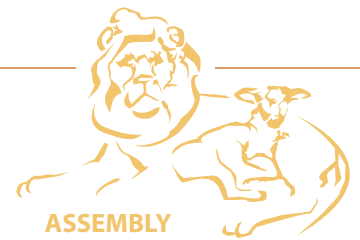


JESUS ARRESTED

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: MARK 14:43-50



The following are some ideas for creative ways that you can present this material.

LESSON IDEAS

WITH AND WITHOUT ANGELS

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

First, 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.

Then act it out again, only reserve some of the children to be angels. 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. If they don't answer, 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 was crucified, He was crucified by men and the wrath of God fell upon Him to punish Him for our sins. If Jesus didn't die on the cross, we could not be saved from the punishment for our sins.

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I AM

When Moses asked God for his name at the burning bush, God told him that his name is "I Am."

In John's telling of Jesus' arrest (John 18:6), Jesus says to the chief priests, "I am He." 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.

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.

The prophet Isaiah foretold the arrest of Jesus when in Isaiah 53:7 he said, "He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth."

Jesus did not call down legions of angels or defend Himself so that the Scriptures might be fulfilled, see Matthew 26:56. Isaiah went on to share the reason in verse 11 of that same chapter, "He shall bear their iniquities." The arrest of Jesus was linked to His death where He bore our sin. When we see His arrest, we see His willingness to die in our place. This is the greatest demonstration of love in history.

