Lesson B3.6 - Judas Turned Against 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 18:1-14

▶ Bible Characters: Judas, soldiers, Jesus, Peter

After finishing the Last Supper, Jesus and his disciples went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray. Meanwhile, Judas went to the Pharisees and chief priests to tell them where they could find Jesus. Judas brought soldiers to arrest Jesus in the Garden, betraying him as only a friend could do.

Brief Bible Background

▶ Today's Lesson is from the New Testament

▶ Scripture Section: Arrest

The story of Judas' betrayal shows a striking contrast between the power grabs of Judas, the chief priests, even Peter, and the strong but peaceful response of Jesus, himself. Jesus knew who he was, and he could remain calm because he trusted in God and his ultimate plan of salvation.

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**).*

Have you ever had a friend turn against you and be mean? It's a terrible feeling. But it's a feeling Jesus understands, because it happened to him too. How? **Judas Turned Against Jesus**.

• What can we do if someone is mean to us? *(We can talk to a trusted adult, pray to Jesus about it, speak up for ourselves without being mean in return.)*

When **Judas Turned Against Jesus**, Peter was really upset! How did he react? How did *Jesus* react? Let's begin our story and find out. Maybe **Judas Turned Against Jesus**, but we will turn *towards* Jesus!

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.

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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: After eating the Last Supper, Jesus and his disciples went to a garden to pray. It was called the Garden of Gethsemane. But while Jesus and his friends were praying, Judas was doing something else.

Read the caption: Judas went to the leaders who didn't like Jesus. He told them where they could find Jesus so they could arrest him.

- *Point out Judas in this picture. [He's the one holding coins in his hand.]*
- *Why do you think Judas is holding a small bag and some coins? [He is going to turn Jesus over to the Leaders in exchange for 30 pieces of silver.]*



Picture 2

Tell the children: Jesus already knew what was going to happen. So when Judas showed up with the soldiers, Jesus did not seem surprised.

Read the caption: The leaders brought police and soldiers to the garden. When they asked which person was Jesus, he said, "I am."

- *Have you heard the phrase, "I AM" anywhere else in the Bible? [God said "I AM" when Moses asked who he was in the Old Testament.]*
- *Who do you see in this picture? Point out each person. [Jesus, Peter, Judas, one of the leaders, the leader's servant (who is armed), another disciple from the back.]*



Picture 3

Tell the children: When Jesus said, "I am," the leaders and soldiers backed away and fell to the ground. Jesus told them, "I am Jesus of Nazareth. If I'm the one you are looking for, let these other people go." So they moved to arrest him.

Read the caption: Peter wanted to protect Jesus. He took out his sword and hit one of the men with it. Jesus said, "Put away your sword, Peter."

- *Why do you think Jesus told Peter to put his sword away? [Jesus didn't want violence or a big fight. He was protecting everyone.]*
- *What would you have done if you were with Jesus in the Garden?*



Picture 4

Tell the children: Jesus saw that Peter had cut off the man's ear. He did not want anyone to be hurt. Even though Jesus had done nothing wrong, he was willing to go with the soldiers.

Read the caption: Jesus trusted God's plan. He healed the hurt man's ear. Then the soldiers took him away to be put on trial.

- *Look at Peter and the other disciple in this picture. What do you think they are feeling? [Sad, scared, shocked, etc.]*
- *What is Jesus doing? [He's going with the soldier and not resisting.]*

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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.

When the meal and prayers had ended,
to the garden they descended.
Judas knew where they would stay.
He came his Master to betray.

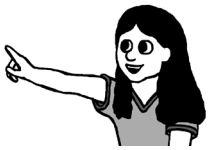
The place was entered by police, as
they said, "Which of you is Jesus?"
"I am," Jesus let them know.
"So you must let these others go."

Peter tried to start a fight,
but Jesus knew that wasn't right.
"I must do what God has said."
And to his trial Christ was led.

g. Young Children's Activity (optional)

Simple in-class activities may be completed by the children if there is time left at the end of class.

Game: "Point Out the Person"



Materials Needed:

- Small cross

Instructions:

In this game, one player will "betray" another using an element of guessing.

Choose a volunteer to be "Judas," and ask that person to stand outside the classroom door. Explain that Judas will be called back in when the group is ready.

Next, have the rest of the students scatter about the classroom. Some can be reading, others can be sitting, others can be talking. Choose one of these students to be "Jesus" and give him or her the small cross. Have that person hide it in a pocket or hand so it won't be seen.

Invite Judas to return to the room. When Judas enters, everyone freezes in place. After looking closely at the "frozen scene" but not touching anyone or anything, Judas will try to guess who might have the cross. Judas will then say, "There's Jesus!" and point at one of the kids. If Judas is correct, the player shows the cross and the round ends. If wrong, the player will say, "No." Judas gets three guesses. If Judas guesses incorrectly each time, he has to leave the room to be Judas again, and another person will be chosen as Jesus.

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 the Last Supper, Judas went to the leaders who didn't like Jesus. 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.

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