

THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE AND TRIALS

BIBLE PASSAGE: Matthew 26:36-27:2

STORY POINT: Jesus was betrayed and arrested

MEMORY VERSE: Isaiah 53:5

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why was it necessary for Christ, the Redeemer, to die? Christ died willingly in our place to deliver us from the power and penalty of sin and bring us back to God.

PARENT DEVOTIONAL

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 4:29). 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 Is. 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.

1.5-5 YEAR BIBLE STORY + DISCUSSION QUESTIONS + ACTIVITY

WORSHIP

We have been singing this song in Sunday School and focusing on memorizing John 3:16 together. "John 3:16" song and video by The Rizers. Watch and sing the song with the kids. There are no hand motions. Clap, wave and dance with your family.

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4iW9MN7vMpQ>)

BIBLE STORY

Garden of Gethsemane

Do you know what Holiday is coming up? Easter! Easter is a very special day that we celebrate what Jesus has done for us. Do you remember what the time before and leading up to Easter is called? Yes, that's right, Lent. And during the 40 days of lent, we think about and thank Jesus for all he has done for us.

Let's read this special bible verse and continue to memorize it! This verse tells us how much God loves us and what Jesus has done for us! Let's read it together and then we will continue to learn about about the life of Jesus

John 3:16:

"For God so Loved the World that he gave his only son that we shall not perish but have everlasting life."

Read pages from the Jesus Storybook Bible pgs 294-301 OR the paraphrased version below.

The wind was picking up now, blowing clouds across the moon, making the garden dark.

"Stay up with me?" Jesus asked his friend. They said yes and waited under the olive trees, but they were tired and soon fell asleep.

Jesus walked ahead alone, into the dark. He needed to talk to his Heavenly Father.

He knew it was time for him to die. They had planned it long ago, he and his Father. Jesus was going to take the punishment for all the wrong things anybody has ever done, or ever would do!

"Papa! Father!" Jesus cried. And he fell to the ground. "Is there any other way to get your children back? To heal their hearts?"

But Jesus knew - there was no other way. All the poison of sin would have to go into his own heart. God was going to put into Jesus, all the sadness, sickness and brokenness. God was going to blame Jesus for everything that had gone wrong. It would crush Jesus.

When people ran away from God, they lost God. Not being close to God was like a punishment. Jesus would take that punishment too.

This broke Jesus' heart but he prayed and said, "I trust you, Papa," he said. "Whatever you say, I will do."

Suddenly, in the quiet garden, he heard the sound of marching boots.

Jesus stood up.

He woke his friends. "Now is the time." he said gently.

And into the night, with burning torches and lanterns, with swords and armor, they came an army of soldiers.

Judas led them straight to Jesus so they could arrest him.

Jesus was waiting for them.

Peter leapt up, took a sword, and tried to defend Jesus. He sliced off the guard's ear. Jesus immediately touched the guard and healed him.

"Peter," he said. "This is not the way."

Peter didn't realize that nothing happened that Jesus wouldnt allow.

Then Jesus, who only loved people, was arrested.

Jesus' friends were so afraid. So they ran and hid. The guards marched Jesus off and took him to the Leaders. The Leaders put Jesus on trial. "Are you the son of God?" they asked.

"I am." Jesus said.

"Who do you think you are? To call yourself God? You must die for calling yourself the Son of God!"

Only the Romans were allowed to kill prisoners, so the Leaders made a plan. "We will tell the Romans, 'This man wants to be our king!' And then they will crucify him."

"But it would be all right. It was God's Plan. It was for this reason that I was born into the world," Jesus said.

CRAFT

Watch & Pray Craft

Supplies

1. Popsicle sticks (or paper)
2. Glue (or tape)
3. Crayons or markers
4. Stickers
5. Yarn or pipe cleaners

Directions:

1. Give each of your kiddos 7 popsicle or craft sticks. If you don't have those at home, then you can use strips of paper!
2. Help your little crafters glue the popsicle sticks (or strips of paper) in a fence formation (see picture below).
3. Write on the "fence" "Watch and Pray"
4. Have your kids decorate with stickers or color!
5. Tie yarn or pipe cleaners around the sticks to make a loop so you can hang it on a doorknob or wall.



