

Unit 26: The Arrest of Jesus

Unit Description: The time for Jesus' rejection was at hand. After sharing a special meal with His disciples, Jesus was betrayed by one of His own and was arrested. Even as His death approached, Jesus continued to act as a perfect Priest, loving His followers and praying to the Father on their behalf.

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.



SESSION 1: Jesus Was Anointed

Matthew 26; Mark 14; John 12



SESSION 2: Jesus Shared a Last Meal

Matthew 26; Mark 14; Luke 22



SESSION 3: Jesus Was Arrested

Matthew 26; Mark 14; Luke 22



SESSION 4: Jesus Is Our Perfect Priest

Hebrews 7

**For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.
Hebrews 4:15 NIV**



UNIT 26 | SESSION 3

JESUS WAS ARRESTED

MATTHEW 26; MARK 14; LUKE 22

KEY PASSAGE:

Hebrews 4:15

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.

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.



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION



PREPARE

PREPARE YOUR HEART TO TEACH; PLAN THE SESSION



WELCOME

GREET KIDS AND OPEN THE SESSION



LEARN

TEACH KIDS THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL



LOVE

LEAD KIDS TO LOVE THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL



LIVE

LEAD KIDS TO LIVE OUT THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

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.

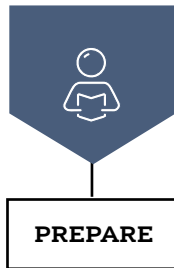
We see His dedication to God through His time spent praying in the garden, as well as

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.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

GATHER Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.



WELCOME

Activity Page

- “What Did Jesus Pray?” activity page



LEARN

Introduce the Session

- countdown video

Big Picture Question

- Big Picture Question Poster

Review the Timeline

- Giant Timeline

Tell the Bible Story

- “Jesus Was Arrested” video
- Bible Story Picture Poster

Questions from Kids

- “Unit 26, Session 3” questions from kids video

Missions Moment

- map of the United States

Key Passage Activity

- Key Passage Poster
- “Gracious Father (Hebrews 4:15)” song
- worship song of your choice (optional)
- balloon



LOVE

Review & Bible skills

- Small Group Timeline and Map Set
- world map



LIVE

Activity Choice (Option 1)

- dry erase board
- dry erase marker

Activity Choice (Option 2)

- Big Picture Question Poster
- brown craft paper

Journal and Prayer

- Journal Page
- “Who’s Who?” activity page



WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

SAY “What is a difficult task you have been given? Why was it difficult? Did you complete it? Why or why not?”

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “What Did Jesus Pray?” on the activity page.

SAY “Jesus continually prayed to God the Father. Today, we will learn that Jesus spent time praying in a garden because He was about to face an extremely difficult time in His life.”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: 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.

SAY “Each time you heard the word ‘scatter,’ you all ran away. Today, we will learn 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. Let’s get ready to learn more from our story.”

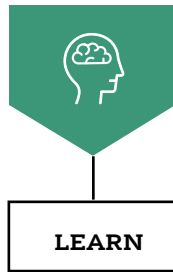
OPTION 2: ALL PART OF THE PLAN

Form kids into groups of three or four and provide them with paper and pencil. Prompt kids to think about how they would plan for a trip to a difficult environment such as a desert or outer space or a rugged mountain. Lead groups to write down a plan for how they would prepare for their trip. Encourage kids to think about such things as what they would need, how they would get there, or what they would eat. Then present each group with a challenge such as what they would do if they ran into a wild animal or had a problem with their gear, etc. After a few minutes, invite kids to share their plans.

SAY “Any trip requires planning and preparation. Sometimes we run into unforeseen events that make the trip challenging. Unlike God, we don’t know all things. But Jesus knew all things and knew that God’s plan for Him would be difficult. Jesus followed God’s plan perfectly and endured suffering to save us. Let’s get ready to learn how Jesus’ arrest was all part of God’s plan.”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

INTRODUCE the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (3 minutes)

Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

SAY “ Hi, kids! My name is [your name], and I am so happy to see you! Who brought their Bible with them? If you have your Bible, hold it up high. [Distribute Bibles to kids who need one.]

