

THE BETRAYAL OF JESUS

Lesson Scripture: Matthew 26: 3-5; 14-25; 45-50 with additions from Mark 14:16-21 John 12:4-6 & 19:70.

Lesson Aim:

At the end of this lesson, my students will understand that God knows each person's heart, whether that person belongs to Him or whether he is a child of Satan. Therefore, each student will search his own heart to know whether he is saved or not.

Memory Verse:

Luke 6:46 (Jesus speaking) "But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say?" (NKJV)

Songs that go well with this lesson:

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

If You're Saved and You Know It, Clap your Hands!

Beginning the Lesson:

There is a story about a chicken who was sitting on her eggs. When they hatched, the hen noticed that three of the eggs produced baby chicks, but one produced something different—a little duckling. Someone had put the duck egg in the hen's nest so that she would sit on it and it would hatch. The Bible tells us that amongst the twelve disciples of Jesus, eleven were truly following Jesus with all their heart, but one was a disciple in name only. In his heart he did not really follow Jesus. In his heart he was a thief. His name was Judas.

1. Jesus knew that Judas was not with him in his heart & would betray Him.

1A. Read:

John 12:4-6 4 But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's *son*, who would betray Him, said, 5 "Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?"

6 This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it.

John 19:70 Jesus answered them, "Did I not choose you, the twelve, and one of you is a devil?" ⁷¹He spoke of Judas Iscariot, *the son* of Simon, for it was he who would betray Him, being one of the twelve.

1B. Ask questions like these—

Primary Level:

- In the first passage, a woman had just given an expensive gift to Jesus to show her devotion to Him. What did Judas do when he saw this gift? (He complained that it could have been used better for the poor.)
- Was Judas' complaint and concern for the poor sincere? Why not? (No. He wished the woman would have put money in the treasury so he could steal some of it.)
- Was Jesus surprised when Judas betrayed Him? Why not? (Jesus knew and stated in advance that Judas was not really with Him in his heart. He followed Satan, and Jesus knew he would betray Him.)
- What did Jesus say Judas really was in his heart? (A devil)
- There are several Judases in the Bible. Jesus even had a brother named Judas. What was the family name of this Judas who would betray Jesus? (Judas Iscariot)

Secondary Level:

- How did the act of stealing already show disloyalty to Jesus, even before Judas betrayed Him? (It showed he was more concerned with himself than he was with Jesus or Jesus' kingdom.)
- We don't know all the reasons why Jesus chose a disciple whom he knew was a thief and whom He knew would betray Him. Think about it. What are some possible reasons? (Teacher, this is an opinion question, so let the students express their ideas. One possible idea is that it shows us that not all who name Christ and seem to follow Him outwardly are really with Him in their hearts.)

1C. Showing what happened:

Let the students act out what happened. You need one student as Jesus and 12 as disciples. Jesus puts His hand on the shoulder of each disciple one by one, saying, "Did not I choose you, the twelve, and one of you is a devil?"

1D. Sing and dance what happened:

Gladly--

Jesus chose 12 disciples

Sorrowfully--

The hearts of 11 were with Him

But one of them was a traitor

Oh-oh! Oh-oh! Oh-oh!

2. Jesus predicted His betrayal.

2A. Read: Mark 14:16-21

So His disciples went out. . . . and they prepared the Passover.

In the evening He came with the twelve.

Now as they sat and ate, Jesus said, "Assuredly, I say to you, one of you who eats with Me will betray Me."

And they began to be sorrowful, and to say to Him one by one, "Is it I?" And another said, "Is it I?"

He answered and said to them, "It is one of the twelve, who dips with Me in the dish.

The Son of Man indeed goes just as it is written of Him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had never been born."

2B. Ask questions like these—

Primary Level:

- What did the disciples prepare? (The Passover)
- Who gathered together that evening? (Jesus and the twelve disciples)
- What were they doing together? (Sitting and eating, that is, eating the Passover feast.)
- What shocking announcement did Jesus make? (One of those eating with Him would betray Him.)
- How did the disciples feel about that? (Sorrowful)
- What question did many of them ask? ("Is it I?")

- What was Jesus' answer? (It is one of the twelve eating with Him.)
- What did Jesus say about that person who would betray Him? (It would be better for him that he had never been born.)

Secondary Level:

- Jesus gives two perspectives on His coming suffering (vs. 21). What are they? (From one perspective, He is going to suffer to fulfill the prophecies of the Messiah. From another perspective, His betrayer is very guilty, so much so that it would be better for him that he had never been born. This is God's perspective and man's perspective.)
- These are harsh words Jesus said about His betrayer. Compare Jesus' words here to what He spoke to others. (Jesus always spoke kind, encouraging words even to the worst of sinners. His harsh words to Judas are comparable only to the words He spoke to the hypocritical religious rulers. The one thing they have in common—hypocrisy.)

