



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.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to

- Identify the various ways Jesus was rejected.
- Describe Judas's betrayal of Jesus.
- Identify those who did not reject Jesus.
- Explain what the disciples did in the Garden of Gethsemane with 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 that your sin is a rejection of Jesus.
- Praise Jesus for enduring man's rejection.

NEXT WEEK

Jesus Endures the Cross
Read Matthew 27.

Symbol Key



Craft



Memory Verse



Object Lesson



Game



Visual Aid



Activity



Q & A



Work Sheet



2 Grade Level

Teacher Planning Sheet

PREPARE

Objectives/Truths to cover this week

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Personal Application

As a result of my study in this passage, God wants me to

- _____
- _____
- _____

Three ways students need to apply this passage are

- _____
- _____
- _____

Materials
Needed

POINT

Choose from various ideas to point students to the coming Bible lesson.

- _____
- _____

PROCLAIM

Choose from various ideas to proclaim the Bible lesson.

Presentation Ideas

- _____
- _____

Praise/Music Ideas

- _____
- _____
- _____

PRACTICE

Choose ideas to help review and apply today's lesson.

- _____
- _____

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 the people do as Jesus entered the city?

They placed palm leaves and coats on the ground and said, "Hosanna to the Son of David! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!' Hosanna in the highest!"

What did the people mean when they said this?

They were praising Jesus as the promised Messiah and King.

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

They dishonored God by not being honest with their prices.

What did Jesus teach the chief priests and elders by using parables?

He taught them that they were being disobedient to God. The leaders and people of Israel were not obedient to God and not willing to serve Him. God was going to cast them out and bring in a new group who would obey and serve Him.

What did Jesus say that the leaders of the Jewish people were doing wrong?

The leaders 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.



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.



What Do Friends Do?

Ask the students what a friend is. Ask them what kinds of things they like to do with their friends. What does a good friend do? Does a good friend lie about his friends? Does a good friend get his friends in trouble? Ask them what kind of friend they want to be. In today's lesson we are going to learn about one of Jesus' friends who got Him into very bad trouble.

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

Reading of the Text

Read Matthew 26:1–19, 36–56.

Introduction

What would you do if someone wanted to stop your church from getting money and told the people to leave your church? What if that person said that your pastor



and your leaders were not following God? The chief priests were not following God and plotted to have Jesus arrested. If you were Jesus' follower and you knew the chief priests were trying to get Jesus, what would you do? Would you stick close to Jesus and help Him? Would you pray with Him? Let us see today what various people wanted to do to Jesus.

Leadoff Question (LOQS)

LOQ: What did Jesus tell His disciples about His death?

Answer: In Matthew 26:1–2, Jesus explained when and how He would die. God planned Jesus' death to pay for man's sin before the creation of the world. Jesus told this to His disciples two days before the Passover. This was God's chosen time for Jesus to die. The Passover was when the Jews celebrated the exodus of Israel from the land of Egypt. Exodus 12:6–7 explains that, during the First Passover, the people were to kill a lamb without blemish and put its blood on the doorposts and on the lintel of the house. In Exodus 12:13 God said, "When I see the blood, I will pass over you." The word "Passover" represented God's salvation of Israel from His wrath. Each year, the Jews celebrate what God did that first Passover night. It was this time of year that Jesus was speaking of when He told His disciples that He was going to die. Jesus was the spotless Lamb who would take away the sins of the world once and forever.

LOQ: How did the religious leaders plot the death of Jesus?

Answer: Matthew 26:3–4 says, "Then the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders of the people assembled at the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas, and plotted to take Jesus by trickery and kill Him." The chief priests and scribes did not like what Jesus said or did, so they decided to kill Him. They met together to plan Jesus' death. They wanted to trick Jesus into saying something that would be punishable by death. Thinking that it might cause an uproar, they decided to wait on their plot until after the Passover (Matt. 26:5). That was not God's plan, however. The Passover was the chosen time for Jesus to die.

LOQ: Why did Jesus appreciate the kind act of the woman who anointed Him with perfume?

Answer: Even when the priests were plotting against Jesus and the threat to His life increased, this woman showed an act of kindness to Jesus. She was so overwhelmed with appreciation for Jesus that she risked an association with Him.

LOQ: Who betrayed Jesus to the Jewish leaders?

Answer: Matthew 26:14–16 says, "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 to you?' And they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver. So from that time he sought opportunity to betray Him." Judas Iscariot was the one who would betray Jesus into the hands of the religious leaders of Israel.

LOQ: Why did Judas betray Jesus?

Answer: Judas wanted money to betray Jesus to the religious leaders. He asked them how much they would pay him if he brought Jesus to them. They said that they would give him 30 pieces of silver. That was cost of a slave in the Old Testament (Ex. 21:32).

LOQ: How did Judas betray Jesus?

Answer: When Judas betrayed Jesus to the religious leaders, he gave Jesus a kiss. The kiss was a sign of love and affection. But Judas did not love Jesus. His life was a lie. Jesus knew that all these things would happen because God planned them.

LOQ: Why did Jesus go to pray?

Answer: To seek God's help in doing the task He set out to do. It was very, very difficult for the God-man to bear the punishment for our sin. We cannot minimize the pain of the cross or the pain of taking on sin.

LOQ: Why did Jesus want the disciples to pray with Him?

Answer: He wanted extra prayer support to help Him handle His dreaded task.

LOQ: Did the disciples do what Jesus asked?

