



# Judas Betrays Jesus

*Matthew 26:1–19, 36–50*



## LESSON GOAL

Students will recognize that they deny or betray Jesus with sinful attitudes and actions.

## BIBLE TRUTHS

- The Pharisees, Sadducees, and the chief priests rejected Jesus.
- Judas was paid to help the Jews put Jesus in jail.
- Most of the disciples abandoned Jesus.

## KEY VERSE

“You know that after two days is the Passover, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified”  
(Matthew 26:2).

## APPLICATION

- Show your love for Jesus by obeying Him.
- Confess your sin to Jesus.
- Praise Jesus for enduring man’s rejection.

## NEXT WEEK

Jesus Endures the Cross  
Read Matthew 27.

### Symbol Key



Craft



Finger Play



Memory Verse



Object Lesson



Game



Visual Aid



Center



Activity



Q & A



Age Group



## PREPARE WITH THE TRUTH

*“Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul.... You shall teach them to your children” (Deuteronomy 11:18–19).*

Please take time to prepare your mind and heart to accurately handle the truths of God’s Word (2 Tim. 2:15). Read through the Bible background and study the truths contained in this lesson. Crucial background information is included here to aid you in understanding the Scripture.

### Bible Background

Matthew wrote his gospel to show that Jesus was Israel’s long-awaited King and Messiah. He began the book by establishing that Jesus is the fulfillment of messianic prophecy. In chapters 21–23, Jesus is presented and rejected as the Messiah. In chapter 26, Matthew focused on the rejection of Jesus as the Messiah. The religious leaders rejected Jesus as the Messiah, the nation rejected Him as their King, and even His disciples abandoned Him.

In Matthew 26:1–5, the chief priests’, the scribes’, and the elders’ plot to kill Jesus is revealed. Although this appears to be a terrible plan made by men, it becomes evident that God is sovereign even in the death of His Son. Jesus told His disciples that the time of His death was approaching and that one of the 12 would be His betrayer. In verses 14–16, Judas Iscariot was revealed as the one who cooperated with the religious leaders to betray Christ. That betrayal was part of God’s plan to provide propitiation for the world through Christ’s death. Although the intention of the Jewish leaders was for Jesus to be killed after the Passover, God used Jesus’ death on the Passover to fulfill the foreshadowing events in Exodus 12. Before His death, Jesus confronted the Pharisees regarding their hypocrisy and sin. This confrontation was the last straw for the religious leaders.

In Matthew 26, Jesus began by reminding His disciples that in two days the Passover would occur. He told them that at that time, He would be delivered up to be crucified. At this point, it was Wednesday of the Passion Week. Jesus was to be crucified on Friday. There was great symbolism in Jesus being crucified during the Passover. The Passover is the time of year when the Jews celebrate their exodus from the land of Egypt. Exodus 12 recounts the events that took place during the first Passover. God explained to Israel that on that night He would pass through the land, killing all first-born in judgment. For God to “pass over” (Ex. 12:13) a house, there needed to be blood on the doorpost from a “lamb...without blemish” (Ex. 12:5). Its blood needed to be placed “on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the house.” The movement made when placing the blood on the door was that of the shape of a cross. God was preparing Israel for the One who would be a propitiation for the sins of mankind, “the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29). The Passover was God’s appointed time for Christ to die. Christ was the “Passover Lamb.”

Caiaphas, the high priest, was a corrupt leader who sought to kill Jesus. Caiaphas, along with the chief priests, scribes, and the elders of the people, came together and plotted to kill Jesus. They decided not to do it until after the Passover. In all these events, God ordained the time for Christ to die. This time was appointed before the world was created. The Pharisees and scribes hated Jesus because of His message. Jesus shook the foundations of the religious leaders by revealing the true motives behind their leadership: to control the people. They tried to trap Jesus in His words but failed. They wanted to remove Jesus. He was destroying their image. In Matthew 23, Jesus condemned them for their hypocrisy. He revealed the sin of

### Additional Reference Materials

*The Murder of Jesus* by John MacArthur

*The MacArthur Study Bible* by John MacArthur

those who appeared to be the holiest of all. He called them “whitewashed tombs.” He said they were beautiful outwardly but were full of dead men’s bones inside. Jesus revealed the truth of their spiritual state. They looked great on the outside, but inside they were full of sin and hypocrisy.

