

Jesus Was Arrested (Matthew 26)

PreK / Kindergarten Lesson (2nd Service)

3/17/24

BIBLE VERSE:

"Jesus lived a perfect life." Hebrews 4:15

Question:

How is Jesus the perfect priest?

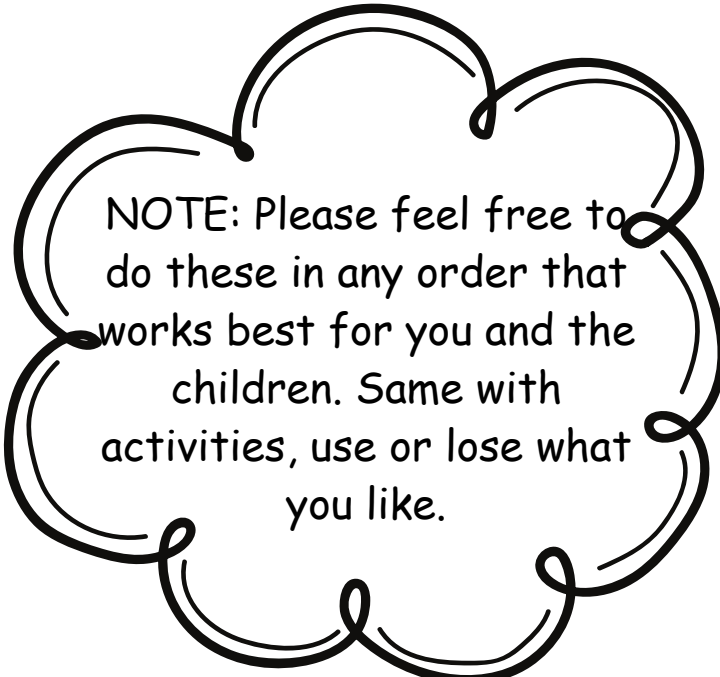
Answer:

Jesus gave His life for us.

Christ Connection

Jesus knew God's plan was for Him to die to rescue people from sin. Jesus' friends left Him and He was arrested, but Jesus did not fight back. He wanted to do His Father's plan no matter what.

- ☐ **Welcome / Kid Worship 11am in LG2**
- ☐ **Craft and Activity Page**
- ☐ **Circle Time**
- ☐ **Prayer**
- ☐ **Movement**
- ☐ **Music**
- ☐ **Bible Verse**
- ☐ **Activities / Games**



NOTE: Please feel free to do these in any order that works best for you and the children. Same with activities, use or lose what you like.

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 unflinching.

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 preschoolers 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.

Welcome

Welcome the children and check off the attendance board. You can ask the children to write their name on the chart paper to answer a simple question.

Craft (anytime that works)

Praying Bear Craft: All of the materials will be precut and ready to assemble. The pocket in front of the bear is to hold their prayer requests.

****Activity page is in the bin (Children may choose to color and complete at any time. Please send these home with them to allow their families to discuss the Bible story from the lesson. Thanks.)



Bible Story: Jesus Was Arrested

Feel free to use the video of the Bible story on USB or read the story below.

Tell the Bible Story:

Invite preschoolers to pretend to ride with you in a car or bus around your city or town. Make several pretend stops as you journey, pointing out familiar places such as the library, playground, store, and church. Ask boys and girls if people can pray at the location you describe. End your pretend ride at your church.

SAY What a fun trip! I am so thankful we can pray at all of the places we just visited. Did you know Jesus prayed, too? Listen to the story to hear about the time Jesus prayed in a garden as He prepared for what was to come.

Jesus Was Arrested

At the Last Supper, Jesus told His followers that one of them—Judas—would turn against Him. Then Jesus said the disciples would leave Him.

Peter spoke up, "I will never leave You!"

Jesus said, "I tell you the truth: Before the rooster crows, you will say three times that you don't know Me."

Jesus and His disciples went to a garden to pray. Jesus told eight of His disciples to stay at the garden gate. Three of the disciples went into the garden with Jesus. He told them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray."

Jesus was very sad. He fell facedown and prayed. "Father! If it is possible, do not let this happen. But I want to do Your plan."

Jesus went back to His disciples, but they were sleeping. "Couldn't you stay awake with Me for one hour?" He asked Peter. Jesus left again to pray. He came back and His disciples were sleeping again. "Get up," Jesus said. "It is almost time." Jesus knew it was time for Him to do God's plan to rescue people from sin.

All of a sudden, another disciple—Judas—came into the garden. A large crowd was with him, and the people carried swords and clubs. Judas kissed Jesus so the crowd would know which man was Jesus. The people in the crowd grabbed Jesus to arrest Him. Peter pulled out his sword to fight the crowd, but Jesus told him to stop. Then Jesus said, "This is happening just like God said." Jesus' disciples all left, but Peter followed from a distance.