The Bible reveals to us God’s plan to save people from their sins. God’s plan has never been in danger of failing. Everything God plans to do will happen because He is the King and rules the universe. Even when sad events happened, God’s plan was still at work. Today, our Bible story teaches us how Jesus followed God’s plan to die for the sins of the world, even when it was scary and hard. ”

2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

SAY “ Jesus came to be our perfect Priest. **How is Jesus the perfect Priest?** Does anyone remember the answer? [Allow responses.] **Jesus was the perfect sacrifice for sin, and He speaks to God the Father for us today.** Jesus knew He had come to earth to eventually die on the cross. He prophesied His death and resurrection numerous times to His disciples.

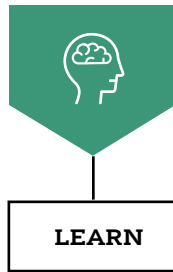
As our perfect Priest, Jesus is sinless. Unlike the priests of the Old Testament who sinned and had to offer sacrifices for their sins, Jesus is perfect and holy. Yet, Jesus chose to follow God’s plan and die for the sins of the world. ”

3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

SAY “ Do you remember the first garden in the Bible? What was that garden called? [Allow responses.] That’s right, it was called the garden of Eden. When God made the garden of Eden, it was perfect. But then Adam and Eve sinned because they chose to not trust God’s Word. Sin came into all the world and into every human heart. All people sin.

Today, we will learn how Jesus was in a garden before He went to the cross. This was not a perfect garden like Eden was. It was a garden full of sadness. But unlike Adam and Eve, Jesus didn’t go His own way. Jesus chose to trust His Father. He is the better Adam who came to die for our sins. Let’s read our story to learn what happened while Jesus was in the garden. ”



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Matthew 26; Mark 14; Luke 22. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “Jesus Was Arrested.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

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 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. ”

STORYTELLING TIPS

Act it out: Act out the events of the story as you tell it. Consider inviting a few kids to help you and assign them a role in the story.

Pretend to fall asleep: Pretend to fall asleep when you teach about the disciples sleeping. Point out how lonely Jesus must have felt.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY “ Jesus’ disciples were His closest friends on earth. They traveled with Jesus, ate with Him, talked with Him, and listened to His teachings for three years. Yet, when times got hard and Jesus faced an angry crowd who came to arrest Him, they all abandoned Him.

One of the main people in our story was Peter. He was sure that even if the others abandoned Jesus, he would never leave him. How many times did Jesus say Peter would deny Him? [Allow responses.] Jesus said Peter would deny Him three times. Peter said he was willing to die for Jesus and even pulled out his sword against the soldiers. But after Jesus said that His arrest was a part of God’s plan, and He was taken to the high priest’s house, Peter hid and watched from a distance. Later, when people said that Peter was Jesus’ disciple, what did Peter say? [Allow responses.] He said he didn’t even know Jesus. How many times did Peter say this? [Allow responses.] Three times Peter denied Jesus.

Unlike the disciples, Jesus was faithful. What did Jesus pray while He was in the garden? [Allow responses.] He said He wanted to do God’s plan. Jesus trusted God’s plan and was willing to be arrested like a criminal even though He did nothing wrong. He trusted that even though God’s plan was hard, it would result in salvation for sinners. ”

3 CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY “ 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. ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.)

4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 26, Session 3” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. What do we do if we have wronged a friend in some way?
2. Why will Jesus never turn against you?

5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

Point to Seattle, Washington, on a map of the United States. Remind kids that Dave and Mary Elliff are church planters in Seattle, Washington. Tell kids that they planted the Roots Community Church. Explain that the Elliffs meet a lot of people who have never heard of Jesus.

SAY “ The Elliffs want everyone who does not know Jesus as their Savior and Lord to trust in Him, and they want the believers in their church to help others know Jesus. Even though there are many challenges with reaching people who do not know Jesus, the Elliffs trust that God will help them. ”



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

Pray for the Elliffs as they lead the Roots Community Church. Pray for the church as they work together to tell more people about Jesus.

