

Lesson B3.5 - Some Didn't Like Jesus



Teacher's Pages with Step-by-Step Lesson Plan

For Lower Elementary Students and Classes

Recommended for students in Preschool, Kindergarten, and Grades 1-2.

Quick Facts for the Teacher

Lesson Summary: John 11:45-57

► Bible Characters: Pharisees, chief priests, etc.
Bethany, where Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, was not very far from Jerusalem. When word of his miracle reached the Pharisees and other leaders there, they became upset. Their plan? Arrest Jesus when he traveled to Jerusalem for the Feast of Passover. That way, they thought, he would not stir up trouble with the Romans.

Brief Bible Background

- Today's Lesson is from the New Testament
- Scripture Section: Foreshadow

Jesus had become very popular among common people. But the more miracles he performed, and the more beloved he became, the more of a threat he was seen to be by the leaders of his time. Their solution? Stop him at all costs in order to protect themselves.

For More Information

The primary role of a Sunday School teacher for Preschool, Kindergarten (pre-readers), and Early Elementary (new readers) is to simply tell children the stories of Scripture and introduce them to the major characters of the Bible.

Teachers who want to know more about the lessons for their own familiarity with the story are encouraged to read the information in the SEED Upper Elementary and Youth Teacher's Pages.

a. Classroom Greeting

Teachers should arrive 10 to 15 minutes before class and greet students and parents by name. Write the day's Bible Message on the white board or poster board for all the kids to see. Have kids gather on a rug or in a dedicated meeting space. Encourage the children to learn each other's names.

b. Opening Prayer Song

The words to this song are sung to the tune of "If You're Happy and You Know it, Clap Your Hands." No accompaniment is needed.

Lord, we praise you and we thank you for this day!
(Clap clap)

Lord, we praise you and we thank you for this day!
(Clap clap)

Lord, we praise you and we thank you and we're here to learn about you!

Lord, we praise you and we thank you for this day!
(Clap, clap)

c. Introduction to Today's Message

*Teacher's Script (student responses are in **bold**).*

We all wish everyone would like us, but no matter what we do, some people may not. Did you know that this even happened to Jesus? It did. **Some didn't like Jesus.** Even after he healed the sick and raised the dead, there were people who rejected him.

- What do you do when you feel left out or rejected?

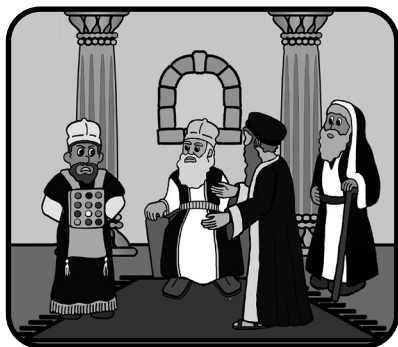
When we feel bad like this, we can pray. **Some didn't like Jesus** either. He understands. He went through that, and worse. But even though **some didn't like Jesus**, he never let that stop him from serving God. Let's begin our lesson and find out more of his story.

d. SEED Bible Story Video

The teacher may introduce the lesson by playing the video clip from the SEED website. This may be displayed simply on a laptop computer or tablet. If the classroom is equipped with a computer video monitor or video projector, the video can be displayed in a larger size.

e. Read the Story with Poster Pictures

The Bible Story has been divided into four parts, each with an accompanying Poster Picture. The teacher should hold up or point to the relevant Poster Picture while reading the individual part of the story, asking questions while reading. Posters may be printed on letter-sized paper, or enlarged and printed on ledger-sized paper if a bigger printer is available. Poster pictures may also be opened as a PDF on a computer screen, scrolling through each of the four pages.



Picture 1

Tell the children: Many people had seen Jesus raise Lazarus from the dead. Lots of them thought that was wonderful. But some leaders, called Pharisees, were upset. They worried that when Jesus came to their city, people might start to believe in him.

Read the caption: A group of leaders met together one day. They did not like Jesus and his miracles. They wanted to stop him.

- *Why do you think the leaders didn't want people to believe in Jesus? [They thought they knew everything there was to know about God, and didn't trust what Jesus was saying and doing. They wanted to stay in charge of the people.]*



Picture 2

Tell the children: The people of Jerusalem were under the Roman government at this time. Some Pharisees and other leaders thought Jesus could be a problem because of this. If their people started following him, who knew what might happen next?

