

JESUS ARRESTED

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: MARK 14:32-65



Jesus offered no resistance to arrest, that we might be saved.

The STORY

Pray with children to start class.

Teaching Points for Class Discussion:

Gethsemane – In one of the clearest demonstrations of the suffering of Christ on our behalf, Jesus took time to pray just prior to His arrest. Jesus was so filled with anguish that He cried out to the Father to take the suffering away. All the while His disciples were sleeping, and one was about to betray Him.

The sinfulness 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 predicted, Judas betrayed Jesus. The kiss was unnecessary, for Jesus identified himself (see John 18:5), yet Judas followed through with his treachery. We learn from John 18:10 that Peter is the one who cut off the ear of the servant of the high priest. Luke 22:51 says that Jesus then touched the man and healed him.

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. Once the disciples saw Jesus arrested without offering resistance, their hope for a restored kingdom was crushed (see 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 went on trial – Jesus had done nothing wrong; He was without sin. All the rulers came together and brought false witness against Jesus but their testimonies, all lies, did not agree.

The chief priest asked Jesus directly, “Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?” Jesus answered, “I am.” 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.

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WHERE IS THE GOSPEL?

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in 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, where 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 shockwave or simply the command of His voice, we can't help to notice that Jesus' words, match those God used to describe Himself to Moses, saying "I am who I am" (see Exodus 3:14). These men did not fall forward in worship; they should have fallen back since they were mere men arresting God.

ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

Read the following Bible passage from the Old Testament. Use the following questions to help the children understand how this passage points to Christ in the New Testament.

Bible Passage: Psalm 41:9

Connecting the passage to Christ:

This is a reference to Jesus' betrayal by Judas and includes a reference to the Last Supper, where Judas shared bread with Jesus. Jesus quoted this passage in John 13:18 and directly attributed it to Himself. Judas betrayed Jesus with a kiss, the greeting of a close friend.

Questions for reflection:

- How did Jesus trust Judas even though Jesus knew Judas was going to betray Him? (Jesus allowed Judas to remain with Him and even gave Him the job of carrying the disciples' money.)
- Would anyone have understood this passage as referring to Jesus prior to Him making this connection? (No, there were many clues hidden in the Scripture, and in many ways all of the Old Testament points to Jesus.)

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SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

BE A DOER OF THE WORD

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.

ACTIVITIES & OBJECT LESSONS

Use the following activities for practical application and discovery of this lesson. For the younger children, review the preschool questions and use them to help the children relate to the passage. For older children, ask them why they think this passage is in the Bible for us today. How is it supposed to affect our lives?

REPLAY THE ARREST

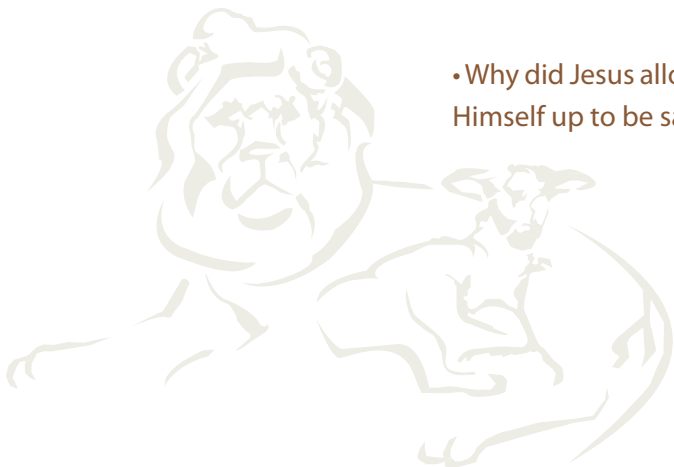
Supplies:

plastic sword and other props as you would like

Use this exercise to draw attention to Jesus' words, "I am He" in John 18:5.

First, as a class, look up all four accounts of the arrest to get all the details and put them together. Next divide up the roles among your students: disciples, officials, Jesus and Judas. Walk through the arrest and rehearse. When you get to the part where Jesus says, "I am He" the officials and guards should fall back to the ground. Have Jesus say these words in a deeper tone with authority. Don't worry about memorizing lines. Feed the children the lines as they go.

