

Judas Betrays Jesus

Luke 22:47-53

MEMORY VERSE

ISAIAH 53:11b

“...by His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, for He shall bear their iniquities.”

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

As many chocolate kisses as the number of children in your class.

Towels or sheets to be used as biblical costumes, and a toy sword.

ATTENTION GRABBER!

Betrayed by a Kiss

Play a game with your class to illustrate the betrayal of Jesus by Judas. Pick a child to stand outside the room while another unidentified child hides a chocolate kiss in the classroom. The isolated child must come into the room, find the kiss, and correctly identify the child who hid it. If he cannot identify the child correctly, he must return the kiss to the hider. If he does identify the hider he may keep and eat the kiss.

When the child comes back in and finds the kiss, either give very obvious hints to the hiders identity or expose him blatantly. The hider will react with indignation at having been betrayed by the teacher. Explain that you were illustrating how Jesus was betrayed by someone He should have been able to trust...one of His disciples. Ask the hider how it felt to be betrayed.

When the dust has settled, give each child in the class a chocolate kiss as a snack.

LESSON TIME!

Jesus had been praying in the garden of Gethsemane with His disciples. It was night and His disciples fell asleep, but Jesus continued to pray. As morning came, Jesus woke His disciples. Jesus was about to be betrayed by one of His own disciples, a supposed friend who had been with Him for the last three years.

Has someone ever betrayed you? Maybe someone that you trusted let you down in some way. Perhaps in a smaller way you know what Jesus must have been feeling on this early morning near Gethsemane.

Today we are going to look at the man who betrayed Jesus and the betrayal that he committed. We are going to see something interesting. Even though Judas had an evil heart and turned against Jesus, he did not send Jesus to the cross. Jesus knew that Judas would betray Him (John 13:21). Jesus could have kept from being arrested that morning and easily could have called down thousands of angels to help him. But we see that **Jesus willingly went to the cross for our sins**. It was His great love for us that caused Him to willingly endure the cross. He laid down His life for us. Let's look at what happened.

LUKE 22:47-48

And while He was still speaking, behold, a multitude; and he who was called Judas, one of the twelve, went before them and drew near to Jesus to kiss Him.

But Jesus said to him, "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?"

As Jesus spoke to His disciples, Judas, one of the twelve disciples who had not been with them in the garden, came with a large group of soldiers, chief priests, and other Jewish leaders. Judas was there to turn Jesus over to the Jews who wanted to kill Him because He

taught things that challenged their teaching. Judas had told the chief priests that the one he would kiss would be Jesus. Jesus knew Judas would betray Him and He also knew that He would die on the cross to pay for our sins. **Jesus willingly went to the cross for our sins.**

It is interesting that Jesus just asked Judas a question. He asked, "Are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?" We should love God with our heart, soul, mind, and strength. A kiss was to be a sign of love and friendship. In that day it was common for people to greet each other with a kiss on the cheek to show friendship and affection for them. Judas came up to Jesus with an act of affection, but all the while in his heart he was going to betray Jesus.

How important it is for us to always check our hearts! Have we ever showed an act of affection towards Jesus when our hearts weren't right before Him. We need to always look at our hearts and make sure the worship and love that we express towards Him comes out of a pure heart.

LUKE 22:49-50

When those around Him saw what was going to happen, they said to Him, "Lord, shall we strike with the sword?"

And one of them struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear.

The disciples realized that Jesus was going to be taken and killed, so they offered to fight for Him. Peter did not wait for an answer and cut off one of the servant's ears. We know this was Peter from the other gospels.

Our natural reaction is usually to fight back. We want to take matters into our own hands and strike out against those who would hurt us. What that does is cause further hurt and pain for others.

Jesus taught that we need to love our enemies and do good to those who would desire to hurt us. He gave us an example by loving and dying for us while we were still sinners (fighting against God). Jesus knew that His time had come to lay down His life. It was not time to fight. Just as the prophet Isaiah said that He would go to the cross as a lamb that would be slain.

