



BECAUSE HE LIVES

Jesus was Arrested

March 21- 3rd Grade - 5th Grade

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.

Small Group Prayer: "Father God, thank you for each of the kids in our circle today. God as we learn about you guide our conversations and help each kid to see you in a better way today. Thank you for Jesus and the promise to rescue us. We love you and want to worship you with our whole lives. In Jesus name, Amen."

Social Activity: Ring Toss or Right Left Easter Game

What You Need: Ring Toss and rings and Right Left Easter Game, giant Easter Egg with small prizes

What You Do:

Using the bunny feet as the line marker, ask kids to line up behind the feet to toss a ring onto the pole. When the kids have made 3 rings in a row, they can have a prize.

OR

Using the Right Left Easter Game Printable, ask kids to sit in a circle. You are going to give them a large Easter Egg filled with small prizes. As you read the printable, they are going to gently pass the Egg (so it doesn't open) either Right or Left as you say that word. The person holding the Egg at the end can share the prizes or keep for themselves.

What You Say: As kids are coming in, set up the game and ask kids to join you as you play the game. Games are a great way for kids to engage with each other and you as you get to know each other. Use this time to ask them questions about their week and any other important follow up questions to things you have talked about in the past.

Play a Worship Song or 2 from your Worship DVD/Roku
Play the Large Group teaching DVD/Roku

Application Activity: Serve My Friends Bingo

What You Need Bingo cards (1 per kid), bingo markers or markers

What You Do:

- Look at the bingo cards together.
- Talk about John 15:13- "No one has greater love than this: to lay down his life for his friends. " This section of scripture is titled, Christ like love. First we need to know and realize that Jesus' obedience in being arrested and tortured then killed was out of love. Then, when we think about this we need to ask ourselves what would we do so someone might know Jesus?
- Now ask kids to be honest and fill in the blanks for things they have done so others can know they are loved.
- Could you fill in the same blanks so someone could know about Jesus' love for them?
- What are a few things you can do this week, that shows love for a friend and might point them to Jesus too?
- Encourage kids to take their cards home and ask their family to help them find ways to serve others.

What You Say "Jesus allowed His enemies to arrest Him. When you think about this what is your natural response? Do you think Jesus could have responded that way too? He sure could of and would have had every right to do so, because He was not wrong. Laying down your life for someone else is a complete act of humility. At times this might come easy and other times this might be very hard.

We can lay down our lives for others in many ways. Laying down our lives means putting aside our own desires to help others. This won't be natural for us. We will have to look for opportunities to serve others and show the love of Jesus to people around us. Look for ways you can lay down your life for others this week. What is one thing you can do for those in your house this week?"

Key Passage Activity:

As you read the key passage together, encourage kids to help put the puzzle together as you say each of the highlighted words while reading...

8 And being **found** in appearance as a **man**, he **humbled** himself by becoming obedient to **death**—even death on a **cross**! **PHILIPPIANS 2:8**

Why are these words important? These words show us the focus of this passage in the Bible. Found = Fully man , man=human , humbled= lowered in rank or esteem, complete humility , death=extreme death- death+torture , cross= a criminal's punishment but without fault

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.