

LESSON 35

Jesus Is Arrested

MARK 14:43-50



BIBLE TRUTH

JESUS OFFERED NO RESISTANCE TO ARREST, THAT WE MIGHT BE SAVED

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

SUPPLIES: toy handcuffs or a photo of handcuffs; puppet (optional)

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 113)

3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

Where Is the Gospel?

SUPPLIES: Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is the Gospel?” to prepare

4. SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: snack food and beverage

5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5-10 MIN

6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) 20-30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES: coloring page for NT Lesson 35—one for each child; markers or crayons

With and Without Angels

I Am

7. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

TOTAL 60-75 MIN

THE LESSON

OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

In today's lesson the children are going to learn about the arrest of Jesus.

For this introduction bring in toy handcuffs or a photo of handcuffs. If you have a helper comfortable using a puppet they can make this introduction a lot of fun. They can act out that the puppet is really afraid of handcuffs and use the puppet to give away all the answers. If you don't have a puppet, your helper can simply act out the role of the puppet themselves and pretend they are afraid of handcuffs.

When class starts show the handcuffs to the children and ask them if they know what they are and what they are used for.

PUPPET: Oh, I know what they are. I'm really afraid of them.

TEACHER: Puppet, why are you afraid of handcuffs?

PUPPET: That's what the police tie you up with when they arrest you and want to take you to jail.

TEACHER: Class, does puppet need to be afraid of these handcuffs? *(Take any answer.)* Class, do you know what it means to be arrested?

PUPPET: *(Waits to see if the class answers correctly and gives correct answer if they don't know.)* Arrested is when the police take you to jail for doing something wrong.

TEACHER: Do you know who is going to get arrested in our story this week?

PUPPET: We are learning about the good guys, Jesus and the disciples. Don't tell me one of them is going to get arrested. What did they do?

TEACHER: Well, in today's story Jesus is arrested, but he didn't do anything wrong at all!

PUPPET: What happened? Why did they arrest Jesus then?

TEACHER: Well, we are going to have to read the story to find out. But before we do, let's pray.

Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read story 113, "Jesus Is Arrested," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

- **What happened in this story?**
(Jesus was arrested.)

- **How did the crowd know where to find Jesus?**
(Judas, one of the disciples, betrayed Jesus and led the crowd to him.)

- **Who arrested Jesus?**
(The chief priests and the scribes arrested Jesus. These were not the Roman soldiers but Jesus' own fellow Jews.)

Where Is the Gospel? _____

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

Jesus did not call down legions of angels or defend himself. This fulfilled the Scriptures (see Matthew 26:56). Isaiah 53:11 prophesied, "He shall bear their iniquities." The arrest of Jesus was linked to his death, when he bore our sin. When we read of his arrest, we see his willingness to die in our place. This is the greatest demonstration of love in history.

Though Jesus did not defend himself, John records a fascinating glimpse at his authority and power. When Jesus answered the officials, saying, "I am he," the officials drew back and fell to the ground. Something caused them to fall back. Whether it was a momentary wave of shock or simply the command of his voice, we can't help but notice that Jesus' words match those God used to describe himself to Moses. God said, "I am who I am" (Exodus 3:14). These men should have fallen on their faces in worship. Instead they were forced to the ground by the King of Kings in a momentary display of his power.

SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

Read Matthew 26:47–56 for the account of the arrest. This account records Jesus’ words in response to the arrest. While the children are eating the snack, engage the children by asking:

- **Why didn’t Jesus fight back?**
(Jesus knew he had come to earth for this purpose. Jesus was going to be arrested and crucified for us so that we could be forgiven for our sin. He was not trying to fight back. He fulfilled prophecy from Isaiah 53:7b, “like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.”)

- **Who did Jesus say the Father could send to defend him?**
(Jesus said his Father would send more than twelve legions of angels that is, thousands of angels. In addition, since God is all-powerful, he ultimately controls the lives of those who were arresting him. Jesus did not need angels to defend him.)

- **Why was it important for Jesus to do what the Scriptures said he would do?**
(God’s Word is always true. When God describes the way something is going to happen it is like a promise. God always keeps his promises.)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5–10 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult.

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS. 20–30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 35—one for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- **Why did the chief priests arrest Jesus?**
(They were jealous of him. They were afraid the people would stop following them to follow Jesus. They did not want to give up their authority.)

- Why didn't Jesus fight back when they arrested him?

(Jesus could have fought back, but he knew it was time for him to die on the cross.)

- What did the disciples do after Jesus decided not to fight?

(The disciples ran away in fear. They thought Jesus would fight like an earthly king. They didn't realize that Jesus was a heavenly king with a heavenly kingdom.)

With and Without Angels

Act out the story of Jesus' arrest in two different ways.

First, act it out just as it took place. Divide the class into two groups, the chief priests who arrest Jesus and the disciples who flee. Act out the parts of the story such as Judas betraying Jesus, Peter cutting off the servant's ear and Jesus rebuking Peter for fighting. Then have the chief priests bind Jesus. When the disciples see Jesus bound, have them run away.

Talk with the children about why the disciples might have fled. Elicit that the disciples became afraid, discouraged, and lost faith in Jesus because they thought he was going to be a powerful earthly king.

Act it out again: This time assign the role of angels to several children. Have the angels come to Jesus' rescue and then have all the chief priests fall dead instantly.

After the skit is complete, ask the children why this would not be a good end to the story even though Jesus is rescued. Help them understand that if Jesus had rescued himself from the hands of these men, he would not have died on the cross. When Jesus died on the cross, he died to take the punishment that we deserve for our sins. If Jesus didn't die on the cross, we could not be saved.

I Am

At the burning bush when Moses asked God what his name was, God told him, "I Am" (Exodus 3:14). You can read through the story of Moses meeting God in the burning bush.

In John's telling of Jesus' arrest, Jesus said to the chief priests, "I am he" (John 18:6). Instantly they all fell to the ground. It is as though in that instant, the power of God was revealed in Jesus declaring that he was the great I Am.

Have one of the children play Jesus and the rest of the class act as the chief priests and soldiers falling down when Jesus made that famous declaration.

Talk to the children about how, as God, Jesus was all-powerful and could have escaped from the soldiers but that he allowed them to take him willingly. Isaiah 53:7 tells us that Jesus was led away like a lamb going to his death; he did not fight back. Jesus endured the cross, looking forward to what it would do in saving us and restoring us to his Father in heaven (Hebrews 12:2).

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

Take time at the end of class to thank God for what you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as a way for the children to remember today's lesson.

LESSON 35 - JESUS IS ARRESTED