In the midst of the plot against Jesus, one woman expressed her love for Him. In love for her Savior, Mary anointed Jesus’ head and cleaned His feet. She brought an alabaster flask of fragrant and expensive oil. The cost of this oil would be about a year’s wages. That was likely her life’s savings, but no cost was too high for Jesus. What Mary did was pure worship.

As the religious leaders tried to destroy Jesus, Judas Iscariot entered the picture. He was one of the 12 disciples. Judas, possessed by Satan (Luke 22:3), carried out his betrayal by approaching the chief priest with a proposition: “What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?” (Matt. 26:14). The chief priests offered a mere 30 pieces of silver. Thirty pieces of silver was the price of a slave in the Old Testament (Ex. 21:32; Zech. 11:12); Jesus was worth no more than a slave in their eyes. From that time on, Judas looked for an opportunity to betray Jesus. Jesus knew from the very beginning that Judas would betray Him. During the Last Supper, Jesus told the disciples that one of them would betray Him, and He would identify that person by dipping His bread and giving it to that disciple. Jesus gave the bread to Judas (Matt. 26:21–25).

Before His arrest, Jesus went to Gethsemane to pray with some of the disciples. He asked them to watch as He went to pray. Three times He found them asleep. Because of their human weakness, they slept when they should have been praying and watching.

In 26:47 and following, Judas finally betrayed Jesus with a kiss after he led the multitude, the chief priests, and the elders of the people to Jesus. This group also contained at least 600 Roman soldiers. The kiss that Judas gave to Jesus was a special symbol of respect and affection in this culture. A kiss on the cheek was the symbol of the closest affection and love. This was a detestable way to identify and betray Jesus. All these things, along with Judas’s death, were known and planned by God. The remorse and hanging of Judas were prophesied in Zechariah 11:12b–13: “So they weighed out for my wages thirty pieces of silver. And the LORD said to me, ‘Throw it to the potter’—that princely price they set on me. So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the LORD for the potter.”

John stated it clearly when he said, “Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.” This entire passage focuses on two main ideas. First, Jesus was to become the sacrifice for the sins of the world. Second, God is sovereign in all events. Matthew makes it clear to his readers that Jesus is the Lamb who came to be the sacrifice for God’s wrath. That was foreshadowed beautifully in Exodus 12, where a spotless lamb’s blood was put on the top and sides of the doorpost. That act was the only way that God would pass over the sins of the people and not pour out His wrath. The second picture here is the clear working of God in each situation from the Passover, to prophecy, to Judas, to Christ’s death on the cross. God’s glory and mercy are clearly seen.

Even though the crowds saw Jesus as the king, the Jewish leaders rejected Him. Judas also rejected Jesus and decided to betray Him.

**Rejection:** The religious leaders and Pharisees rejected Christ as their Messiah. Many people today know the wonderful things that Christ has done but still continue to reject Him as their Savior.

**Betrayal:** Judas pretended to be Jesus’ friend and follower. He called Jesus “Rabbi” and kissed Him on the cheek as a friend. He actually was Jesus’ enemy and had no faith in Him as his Savior.

Many people say that they believe in Jesus Christ but do not live out their faith with their actions. They go to church every Sunday but have no fruit. Where do you stand with Jesus? Are you a true follower of Christ? Have you trusted in Jesus as your Savior? Are you like the religious leaders, who rejected Jesus completely? Or are you like Judas, who said that Jesus was his friend but then betrayed Him?

## POINT TO THE TRUTH

*"Give ear, O my people, to my law; incline your ears to the words of my mouth" (Psalm 78:1).*

This section includes questions to review last week's lesson and ideas to prepare students for this week's lesson. Choose from the following ideas to point to the truths of this lesson.



### Review Questions

*Use these questions to review and reinforce key truths.*

What did Jesus ride into Jerusalem?

*A donkey.*

What did people say as Jesus entered Jerusalem on a colt?

*"Hosanna to the Son of David."*

Was Jesus happy with the people buying and selling things in the temple?

*No.*

Why did Jesus drive out the people in the temple who were changing money, buying, and selling?

*They dishonored God by not being honest with their prices.*

How were the Jewish leaders doing wrong?

*They did good things in front of people, but their thoughts were wicked and not pleasing to God.*

Does God care about our thoughts as well as our actions?

