



BECAUSE HE LIVES

Jesus was Arrested

March 21- 1 year olds and 2 year olds

BIBLE PASSAGE: Matthew 26–27

KEY PASSAGE: Philippians 2:8

BOTTOM LINE: I am fully committed to God because God gave us His Son.

CHRIST CONNECTION: Jesus knew that His death was God's plan to save people from sin. When he was arrested and put on trial, Jesus followed His Father's plan in order to bring salvation to the world.

Context

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 4:27) 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 Isaiah 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.

TAKEAWAYS

- Normally, you can't be arrested unless you've broken the law. Even though Jesus had done nothing wrong, they came for Him because Jesus' enemies didn't want to treat Him fairly.
- What they didn't know is that God was using their evil plans to work out His wonderful plan.
- Jesus allowed His enemies to arrest Him because He knew it was part of God's plan to save us.

- God was preparing the saddest and most unfair thing ever to make the way for us to be saved.
- Jesus knew what it would cost Him to save us and He did it anyway because He was fully committed to God's plan.
- **BOTTOM LINE:** I am fully committed to God because God gave us His Son.

Social Activity: Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt

What You Need: Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt Printable (1 per group), plastic eggs, and other objects on the scavenger hunt list, basket

What You Do:

Before you begin, ask a leader to help you hide the objects for the hunt around the room.

Break kids into teams of 2. As you read the items on the scavenger hunt list, send one team of 2 at a time to find the object hidden in the room. Celebrate with kids as they return with the objects they have found.

"Spring is right here around the corner and spring makes me think of Easter. Our game today really gets me excited about celebrating Easter with you. Our Bible stories are going to help us remember Jesus' last week on earth as we prepare to celebrate Easter together. Let's pray and listen to our story today."

Small Group Prayer: "Dear God, thank you for making me, thank you for loving me and thank you for sending your son, Jesus to be my savior. We love you, Amen."

Introduce the Story

"Jesus went to a garden to pray. Peter, James, and John went with Him. Jesus asked them to stay awake as He prayed. Jesus was very sad. Jesus knew it was time for Him to die on the cross and rescue us. Jesus prayed, "Father! If it is possible, do not let this happen. But I want to do Your plan." Jesus prayed this three times. Then Jesus went back to His friends, but they were asleep! Jesus woke up the friends. Judas was coming, and Judas brought people with him. Judas kissed Jesus and said, "Hello, Teacher!" Then the people grabbed Jesus to take Him away. Jesus' friends ran away. Jesus said, "This is happening like God said it would."

PLAY BIBLE STORY VIDEO

Check diapers and listen to a worship song

Application Activity Make garden art

What You Need: paper cupcake liners in various colors, Garden Printable (1 per kid) glue sticks, markers

What You Do:

- Give each kid a Garden Printable and a few cupcake liners to make flowers.
- Draw stems and leaves on the flowers
- Put each kid's name on their paper.
- Pray with kids as they finish their papers like Jesus did in the Garden.

What You Say "Jesus went to a garden to pray. He knew it was time for Him to die on the cross, and He prayed to God. Jesus obeyed His Father's plan no matter what. Jesus died to rescue us.. Let's pray. Jesus thank you so much for loving me so big. Thank you for being the Savior I need. We love you Lord, In Jesus name, Amen."

Discussion Questions:

- **Which disciple betrayed Jesus?** (Judas, with a kiss; Matt 26:47-49)
- **How did Jesus respond when the high priest told Jesus to say if He is the Messiah?** (Jesus agreed, Matt 26:64)
- **Why do you think Peter denied knowing Jesus?** Guide kids to discuss the fear Peter surely felt. If the religious leader had arrested Jesus, what would stop them from also arresting and punishing Jesus' followers? Peter was focused on his own physical well-being and comfort, not on Jesus.
- **When might we feel tempted to pretend we don't know Jesus?** Guide kids to discuss the pressure the world will put on them to disobey God. Remind them that Satan is always working to

convince people to worship things or people other than God. It may feel easier or more comfortable to ignore Jesus, but we are called to boldly preach the gospel to all.

- **What is something difficult or scary that God may ask you to do?** Guide kids to think through situations they may face now or in the future. Remind them that no matter what situations we face, we always have hope for the future. Someday Jesus will return and destroy all evil, fixing the world for us to live with God forever.