Answer: No. They were overcome with tiredness. They did not love Jesus enough to figure out a way to keep watch and pray for Him. Three times in a row they fell asleep. Finally, Judas came to betray Him. Then they wanted to fight the guards and not let Jesus go to the cross. They would fight for His rule, but they would not support Him in His death. They ran away when they realized that a large military force was taking Him.

Summary

God had planned for Jesus to die during the time of the celebration of Passover as a symbol that He was a spotless lamb, here to save His people. Even though the religious leaders thought that it would not be a good time to do this, God made sure that all the events transpired as planned. Jesus had an appointed time to die on the cross for the sins of mankind. Neither Judas nor the religious leaders liked Jesus. So Judas went to them and asked how much they would give him if he would betray Jesus into their hands. They told him that they would give him 30 pieces of silver, to which he agreed. From that time on, he looked for a chance to betray Jesus.

Application

Many people say that they are believers of Jesus Christ but do not live out their faith with their actions. They go to church every Sunday, but they have no fruit. Where do you stand with Jesus? Are you a true follower of Christ? Have you trusted in Jesus as your Savior? Which best characterizes your faith? Are you like Mary, who gave her most precious possession; or like the Pharisees and religious leaders, who rejected Jesus completely; or maybe even like Judas, who said that he loved Jesus and was His friend but then betrayed Him in the end? Think of two or three ways you can show Christ obedience.

Presentation Ideas



A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards

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



Betty Lukens Flannelgraph

Use appropriate flannelgraph pieces with the lesson

Praise and Worship

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

Cleanse Me

Create in Me a Clean Heart

O-B-E-D-I-E-N-C-E

Praise the Name of Jesus

The Wise Man and Foolish Man

Trust and Obey

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.



Preparing for the Cross

Jesus and Judas both were preparing for the cross. Ask the students how each one prepared for the cross. Jesus prepared for the cross while He prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane. Judas prepared for the cross by betraying Jesus to the high priests. What was each going to get after he died? Jesus would rule and reign in heaven after His resurrection. Judas was going to spend eternity in hell. This is an incredible contrast. Judas thought he was getting 30 pieces of silver, but he really got eternity in hell. How are you preparing for the kingdom?



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.



2
3

Frozen in Time

Divide the students into groups of four or five. Each group should choose a time period from the story of Jesus' arrest and crucifixion. Then, each needs to create a frozen scene that represents a single moment. (Each scene must include Jesus.) The groups must decide what Bible characters are part of each scene and what they might say. Each group will get a chance to present their scene for the rest of the class. They must go to the front and freeze into their scene. The teacher will then touch one student, and he will share thoughts about what is happening, as if he or she is back in time and part of the crucifixion. Then the group will refreeze, and you will touch another student and allow him to share feelings. If you do not have time for all the students to create a scene, choose six students who can create a scene for the whole class. At the end of each scene (or the single scene), allow the rest of the class to guess which scene was being portrayed. Discuss with the students how Jesus is an example of humble obedience.



1
2

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.



"Judas Betrays Jesus"

Use this work sheet to reinforce the key truths of today's lesson. It is located at the back of this lesson.



2
3

Journal Page: "A True Friend"

Give each student a copy of the journal page at the back of this lesson. Students can complete the page individually, in small groups, or at home.

Coloring Pages

Give each student a copy of the coloring sheets at the back of this lesson. 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).

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?

You can truly act like Jesus' friend and demonstrate your love
by obeying God. This includes worshiping God with joy
in your heart, obeying your parents, and being kind
to other people. Jesus said, "If you love Me,
keep my commandments" (John 14:15).

Judas *Betrays* Jesus



Matthew 26:1-5, 14-16

Name _____

1. In Matthew 26:2, Jesus predicted that He would be _____.

2. Who plotted to kill Jesus? _____

the chief priests

the scribes

the elders

all of the above

3. The name of the high priest was _____.

Pilate

Judas

Caiaphas

4. The name of the disciple who betrayed Jesus was _____.

James

Judas

John

5. How many pieces of silver did the high priests give Judas to betray Jesus?

20

30

40

6. Who ultimately planned the timing of when Jesus would be crucified? _____

God

Judas

the religious leaders

A True Friend

Do you have a group of friends that you like to spend time with? In the space below, write about your friends and why you enjoy spending time with them.

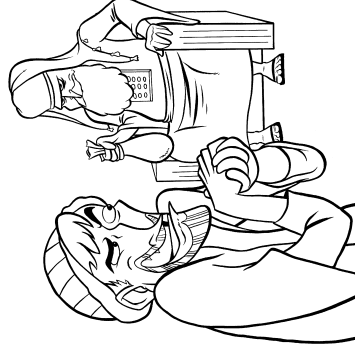
Jesus also had friends. One of his friends, Judas, betrayed Jesus. Judas was not a true friend. Read Matthew 26:14-16. What does it mean to betray someone, and how did Judas betray Jesus?



A True Friend

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Jesus also had friends. One of his friends, Judas, betrayed Jesus. Judas was not a true friend. Read Matthew 26:14-16. What does it mean to betray someone, and how did Judas betray Jesus?



Read Matthew 26:6–13. How did Mary show she was a true friend of Jesus?

How has Jesus Christ demonstrated friendship to sinners?

How can you be a true friend of Jesus?

Read Matthew 26:6–13. How did Mary show she was a true friend of Jesus?

How has Jesus Christ demonstrated friendship to sinners?

How can you be a true friend of Jesus?



“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).

