

LESSON 35

# Jesus Is Arrested

MATTHEW 26:36-56



**BIBLE TRUTH**

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

**LESSON SNAPSHOT**

**1. OPENING REVIEW . . . . . 5 MIN**

Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

**2. BIBLE STORY . . . . . 10 MIN**

Read Matthew 26:36–56 from the Scriptures or read story 113, “Jesus Is Arrested,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

**3. OBJECT LESSON 1 . . . . . 10 MIN**

**Peter Was Ready for a Fight**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ sword—plastic or wooden
- ✓ simple Peter costume made from a flat sheet and a rope belt

**4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION . . . . . 10 MIN**

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

**5. OBJECT LESSON 2 . . . . . 20 MIN**

**Fear of Man Skits**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ two adult or teenage volunteers to help act out the skits

**6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY . . . . . 5 MIN**

**7. ACTIVITY TIME . . . . . 10 MIN**

**Color a Picture**

**SUPPLIES:**

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

**8. CLOSING PRAYER . . . . . 5 MIN**

**9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON . . . . . 10 MIN**

**You Are under Arrest**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ police officer and handcuffs

**TOTAL 85 MIN**

## PREPARING TO TEACH

### TEACHING POINTS

**Jesus suffered**—In one of the clearest demonstrations of the suffering of Christ on our behalf, Jesus took time to pray at Gethsemane and ask his Father to allow the trial to pass, but only if it was his will (Matthew 26:39). Jesus knew there was no other way to save his people, yet the burden of the sin of man pressed him to cry out in anguish. Jesus told the disciples his sorrow was so great it took him to the point of death (Mark 14:34). Even so, the disciples could not stay awake to pray with the Lord (Mark 14:40). The weakness of man in contrast to the grace of God is clearly portrayed in the failure of the disciples to stay awake to pray with Jesus. The Scripture tells us, “While we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8).

**Jesus was betrayed, arrested, and deserted**—Just as Jesus foresaw, Judas betrayed him (Matthew 26:24). The kiss of Judas was a wicked demonstration of his betrayal but unnecessary, for Jesus identified himself (John 18:5). Yet Judas followed through with his treachery and kissed the one he called Rabbi (Mark 14:45). When the soldiers seized Jesus, Peter unsheathed his sword and cut off the ear of the servant of the high priest (John 18:10). Jesus rebuked Peter, then touched the man and healed him (Luke 22:51).

Peter was determined to fight, but did not realize there would be no fighting with swords. Jesus would fight alone. The fight was for our salvation, and the weapon was not a sword, but the cross. Jesus was led like a lamb to the slaughter (Isaiah 53:7) that the Scriptures might be fulfilled (Matthew 26:54). Once the disciples saw Jesus offering no resistance to his arrest, their hope for a restored kingdom was crushed (Luke 24:21), and they fled. Zechariah predicted this when he said, “Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered” (Zechariah 13:7).

**Jesus stood trial**—Jesus was innocent; he was without sin. The rulers came together and brought people to testify against Jesus. But the testimonies did not agree for they were all lies. The chief priest asked Jesus directly, “Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?” Jesus answered, “I am” (Mark 14:61–62). Then he went on to say he, the Son of Man, would come with the clouds of heaven. The high priest, knowing that Jesus was claiming to be God—equal with the Father—tore his clothes and accused Jesus of blasphemy. Jesus was then condemned to die, cruelly beaten, and mocked. The rulers did not realize that everything Jesus said was absolutely true.

Jesus, calling himself the Son of Man, brings together Daniel 7:13–14 and Psalm 110:1. The Son of Man in Daniel is given authority and glory, and all the nations worship him. He is God. Combined with the words “I am,” there is no mistaking Jesus’ claim to be God.

## 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.

### THE LESSON

**OPENING REVIEW . . . . . 5 MIN**

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

**BIBLE STORY . . . . . 10 MIN**

Read Matthew 26:36–56 from the Scriptures or read story 113, "Jesus Is Arrested," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

**OBJECT LESSON 1 . . . . . 10 MIN**

**Peter Was Ready for a Fight**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ sword—plastic or wooden
- ✓ simple Peter costume made from a flat sheet and a rope belt

Retell the story from Peter’s perspective. You can recount Jesus’ warning (Matthew 26:34) and how Peter was looking for an opportunity to prove himself. Have Peter recount how he thought Jesus would come with all the power of heaven and that is why he stepped out to strike the high priest’s servant. Then have Peter talk about his confusion about Jesus’ statement that he could call on legions of angels for help, but he wouldn’t.