Read the caption: "What if this Jesus causes a big fight?" one of the leaders asked. "Maybe he will make the Romans mad at us?" another worried.

- *Why might the leaders be afraid of the Romans getting mad at them? [The Romans ruled over Jerusalem at that time. The leaders worried the Romans might punish them for what Jesus or his followers did, since they were all Jews.]*



Picture 3

Tell the children: One of the leaders, named Caiaphas, thought it would be best if Jesus died. "Better that he die than our whole nation be destroyed," he said. Later, that would actually happen. But not for the reasons Caiaphas thought.

Read the caption: The more they talked, the more upset they got. Finally, they came up with a bad plan. They would get rid of Jesus, themselves.

- *Look at the leaders in this picture. What are they doing? [Some are talking at the same time and pointing. They look very upset.]*
- *Is it a good idea to make a big decision when you are very upset? [No, it's not.]*



Picture 4

Tell the children: Every year, crowds came to Jerusalem during a special feast called Passover. The leaders told people that if they saw Jesus during this time, they should let them know. In the meantime, they watched and waited.

Read the caption: The leaders hoped Jesus would come to the feast so they could arrest him. Then they would stop him, once and for all.

- *Point out the leaders in this picture. What are they doing? [They are talking and watching the crowds, hoping to see Jesus.]*
- *Who is standing near the leaders, also watching the crowds? [Roman soldiers]*

f. Bible Story Rhyme (optional)

The Bible Story Rhyme below is the same one found on the Upper Elementary Student sheet. The teacher can read the beginning of the line and see if the children can finish the last rhyming word of the phrase.

*After raising Lazarus,
news of Jesus caused a fuss!
Many to his side had hurried,
others had become quite worried.*

*The Council in Jerusalem
argued what to do with him.
Some were scared and some annoyed,
worried they would be destroyed!*

*Caiaphas stood up and said
they'd be safe with Jesus dead.
"If he lives we all will fall.
He must die to save us all!"*

g. Young Children's Activity (optional)

Simple in-class crafts or activities may be completed by the children if there is time left at the end of class. (Note: For the youngest children, simply providing crayons and letting them complete the Coloring Page may serve as the "craft" for the day.)

Game: Plotting and Planning**Materials Needed:**

- None

Instructions:

This game will be played like Telephone, but with an active twist: Just like the leaders acted on their plot in today's story, the last person in line will have to act out what he or she is told to do when a message is relayed down the line.

Invite kids to sit in a long line, side by side. All of the players in this game will be "The Leaders." The person at the front of the line will be the "Chief Pharisee." That person's job is to come up with a series of directions and whisper them in the ear of the next person in line. (For example: "Open and shut the door five times, then turn in a circle, then sit on the ground.") The last person in line has to get up and do those actions in order. If the actions are done incorrectly, the Chief Pharisee gives a thumbs down and sends a new message down the line. If done correctly, the Chief Pharisee will give a thumbs up and that person will go to the front of the line and become the next Chief Pharisee.

**h. Song (optional)**

This song has some simple suggested hand motions that can be found on YouTube, Vimeo, or other online children's music sites. You may also choose to look up the second verse online and teach children the words to that as well.

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

**What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry
everything to God in prayer!**

i. Story Review: Then What Happened?

Then What Happened is a learning game that helps kids retell the story and remember the flow of events. The teacher reads the starting sentence and then chooses a student to continue the story. There are two rules: each student may only add one sentence or say one new thing, and events in the story need to be in the right order.

- **Start: After Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, the leaders in Jerusalem heard about the miracle. What happened next?**

If the younger kids have trouble, cut a Take-Home Page into four pieces (with no words) and let the kids put the illustrations in order while they tell the story.

j. Closing Prayer

Send the children home with the Take-Home Page, and tell them to ask their parents to read the story to them again (or, perhaps, they can read it to their parents).

End class with this closing prayer, repeated each week for memorization.

*We thank you, Lord, for all you give,
For family, friends, the lives we live.
Please bless our church, and pastors too,
And help us all to trust in you.
For those who face hard times and pain,
We pray your peace might fall like rain. Amen.*