have a giant candy bar that you want to give away. If both participants pick “Split,” they get to split the candy bar. If one chooses “Split” while the other chooses “steal” the one who chose “steal” gets the candy bar. If both chose “steal” neither participant gets anything.

Secretly, they both need to write down on a small whiteboard, whether they want to split or steal. They will reveal their choices to the group and when one chooses to steal and the other chooses to split, give the candy bar to the student who chose steal and thank them for their help. (After the lesson, give a second candy bar to the student who chose split to thank them for helping).

Bible Study: Pray for God to provide understanding and speak through you.

Q: What does it mean to be betrayed?

Today we saw an example of betrayal. The two friends had an opportunity to share the candy bar but one betrayed the other and chose to keep it all for themselves. This is a small example of what betrayal looks like. When we trust someone and they break that trust, it can really sting. Jesus knows exactly what it feels like to be betrayed. One of His closest friends and disciples will betray Him in today’s story.

John 18:1 – Recap what’s been happening to this point.

1. Jesus had a Passover supper with the disciples
2. He prophesied His betrayal to the disciples
3. Judas left the meal to finish the deal he made to turn Jesus over
4. Jesus and the disciples go to the Garden of Gethsemane

John 18:2-3 Judas knew the place where Jesus would be because it was a favorite place for Jesus and His disciples to be. Jesus knew exactly what was about to happen. He was agonized knowing He was about to suffer—that He would be mocked, beaten, spit at, rejected.

Jesus knew the suffering that was about to come upon Him. We see in other Gospel accounts that He spent the time before they reached the garden, praying that if it was possible, that God the Father take the suffering away from Him.

Q: If you knew that you would face what Jesus was about to face, would you have chosen to save yourself?

Though Jesus asked for the Father to take the suffering away, He also prayed that the will of the Father be done. He knew what was about to face and had the ability to save Himself from it, but He willingly faced it because of His obedience to God the Father and His love for us!

They came at night to arrest Jesus, away from all the people.

Q: Why do you think they would arrest Jesus at night, in a quiet, secluded place?

They did this in secret because they knew what they were doing was wrong!

John 18:4-9 When Jesus told them it was Him who they were seeking, they fell over!

Q: Why did they fall over?

The power of God was revealed in that moment, His authority over them was on display. Jesus easily could have escaped this situation, but He submitted Himself to what was about to happen to him.

We see in verse 8, Jesus wanted to protect the disciples who were with Him. He told the troops to leave the disciples alone and let them go. Verse 9 explains that this was a fulfillment of prophecy, that He lost none of His disciples.

John 18:10-11

Q: Why would Simon Peter draw out his sword and cut off someone's ear?

Simon Peter is angry at this scene, and probably trying to prove that he would stand up for Jesus (Jesus had just told Simon Peter that before the night was over, he would deny Him three times). He takes out his sword and cuts off the ear of one of the people there to arrest Jesus.

Jesus tells Peter to put His sword away. In the book of Mark we see that Jesus healed this man's ear. Jesus rebukes Peter because He doesn't need anyone to come to His defense. He knows what He's about to face and He's choosing to allow it to happen because it's the will of God for Him to die.

John 18:12-14 We see in this portion that Jesus is bound up and arrested.

Q: What was Jesus' crime? What would they say He was guilty of?

Jesus easily could have escaped—whatever they bound Jesus with was not what held Him, but His love for us.

They bring Jesus to Annas who is recognized by the people as being the High Priest. This position had become really corrupt and people paid lots of money in order to hold the position. Annas was not a good man.

Remember when Jesus flipped the tables over in the temple because they were taking money from the people when they shouldn't be? Annas was the one who owned those tables and provided the direction for the moneychangers to scam people.

Annas probably wasn't very happy to see Jesus after that encounter!

Caiaphas is his son-in-law and he advised the Jews people that it was good for one man to die for the people.

John 18:15-16 Here we see Peter (and another disciple, likely John) following Jesus. They're probably concerned about what's happening to Jesus. This is very brave of them—all the other disciples have left and were likely afraid for their lives.

John's father Zebedee was a very well-known, popular seller of the fish that the high priest purchased. So John was likely known to the high priest because his dad would have him deliver the fish to their home.

John goes into the courtyard and talks to the girl who is in charge of the door and brings Peter in.

John 18:17-18 The girl asks Peter if he is one of Jesus' disciples and he says no! Jesus told him that before the rooster crowed he would deny Jesus 3 times. This is the first denial.

Q: What do you think Peter is thinking in this moment?

John 18:19-24 Here we find Jesus being questioned by Annas. Jesus explains that He has no secret plans, that everything He has done has been done in public. They have no reason to hold Jesus but as we've seen before, they are trying to find a way to trap Him so they can get rid of Him.

Jesus' answers silence Annas and one of the officials becomes so angry with Jesus that he slaps Him in the face. Jesus boldly responds to the attack by saying "If I said something wrong, tell me what I said. But if it's the truth, why did you hit me?"

They know they have no reason to hold Jesus, but they send Him along to the next person – Caiaphas the high priest.

Q: Why are these people so angry with Jesus? What is motivating them to treat Him so harshly when He has done nothing wrong?

John 18:25-27 Again we find Peter asked if he is a disciple of Jesus and he denies it. Then someone who was in the garden asks Peter if he was with Jesus in the garden. Again he denies knowing Jesus and at that moment, a rooster crowed, just as Jesus had foretold.

Key Point

This is just the beginning of the suffering Jesus will endure for us as He goes to the cross. One of His closest friends, Judas, betrayed Him, all of His friends deserted Him, Peter denies even knowing Him, He is questioned and held without any reason to be and is slapped in the face.

But Jesus chose to endure the suffering and all that would come because He loves us so much. He knew that we were sinners in need of a perfect Savior and He went to the cross so we could be with Him in heaven forever.

Provide kids with an opportunity to respond to the Gospel and close in prayer.

Bring It Home

Lesson theme: Jesus: Arrested & Betrayed

Scripture: John 18:1-27

Memory Verse: Jesus answered, “I have told you that I am He. Therefore, if you seek Me, let these go their way.” **John 18:8**

Teachers/parents: Today we discussed a critical time in Jesus’ life when He was betrayed by one of His disciples, Judas. Discuss the concept of betrayal with your child and what Jesus might have been feeling when He was betrayed.

Discussion Questions:

1. **Read John 18:4** Jesus knew everything that was about to happen to Him and He willingly chose to endure it because He loved us! What kind of emotions do you think Jesus was feeling at this time?
2. When Jesus told those who had come to arrest Him that it was Him they were looking for, everyone fell to the ground. Why do you think that happened?
3. **Read John 18:10** Peter tries to come to Jesus defense and cuts of the ear of one of the servants who came to arrest Jesus! What do you think you would have done if you were in the garden with Jesus?
4. We see Peter denying that he knew Jesus three times in this text. Why would Peter deny even knowing Jesus?
5. **Read John 18:19-24** Jesus is questioned by those who have arrested Him. What do they believe Jesus has done wrong? **Hint:** read ahead to verse 28-40. Jesus claimed to be “King of the Jews” (aka The Messiah) and because they did not believe Jesus to be the Messiah, they considered His claim to be blasphemy, making Himself equal with God!
6. Jesus endured so much as He went to the cross. He was betrayed by a friend, arrested, bound, deserted by His followers, spat on and questioned and He had done nothing wrong! Take some time to reflect on the sacrifice Jesus made for you. We’re just starting to see the depths He went through to pay the price for our sin. Spend some time thanking God for His sacrifice.