Have Peter talk about his doubts. He wasn’t sure if Jesus was real. He didn’t understand why Jesus was arrested. Then have Peter talk about the real kingdom Jesus came to set up: a kingdom in our hearts. (Skip over Peter’s denial of Jesus as that is in an upcoming lesson.) Have Peter say that Jesus did defeat the enemy but it was not Rome. The enemy was Satan and the curse of death.

**TEACHING/DISCUSSION . . . . . 10 MIN**

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

**OBJECT LESSON 2 . . . . . 20 MIN**

**Fear of Man Skits**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ two adult or teenage volunteers to help act out the skits

Explain to the class that just like Peter, we can also struggle with fear. The Bible tells us to fear God but sometimes we are more afraid of people and what they will think of us. We call that sin the “fear of man.” Read Proverbs 29:25 to the class and then have two adult volunteers act out the following skits and see if the class can pick who is struggling with the fear of man.

Do three ad-lib skits. All the skits show two friends meeting. One is a Christian and the other is an unbeliever. All the skits are a replay of the same events, but with different results. All are set on Monday morning. Perform them as follows:

**SKIT 1:** Tell the class that Billy, who went to church on Sunday and had a great time with his church friends, runs into his friend Ryan on his way to school.

After a short greeting, Ryan asks Billy what he did that weekend. Billy says nothing about church but mentions everything else. Ryan keeps asking, “Anything else?” But Billy never mentions going to church.

**SKIT 2:** Repeat the scenario above, except this time Billy tells Ryan that he went to church but he lies and tells him, “Only because my parents made me go.” Ryan expresses his sympathy and says, “What a drag.” Billy never mentions how much fun he had with his church friends.

**SKIT 3:** Again, repeat the scenario, only this time when Ryan asks about his weekend, Billy should tell him all about church and how much fun it was. Billy should tell him that they learned about Jesus and how he died on the cross for our sins. Ryan should say that he has never been to church before and that he thought it was boring. Billy should invite Ryan to come with him to church next week. Ryan should accept and agree to come.

Lead the class in a discussion about the skits and how the fear of man is at work in Billy in the first two. Ask the class the following questions:

- **Have you ever been afraid to tell someone about church or Jesus?**  
*(Draw out any stories the kids may be willing to share.)*
  
- **Why do you think people are afraid to talk about God with their friends who don't go to church?**  
*(They are sometimes afraid of what the people will think or they can be afraid that people will make fun of them for going to church.)*

**SWORD BIBLE MEMORY . . . . . 5 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 worker.

**ACTIVITY TIME . . . . . 10 MIN**

**Color a Picture**

**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.)*

**CLOSING PRAYER . . . . . 5 MIN**

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day's Scripture passages.

**BONUS OBJECT LESSON . . . . . 10 MIN**

**You Are under Arrest**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ police officer and handcuffs

Use this exercise to help the children understand how afraid the disciples might have been when Jesus was arrested.

Enlist the help of a police officer in your congregation. Ask the officer to come dressed in uniform. Have a person hiding in the class disguised as a robber. Suddenly at the beginning of the class, have the police officer burst in and look intently around the room, then go for the "robber." He should not be too rough, but handcuff and take the criminal away. He should casually look back at you and say, "It's okay now, we got him."

After allowing the shock to set in, invite the officer and actor back into the room and explain that you were simply offering a demonstration of an arrest. Have the officer show the children his handcuffs and pass them around the room.

Then read the story of Jesus' arrest and talk about why the disciples ran away (Mark 14:50).

Ask the class if they were afraid when they saw the arrest take place. Help them to identify with the disciples. We can look self-righteously at the disciples and falsely assume we would have behaved differently, but we would have run away as well.

LESSON 35 - JESUS IS ARRESTED