- Did you know that Jesus knocked down the officials with His words?
- What do you think is significant about the words "I am?" (These are the words used as the name God gave Moses for Himself.)
- Did Jesus resist arrest? (No, he told Peter to put away his sword.)
- Why did Jesus allow Himself to be arrested without a fight? (Jesus willingly offered Himself up to be sacrificed on the cross.)



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PETER WAS READY FOR A FIGHT

Supplies:

sword and Peter costume

Retell the story from Peter's perspective. You can recount Jesus' warning 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 when Jesus said that although He could bring legions of angels, He would not.

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 the temptation of Peter 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.

YOU ARE UNDER ARREST

Supplies:

police officer and
handcuffs

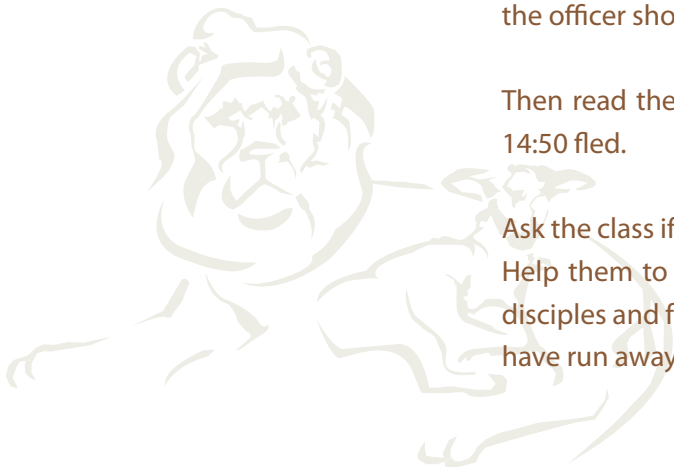
Use this exercise to help the children understand at least in part, the fear the arrest of Jesus must have brought to the disciples.

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 man. He should not be too rough but handcuff the man and lead him out. He should casually look back at you and say, "Its okay now, we got him." Then lead him out of the room.

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 in Mark 14:50 fled.

Ask the class if they were a bit afraid when they saw the mock 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.



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PRAYER

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

IN CLASS PROJECT

AN ACTIVITY

Supplies:
pencil and paper

Draw a picture of Jesus standing with all the temple guards knocked to the ground (see John 18:5).

FOR THE OLDER GRADES

HARMONIZE THE SCRIPTURE ACCOUNTS

Supplies:
white board

Use Mark 14:32-65 as the baseline text. Then study the account of the arrest in all four gospels to determine what they include that adds additional information. If you would like, divide the class into three groups, each taking one of the other three gospels. Then ask them for their findings. There are details left out of Mark that can be found in the other stories (such as the identity of the man who cut off the servant's ear). Mark simply says one of those standing there did it. John tells us the man was Peter (John 18:10). Luke, the physician, adds that Jesus then healed the man's ear (Luke 22:51). Finally, Matthew adds Jesus' rebuke and claim that if He wanted to fight He could call down legions of angels (Matthew 26:53).



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A LITTLE BIT MORE

Sanhedrin – This was the Jewish religious court. Each city had a Sanhedrin made up of the local religious leaders. In Jerusalem it was chaired by the high priest. It was assembled to try individuals accused of violating Jewish law. Under Roman rule, the Sanhedrin had no legal right to sentence anyone to capital punishment (death). That was something which Rome reserved for itself. The Pharisees called a meeting of the Sanhedrin to discuss the raising of Lazarus (see John 11:57) and at its conclusion they had given orders for Jesus' arrest.

After Jesus' ascension, several of the disciples were brought before this religious court. Stephen was tried before the Sanhedrin. During his defense Stephen claimed to see the Son of Man in heaven seated at the right hand of God (see Acts 7:56). This was consistent with what Jesus said before the Sanhedrin in Mark 14:62. It was as though Stephen was saying Jesus was who He said He was! This made them so furious they disregarded the Roman restriction against capital punishment and stoned Stephen on the spot.