*Yes.*



### What Is a Plot?

Make sure the students understand what a plot is and how much effort went into the plot to kill Jesus. This will demonstrate the hatred for and rejection of Jesus. A plot is a plan that someone thinks about then makes a list (in his mind or on paper) of what to do. Do your parents make plans? (Example: "Johnny, let's get up and get ready for church. We'll eat a good breakfast, then hop in the car.") Do you make plans? (Example: "I want to read now and play outside later.") Do you make plans to do the wrong thing? In today's lesson, the Jewish leaders plotted to kill Jesus. But what they meant for evil, God had planned from the beginning of time to pay for our sins.



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### Friendship Test

Have the students think of friends and enemies of God from the lessons they have already had in Genesis and Exodus. For example, friends would include: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph; enemies would include: Cain, the men of Sodom, and Pharaoh. Discuss the reasons why some were friends of God and others were enemies.



### Bad Money

Bring in a small bag of 30 coins (play or real) and let each student shake the bag. Ask them how people should use money. What would they buy if they got 30 coins? The answers will vary. Ask them what they would think if someone used money to hurt others. Should a person spend money to pay for someone to hurt a friend? That would be a terrible way to spend money. In today's lesson, we are going to learn about someone who took money to hurt Jesus.

## PROCLAIM THE TRUTH

*"Telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and His strength and His wonderful works that He has done" (Psalm 78:4).*

This section includes the Bible lesson, lesson questions, and praise and worship ideas. Song suggestions are included that you can use to proclaim your worship to God. Use the lesson questions to check the students' understanding. This section also includes various presentation ideas to use during the teaching time. Read the Bible passage several times before you read these pages. All teaching should be done directly from the Bible.

### Bible Lesson

Did you know that Jesus died on the cross? I bet you have heard that before. But do you know why He died? Or do you know who killed Him? Today we are going to learn about the plan to kill Jesus.

All the Jewish leaders came together and decided that they should kill Jesus. Do you remember learning about the Jewish people? Jewish people are sometimes called Israelites. What have we learned about the Israelites? We learned about how they went to Egypt to escape the famine, how they ran away from Pharaoh, how they crossed the Red Sea, and how they wandered around the wilderness. They were the great big family that was started by Abraham. The Israelites were all his sons and daughters, grandsons and granddaughters, great-grandsons and great-granddaughters, and so on. There were a lot of people in Abraham's family! Sometimes we call them Israelites, and sometimes we call them Jewish people. Well, these are the people who decided to kill Jesus. They did not like Jesus because He told them that they were sinners and needed to believe in Him. They were very angry when He told them that!

Jesus knew that the Jewish people would kill Him. He also knew that one of His friends would help them find Him so they could take Him away and kill Him. Jesus knew everything, even what other people were thinking. He knew that Judas, who said He was Jesus' friend, would betray Him. When you betray someone, it means that you pretend to be someone's friend, but then you do something that hurts him.

Judas had pretended to be Jesus' friend, but he really was not His friend. Judas knew that the Jewish leaders wanted to kill Jesus, and he decided that he would help them. He went to the Jewish leaders and asked, "How much money will you give me if I help you find Jesus so you can kill Him?" The Jewish leaders talked about it, and they said, "We will give you thirty pieces of silver if you show us where to find him." So Judas took the money and started planning a way to bring the Jewish leaders to Jesus. Judas was not really Jesus' friend, even though he said he was.

The next night after dinner, Judas went to the priests and brought them to Jesus. It was very, very dark. Judas went up to Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane and gave Jesus a kiss. A kiss was like a handshake is today. It was the sign to the priests of who Jesus was. The priests had Jesus arrested by 600 soldiers. He was taken away to be crucified. Almost all Jesus' friends ran away.

Jesus had known all along that Jewish leaders were going to kill Him and that Judas would betray Him. How do you think that He knew this? He knows everything because He is God! Does it not seem very sad that Jesus was going to die? Jesus is very powerful, and He could have stopped them from killing Him. But He did not! Jesus knew He had to die so that He could be a sacrifice. God says that the punishment for sin is to die, but Jesus doesn't want people to die, so He decided to take our place and die for us. The Jewish leaders were doing something bad by planning to kill Jesus, but God turned it into something good.



## Lesson Questions

Who decided to kill Jesus?

*The Jewish religious leaders.*

Which of Jesus' disciples betrayed Him?

*Judas.*

How much money did the Jewish leaders give Judas to betray Jesus?

*30 pieces of silver.*

Did Jesus know that Judas would betray Him?