LUKE 22:51

But Jesus answered and said, "Permit even this." And He touched his ear and healed him.

Jesus told His disciples not to defend Him. He knew that this was the only way to open the door of salvation for us. Jesus knew that if He did not die on the cross, God would have to judge everyone for their sin, and Romans 6:23 tells us that the wages of sin is death. If Jesus had not died for our sin, we would not have the end of that verse that tells us: "But the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our LORD." Jesus then healed the servant's ear to show that He cares even for those that do not follow Him. **Jesus willingly went to the cross for our sins.**

It makes you wonder what that servant must have thought about Jesus when his ear was healed. The chief priests must have thought that Jesus would try to fight back otherwise they wouldn't have brought so many soldiers with them. But they found that Jesus wasn't about to fight. He simply said, "permit even this." This was all in the Father's plan and had to be carried out in order to provide a way to God.

Act It Out

Choose some of the children in your class to play the part of Jesus, Peter, Judas, the Servant of the High Priest, and the crowd. Have them act out the story for the rest of the class according to the biblical account.

LUKE 22:52-53

Then Jesus said to the chief priests, captains of the temple, and the elders who had come to Him, "Have you come out, as against a robber, with swords and clubs?"

"When I was with you daily in the temple, you did not try to seize Me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness."

Jesus' ministry was a peaceful one. He never acted out with violence. He never stole from or cheated anyone. Yet these men came to get Him as if He were a terrible criminal. They had many opportunities to seize Him when He was in the open, teaching and talking to the public, but these men chose to come secretly in the dark to get Him. **Jesus willingly went to the cross for our sins.**

Darkness represents evil and Satan's power. John 3:19 tells us, "and this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil." Jesus had come into the world to be a light, but many did not except Him because they were in darkness. Jesus identified their deeds as evil because they came unannounced in the dark. There were several times in Jesus' ministry that people, usually the religious leaders tried to seize Him, but they never could because it was not yet "His hour." But now the hour had come for salvation to come to the world so they were allowed to take Him. Nothing can happen apart from God's knowledge and timing. **Jesus willingly went to the cross for our sins.**

The Darkness or the Light

Give your children different scenarios to discern whether they would be performed in the darkness or the light. For example: I want to mow my neighbor's lawn...I'd do that in the light; I want to

steal my neighbor's car...I'd do that in the dark. I'm invited to paint a mural on a wall...I'd do that in the light; I want to paint graffiti all over someone's property...I'd do that in the dark. I want to pick up trash in my neighborhood...I'd do that in the light; I want to TP someone's house...I'd do that in the dark.

Explain to your class that wicked deeds are naturally performed in the secrecy of darkness. Good deeds are naturally performed in the light of day.

When we have Jesus in our hearts, we are called to be lights in a dark world. We should not be doing anything in the dark that we cannot do in the light. Jesus is the light of the world and He knows all we do. Even though He knew we would sin and fail, **Jesus willingly went to the cross for our sins.**

Jesus' purpose for coming to this world was to die and rise again on the third day to provide salvation for all of mankind. The Bible says that this was known even before the world was created. Jesus was not surprised when Judas came and betrayed Him. He turned from Jesus in His heart. For just 30 pieces of silver He betrayed the Son of God.

Later we see that the money that Judas exchanged his relationship with Jesus for never brought him happiness. Anything in life that we would trade our relationship with Jesus for is never worth it. It is a lie from the enemy that we could ever be happy with anything apart from knowing and walking with Jesus. Judas eventually took his own life because he was so miserable.

People today continue to exchange a great relationship with Jesus for the things of this world. May we never do that! There is nothing more valuable than walking with Jesus. He laid down His life so we may be forgiven of our sins. Let's show Jesus our gratitude by living for Him. **Jesus willingly went to the cross for our sins.**

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving for all that Jesus has done and especially that He willing laid down His life for us. If there are any children who have never responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.