As Peter watched, a servant came up to him. "Aren't you one of Jesus' friends?" he asked. But Peter said, "No! I'm not!" Two more times, people asked Peter if he was Jesus' friend. Peter lied.

"No!" he said. "I don't even know Him!"

Review the Bible

Christ Connection: Jesus knew God's plan was for Him to die to rescue people from sin. Jesus' friends left Him and He was arrested, but Jesus did not fight back. He wanted to do His Father's plan no matter what.

Prayer

God, thank You for sending Jesus to rescue us from sin. Thank You that even in the hardest times, Jesus never sinned; He always followed Your plan for Him. He provided the perfect example for us. Thank You that people who trust in Jesus have forgiveness for sin and the promise of life forever with You.

Movement Activity

- Wake the Disciples (GROUP GAME)
- Choose three preschoolers to be It. Encourage the remaining children to lay on the ground and pretend to sleep, making sure to close or cover their eyes. Instruct the three children to walk around the room and gently tap one child each. When three children have been tapped, invite the entire group to "wake up." Lead the three children tapped to come to the front of the room and guess which preschooler tapped them. Repeat the game as time allows.
- SAY Jesus knew it was time for Him to fulfill God's plan to rescue people from sin. Before He was arrested, Jesus took His disciples to a garden to pray. Three of them went inside with Him. While Jesus was praying, these disciples fell asleep. When Jesus returned, He told them to wake up. When Jesus went to pray, they fell asleep again. He told His disciples to get up. Jesus knew a crowd was on the way to arrest Him.

Music (on USB) Gospel Project and other items (vary)

Practice Bible Verse (Choose a game of your choice.)

"Jesus lived a perfect life." Hebrews 4:15

SEE BIBLE VERSE MEMORY GAMES List and games in envelope on the whiteboard. Also a heart to place stickers on for children as they memorize the Bible verse for the month. They can write their name on the sticker if they'd like.

Other Crafts and Games Can be used at anytime of your choice)

- Garden Picture (Craft)
 - allow children to create a garden picture using (cut grass, flowers) then they can draw other things in their garden as they recall how Jesus went to the garden to pray.
- Play Out the Story (GROUP GAME)
- Explain you will say things that happened in today's story. Lead preschoolers to walk in place when you say, "Jesus and His disciples went to a garden to pray." When you say, "The disciples fell asleep while Jesus was praying," instruct them to pretend they are sleeping. Guide them to bow their heads when you say, "When Jesus prayed, He told God He wanted to follow God's plan." Tell them to put their hand above their eyes as they are looking to see something when you say, "Judas showed the crowd who Jesus was." Say the events in order, leading preschoolers to do the motions. Then, say the phrases in a different order. Repeat the statements several times. Vary the speed and tone of your words. .SAY Jesus and His disciples went to a garden to pray. Jesus prayed, asking God to provide another way to rescue people from sin if possible. Jesus knew God's plan for Him to die to provide forgiveness for the wrong things we do. No matter what, Jesus wanted to do God's plan. Judas led a crowd to Jesus to arrest Him. Jesus did not fight back. He knew this was part of God's plan.

Discussion ?s

Some Questions to connect with the children:

- What was your favorite part of today's Bible story?*
- What did you learn about God in today's Bible story?*
- Which disciple betrayed Jesus?*
- How is Jesus the perfect Priest? Jesus gave His life as the perfect sacrifice for sin.*

Here are some preschool-friendly discussion questions about Jesus taking his disciples to pray in the Garden of Gethsemane:

- 1. Who were Jesus' friends who went with him to pray in the garden?**
 - *Encourage children to name some of the disciples.*
- 2. Why do you think Jesus wanted to pray in the garden?**
 - *Help children understand that Jesus went to pray because he needed to talk to God and ask for help.*
- 3. What did Jesus tell his friends to do while he prayed?**
 - *Emphasize that Jesus asked his friends to stay awake and keep watch while he prayed.*
- 4. What happened while Jesus was praying?**
 - *Simplify the story by explaining that Jesus felt very sad and talked to God about it.*
- 5. How did Jesus feel in the garden?**
 - *Help children understand that Jesus felt very troubled and sad because he knew something difficult was going to happen.*
- 6. What did Jesus' friends do while he prayed?**
 - *Explain that Jesus' friends fell asleep, even though Jesus asked them to stay awake.*
- 7. What did Jesus do when he finished praying?**
 - *Explain that after Jesus finished praying, he went to find his friends, who were asleep.*
- 8. What do you think Jesus' friends felt when they woke up and saw Jesus?**
 - *Guide children to understand that Jesus' friends might have felt surprised or embarrassed.*
- 9. Why do you think this story is important?**
 - *Encourage children to think about how the story teaches us about praying to God and being a good friend.*
- 10. What can we learn from this story about being a good friend?**
 - *Discuss how being a good friend means listening and helping each other, just like Jesus wanted his friends to do in the garden.*

“Sit here while I go over there and pray.”

Matthew 26: 36b