2B. Showing what happened:

Choose one student to act the part of Jesus. All the other children will be disciples. When Jesus says, "One of you will betray Me," they all begin to act very sad and ask, "Is it I?" (No child will be designated as Judas.)

2D. Singing and dancing what happened:

Jesus said, "One of you will betray Me,"
 Umm, umm, umm,
 I have to suffer, true,
 But woe to my betrayer.

3. The religious leaders sought a reason to kill him.

3A. Read Matthew 26:3-5:

3 Then the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders of the people assembled at the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas,

4 and plotted to take Jesus by trickery and kill Him.

5 But they said, "Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar among the people."

3B. Ask questions like these--

Primary Level:

- What three groups of people assembled at the palace of the high priest? (The chief priests, the scribes, and the elders of the people. All three groups were leaders of the Jewish people.)
- What was the name of the high priest? (Caiaphas)
- What was the object of their meeting? (Plotting together how to take Jesus by trickery and kill Him.)
- Why do you think they had to take Him by trickery? Why not watch for something He was doing wrong? (Jesus didn't do anything wrong.)
- Why did they not want to take Him during the feast of the Passover? (It might cause an uproar or a riot among the people.)

Secondary Level:

- Why was it especially bad that it was these particular people who wanted to kill Jesus? (As leaders, they should have been leading people in the truth. They also should have known the Scriptures better than others and so should have been better able to recognize the Messiah. Finally, one certainly would not have expected them to kill someone by trickery.)
- Why is it especially interesting that Jesus' enemies met in the home of the High Priest? Read Hebrews 4:14: ¹⁴Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* confession. ¹⁵For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as *we are*, yet without sin. (Jesus became our High Priest, opening the way to heaven for us.)

3C: Showing what happened:

Divide the students into two groups, facing one another. One group asks the other a question and the second group responds:

"What wrong did they find in Jesus?" "Nothing. Nothing. Nothing. Only good."

"How did they take Him, then?" "Trickery, trickery, trickery."

"What did they plan to do with Him?" "Kill Him, kill Him, kill Him."

“When did they plan to do it?”

“After the feast. After the Passover.”

3D: Sing and dance what happened:

The leaders got together, Oh, terrible plan!

They planned their tricky ways to take Him, Oh, terrible plan!

4. Judas betrayed Jesus to the leaders for thirty pieces of silver.

4A. Read:

Luke 22:3--Then Satan entered Judas, surnamed Iscariot, who was numbered among the twelve.

Matthew 26:14-16

14 Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests

15 and said, “What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?” And they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver.

16 So from that time he sought opportunity to betray Him.

4B. Ask questions like these:

Primary Level:

- Who entered into Judas? (Satan)
- What was Judas’ family name? (Iscariot)
- To whom did Judas go? (To the chief priests)
- What did Judas offer to do? (To deliver Jesus to them)
- What did they give Judas for doing this? (Thirty pieces of silver)
- What did Judas begin looking for from that time on? (An opportunity to betray Jesus)

Secondary Level:

- How does the thirty pieces of silver fit in with what we already know about Judas? (He was a thief and had already been taking money from the treasury used to support Jesus and the disciples. He was more concerned about personal gain than he was about the cause of Jesus.)

4C. Showing what happened:

Let the children act out counting thirty pieces of silver. Then they pretend they are holding it in their hand and say together sadly, "Judas betrayed Jesus for this."

4D. Singing and dancing what happened:

Would you betray your Savior like Judas did?

Would you choose Him or a handful of money?

O priceless, priceless Savior
Help me to be faithful to You.

5. Jesus again predicted His betrayal as He ate the Passover with His disciples.

5A. Read Matthew 26: 17, 20-25:

17 Now on the first day of the Feast of the Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying to Him, "Where do You want us to prepare for You to eat the Passover?"

20 When evening had come, He sat down with the twelve.

21 Now as they were eating, He said, "Assuredly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me."

22 And they were exceedingly sorrowful, and each of them began to say to Him, "Lord, is it I?"

23 He answered and said, "He who dipped his hand with Me in the dish will betray Me.

24 The Son of Man indeed goes just as it is written of Him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had not been born."

25 Then Judas, who was betraying Him, answered and said, "Rabbi, is it I?" He said to him, "You have said it."

5B. Ask questions like these—

Primary Level:

- What is another name for the Passover Feast? (The Feast of Unleavened Bread.)
- What question did the disciples ask Jesus on the first day of the feast? (Where they should prepare a place for Him to celebrate the Passover.)
- When evening came, what did Jesus do? (He sat down with His disciples.)