*Yes.*

What did it mean for Judas to betray Jesus?

*It meant that Judas was rejecting Jesus as Lord.*

## Presentation Ideas



### A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards

Use A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards with the lesson.



### Betty Lukens Flannelgraph

Use appropriate flannelgraph pieces with the lesson.

## Praise and Worship

*Create in Me a Clean Heart*

*Praise the Name of Jesus*

*The Wise Man and Foolish Man*

*Trust and Obey*



## The Plan to Kill Jesus

The Jewish priests had a wicked plan:  
*(Rub hands together.)*

To kill Jesus Christ—the Son of Man.  
*(Make a cross with index fingers.)*

They did not want to understand  
*(Point to temple and shake head back and forth.)*

That Jesus was God's Passover lamb.  
*(Point up.)*

What about you? Where do you stand?  
*(Point toward students.)*

You should love your God and obey His commands.  
*(Hug self; then hold hands as if holding a book.)*

## PRACTICE THE TRUTH

*"That they may set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments" (Psalm 78:7).*

Choose ideas from this section to review and apply the truths of the Bible lesson.



### Coins of Betrayal

Take the same coins used in the "Bad Money" Point activity, and color them with a red marker. Glue them on the coloring sheet as a reminder that the priests paid Judas 30 pieces of silver to betray Jesus.



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### "Lips to Praise God"

Ask the students what lips should be used for. In today's lesson, we learned that Judas betrayed Jesus with a kiss. A kiss was supposed to be a sign of affection or care. In Jesus' day, friends kissed each other on the cheek as a greeting. Judas did a terrible thing when he kissed Jesus so that the guards would know whom to arrest. Cut out the lips on the page in the back. Glue them to the small sheet at the back of the lesson. We should use our lips to speak and sing praises to God, not betray Him. As you make the crafts, ask the students how their lips (speech) can betray Jesus.



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### Are You Really Jesus' Friend?

Materials: paper plates, construction paper, tissue paper, yarn, glue, crayons, craft sticks, copies of the "Are You Really Jesus' Friend?" craft page

Directions: The interesting thing about this mask project is not the outside "face," but the inside message. Have the students create their own masks using paper plates or circles cut from construction paper. Give them yarn, crayons, construction paper, etc., so they can decorate their masks with a happy face. Once they are finished, give them the "Are You Really Jesus' Friend" craft page to glue to the back



of their masks. This may need to be cut to fit each individual mask. Read the text to the students, and remind them of Judas, who pretended to be Jesus' friend but was really His enemy.

Are you really Jesus' friend? On the outside, Judas looked like Jesus' friend. He spent time with Him, called Him Rabbi, and kissed Him on the cheek. But in his heart, Judas was unloving and bitter. So Judas did not act like a friend; he betrayed Jesus. Do you just look like Jesus' friend? Do you come to church to make your parents happy but do not worship? Do you put a smile on your face, but really are grumbling and bitter in your heart? You can truly act like Jesus' friend and demonstrate your love by obeying God. That includes worshiping God with joy in your heart, obeying your parents, and being kind to other people.

### Coloring Sheets

Give each student a copy of the coloring sheets at the back of this lesson. The students can color the pages in class or at home.



### MEMORY VERSE

"For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures" (1 Corinthians 15:3).



# Lips to Praise God





# Lips to Praise God

I should use my

Glue lips here.

to praise God.

I should use my

Glue lips here.

to praise God.

I should use my

Glue lips here.

to praise God.

I should use my

Glue lips here.

to praise God.



# Are You Really Jesus' Friend?

Cut out this circle and glue it to the back of the mask. Room has been left to make eyeholes.

## Are You Really Jesus' Friend?

On the outside, Judas  
looked like Jesus' friend.  
He spent time with Him and  
called Him Rabbi.

But in his heart,  
Judas was unloving and bitter.  
Judas did not act like a friend; he  
betrayed Jesus.

Do you just look  
like Jesus' friend?  
Do you come to church to  
make your parents happy  
but do not worship? Do  
you put a smile on your  
face but really are  
grumbling and bitter in  
your heart?







**“Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, ‘What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him [Jesus] to you?’ And they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver” (Matthew 26:14–15).**





**“So He left them, went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words. Then He came to His disciples and said to them, ‘Are you still sleeping and resting? Behold the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners.’” (Matthew 26:44–45).**