6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Show the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Hebrews 4:15 together.

SAY “ Even though we sin and are not faithful, Jesus is our faithful Priest who saves us. He forgives our sins and helps us live for Him. ”

Lead kids to form a circle. Explain that they will hit a balloon around the circle and each say a word from the key passage when they hit the balloon. Challenge kids to say the entire key passage without letting the balloon hit the floor. Tell kids that if the balloon hits the floor, they must start over. Repeat as time allows.

Lead kids to sing “Gracious Father (Hebrews 4:15).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

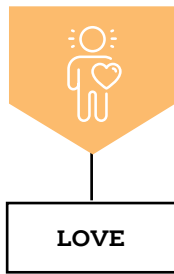
7 PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning to Love.

SAY “ God, thank You for Your plan to save us from our sin. We praise Jesus for being obedient to Your plan and for laying down His life for us. Amen. ”

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God by Applying the Story

1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles and display the New Testament Israel Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to Luke 22. Explain that the garden of Gethsemane was at the foot of the Mount of Olives. Tell kids that the garden of Gethsemane (H5) was just outside the city walls of Jerusalem to the east.

Consider comparing the New Testament Israel Map to a modern-day map to help kids understand where these stories took place. (Tip: Locate the areas in and around modern-day Gethsemane.) Choose a volunteer to read aloud Luke 22:40-41.

SAY “ Jesus called His disciples to pray, and yet they chose to sleep. Jesus knew what was coming, and He chose to pray to the Father for strength. He desired to do God’s will. Jesus is the faithful and perfect Priest who followed God’s plan. The disciples were unable to stay awake to pray much less save themselves from sin.

Romans 5:6 says, ‘For while we were still helpless, at the right time, Christ died for the ungodly.’ Every person is helpless and unable to save themselves. Because Jesus followed God’s plan and laid down His life, we can be saved. Anyone who trusts in Jesus will be saved. ”

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

SAY “ Jesus was not guilty of any crimes or sin, but we are guilty before God. Why did He take our place? ”

Remind kids that God’s plan all along was to send Jesus to die in our place. Discuss how we can never live the perfect life like Jesus did. Tell kids there is nothing we can do to earn forgiveness. Explain that Jesus took our place because it was the only way for sinners to be saved since He is the perfect sacrifice our sin requires.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read 1 Peter 2:22-24.)

SAY “ Jesus’ friends left Him and Judas betrayed Him. How did Jesus show that He loved them? ”

Help kids understand that Jesus loves sinners and that He came to earth to save sinners. Tell kids that Jesus showed that He loved His disciples by still going to the cross to die for their sins. Encourage kids to remember that we have sinned against God too and need to be forgiven just like the disciples.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Rom. 5:8.)

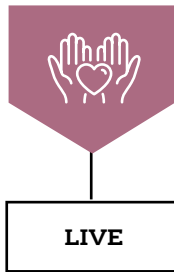
SAY “ How can we trust God even when our circumstances are difficult? ”

Remind kids that because of what Jesus has done for us we have nothing to fear and we have a good future waiting for us. Tell kids that God is always with us and hears our prayers.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Luke 22:28-29.)

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: GOSPEL CONVERSATIONS



Remind kids that many people in Seattle have not heard about Jesus. Explain that the Elliffs have to explain who Jesus is and what He did to people they meet.

Lead kids to pair up and direct a kid from each pair to ask the following questions while the other kid answers. Then direct kids to switch roles. Write the questions on a dry erase board.

- Who is Jesus?
- Why did Jesus come to earth?
- Why do we need Jesus?
- Why did Jesus die?
- How does Jesus save us?

SAY “ When we follow Jesus, we want to share the good news of the gospel with others. Just like the Elliffs tell the people of Seattle about Jesus, we can tell people in our communities about Jesus too. ”

OPTION 2: CREATE A TIMELINE



Tape a large piece of brown craft paper along a wall horizontally. Form kids into six groups and assign each group a day from Sunday to Friday. Instruct each group to write their day on the brown paper and its events by looking up their Bible verse.