- What did Jesus tell them as He was eating? (One of you will betray Me.)
- How did the disciples respond to this news? (They were sorrowful and several asked, “Is it I?”)
- What was Jesus’ response? (It is one who dips his hand with Me in the dish.)
- What did Jesus say about His betrayer? (It would be better for him that he had never been born.)
- When Judas asked Jesus if it was him, what did Jesus say? (“You have said it.” This means that he had answered correctly.)

Secondary Level:

- Why was the Feast called the Passover sometimes, and why was it also called the Feast of Unleavened Bread?
(It was called Passover because when God sent the death angel to free the children of Israel from slavery in Egypt, the firstborn in every family died, but if the home had the blood of a lamb painted on the doorposts and over the door, then the angel of death would pass over that home. It was called the Feast of Unleavened Bread because when God opened the way for them to leave Egypt, it happened so fast that there was no time for the bread to rise.)
- The disciples asked Jesus about preparing for Passover on the first day of the feast. How long did the Passover Feast last? Read Leviticus 23:5-6 “⁵On the fourteenth *day* of the first month at twilight *is* the LORD’S Passover. ⁶And on the fifteenth day of the same month *is* the Feast of Unleavened Bread to the LORD; seven days you must eat unleavened bread.”
(It was seven days altogether.)
- How do you think the disciples found the right man in the city? (It would require God’s guidance.)
- What does it mean that “The Son of Man goes just as it is written of Him?” (The Old Testament prophecies said that He had to suffer and die. Jesus fulfilled all prophecy concerning the Messiah.)

6. Jesus told His disciples He knew His betrayal was at hand.

Read Matthew 26:45-46: *45 Then He came to His disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners.*

46 Rise, let us be going. See, My betrayer is at hand."

Ask questions like this:

- The hour was near when Jesus would be betrayed. But what were the disciples doing? (They were sleeping.)

Rhythmic repetition:

All the children say together:

This is not the time to sleep.

For Jesus will be betrayed this night.

7. Judas betrayed Jesus with a kiss.

Read Matthew 26:47-50:

47 And while He was still speaking, behold, Judas, one of the twelve, with a great multitude with swords and clubs, came from the chief priests and elders of the people.

48 Now His betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "Whomever I kiss, He is the One; seize Him."

49 Immediately he went up to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed Him.

50 But Jesus said to him, "Friend, why have you come?" Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and took Him.

Ask questions like these:

- Who came to betray Jesus? (Judas and a great multitude of people from the chief priests and elders.)
- What sign did Judas give to show which one was Jesus? (He would kiss him.)
- What was the multitude to do then? (Seize Jesus or arrest Him.)
- What words did Judas say to Jesus when he kissed him? (Greetings, Rabbi.)
- What did Jesus say back to Judas? ("Friend, why have you come?")

Rhythmic Repetition:

All the children say together:

"Shame! Shame! Betraying Jesus with a kiss!"

8. This all worked out to fulfill the prophecies of Scripture.

Read Acts 1:16-17:

¹⁶Men and brethren, this Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke before by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus; ¹⁷for he was numbered with us and obtained a part in this ministry.”

Ask questions like these:

- Is it possible that any part of the Scripture fail to be fulfilled? (No, all the Scripture has to be fulfilled.)
- Who spoke the prophecy by the mouth of David that Jesus would be betrayed by one of His friends? (The Holy Spirit spoke by the mouth of David.)

Rhythmic Repetition:

All the children repeat together:

“This Scripture had to be fulfilled.”

EVERY Scripture has to be fulfilled.

9. Judas ended his own life in sorrow for his action.

Read:

Matthew 27:3-5

³Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, ⁴saying, “I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.”

And they said, “What is that to us? You see to it!”

⁵Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed, and went and hanged himself.

Ask questions like these:

- Was Judas glad he had betrayed Jesus? (No, he was sorry.)
- What did Jesus do with the thirty pieces of silver they had paid him to betray Jesus? (He threw it down in the temple and ran out.)
- In what sad way did Judas’ life end? (He hanged himself.)
- **Application & Action Assignment:**
- Every person who calls himself a Christian or a child of God does not really belong to Him. This week, will you pray that those in your family will know and follow God in

truth ?

- **Invitation for those who have not yet received Jesus :**
- There are children who come to church or Sunday school, who look like they are Christians, but in truth, they are not really followers of Jesus in their hearts. They have never truly received Jesus. The Bible says that God knows those who are His. Do you know for sure that you have received Jesus ? Are you following Him with all your heart ? If you are not sure about this, come to me after class and I will be very happy to help you.

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END OF LESSON ON JUDAS

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