- Sunday: Matthew 21:7-11 (Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey.)
- Monday: Mark 11:15 (Jesus cleansed the temple.)
- Tuesday: Luke 20:1 (Jesus taught at the temple.)
- Wednesday: Matthew 26:7 (Mary anointed Jesus with oil.)
- Thursday: Mark 14:22-23 (Jesus ate a last meal, prayed in the garden, and was arrested.)
- Friday: Luke 23:22-25,33 (Jesus sentenced to be crucified, died on the cross, and was buried.)

SAY “ This timeline helps us understand Jesus’ last week before He died. Jesus was faithful to obey God and follow His plan. ”

2 JOURNAL AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page. As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas.

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God’s glory and my good?
- Are there promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

Review the gospel and encourage kids to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions. Then pray, praising God for His plan to save sinners and for Jesus obeying God on our behalf. As time allows, lead kids to complete “Who’s Who?” on the activity page.



JOURNAL PAGE

1. What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
2. What does this story teach me about myself?
3. Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
4. Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
5. How does this story help me to live on mission better?

FOLD



Unit 26 • Session 3

JESUS WAS ARRESTED

Matthew 26; Mark 14; Luke 22

**HOW IS JESUS THE PERFECT PRIEST?
JESUS WAS THE PERFECT SACRIFICE FOR SIN, AND HE SPEAKS TO GOD
THE FATHER FOR US TODAY.**

At the Last Supper, Jesus told His disciples that one of them—Judas Iscariot—would betray Him. Then Jesus said the disciples would abandon Him.

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 fell facedown and prayed, “Father! If it is possible, spare Me from this. But I want to do Your plan.”

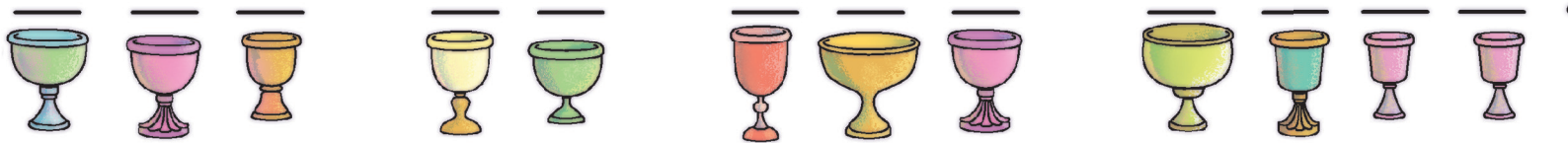
Jesus came back and found the three disciples asleep. Jesus went away and prayed a second time. Then He found His disciples sleeping again. He said, “Get up, for it is almost time. Someone is going to betray Me.”

Suddenly Judas arrived with a large crowd carrying swords and clubs. The men grabbed Jesus and arrested Him. Jesus’ followers ran away, but Peter stayed nearby to watch.

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 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.

What Did Jesus Pray? | Use the alphabet decoder to reveal what Jesus prayed in the garden of Gethsemane.



Who's Who? | Match the person in the Bible story with their correct description. Some people may have more than one correct answer. Look up Matthew 26:30-56 and John 18:1-11 if you need help.



JESUS



JUDAS



JAMES

1. Betrayed Jesus with a kiss
2. Came with clubs and swords to arrest Jesus
3. Prayed that God's will would be done
4. Struck the servant of the high priest with a sword
5. Told Peter that he would deny Jesus three times
6. Slept in the garden while Jesus prayed
7. Said that he would never deny Jesus
8. Fulfilled the Old Testament Scripture by being arrested



ANGRY CROWD



PETER



JOHN



NAME:



Jesus Was Arrested

BIBLE STORY SUMMARY:

- Jesus told His disciples that one of them—Judas Iscariot—would betray Him. Jesus also said the disciples would abandon Him. But Peter said he would never deny Jesus.
- Jesus went to the garden of Gethsemane to pray because He was sad and troubled. Jesus desired to do God's plan.
- Judas arrived with a crowd who arrested Jesus. The disciples left Jesus, and Peter denied Him three times.

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.

KEY PASSAGE: Hebrews 4:15

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.