



The Jews Respond to Jesus

Matthew 26:1–56



LESSON GOAL

Students will see that they deny Jesus with sinful attitudes and actions and will rightly respond to Him.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to:

- Identify the different ways that Jesus was rejected.
- Describe Judas and Peter's betrayal of Jesus.
- Explain how Mary showed her love for Christ.

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 rejecting Jesus is sin.
- Praise Jesus for being patient with man's rejection of Him.

NEXT WEEK

The Trial and Denial of Jesus
Matthew 26:57–27:26

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...

- _____
- _____
- _____

POINT

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

- _____
- _____

**Materials
Needed:**

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 that will aid you in understanding the Scripture.

Bible Background

Introduction

In his Gospel, Matthew writes to show his readers that Jesus Christ was Israel’s long-awaited King and Messiah. He begins the book by establishing a foundation on which Christ is the fulfillment of messianic prophecy. As in all the Gospels, Matthew also points to the cross as the redemptive hope for mankind. In chapters 21–23 Jesus is presented and rejected as the Messiah. In chapter 26 Matthew focuses 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.

The Pharisees Plot to Kill the King (Matt. 26:1–5)

Chapter 26 follows the Olivet discourse. On this day Jesus had taught at the temple and rebuked the religious leaders for their hypocrisy. As a result of Jesus’ confrontation with the religious leaders, the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders plotted to kill Him.

Caiaphas was the high priest at this time and a corrupt leader. Caiaphas, along with the chief priests, scribes, and the elders, came together and plotted how they might kill Jesus. The Pharisees and scribes hated Jesus because of His message. Jesus’ message shook the foundation of the religious leaders by revealing the true motives behind their leadership; they desired to control the people. They tried to trap Jesus in His words but failed. Their image before the people was being destroyed.

In Matthew 23, Jesus condemned the religious leaders for their hypocrisy. He revealed the sin of those who appeared to be the holiest of all in the community. He called them “whitewashed tombs” (Matt. 23:27), meaning that they were beautiful outwardly but inside they were full of dead man’s bones. Jesus revealed the truth of their spiritual state. They looked great on the outside, but inside they were full of sin and hypocrisy.

The religious leaders decided that it would be best not to kill Jesus until after the Passover. They were afraid that they would anger the masses of people who were fond of Jesus and who filled Jerusalem at this time. Although the Passover was the time that Jesus’ enemies were trying to avoid causing a stir by putting Him to death, this was the exact time that God had sovereignly ordained for Christ to die.

Mary’s Pure Worship of the King (Matt. 26:6–13)

In contrast to the hatred of the religious leaders, Matthew reminds the readers of an earlier event during a meal at the house of Simon the leper. Simon lived in Bethany and was likely healed from his leprosy by Jesus. As Jesus’ time of death

as the appointed “Passover Lamb” was approaching He told His disciples and those who had been following Him of His impending death. To Mary, no cost was too great to give to her Savior. Mary brought an alabaster vial of fragrant and expensive perfume to the house where Jesus was dining. This vial alone would have been of great value. The alabaster described here was a type of marble from Egypt. These vials were carved and designed to hold valuable perfume as described here. Mary broke the vial and anointed Jesus’ head with the perfume. It is also mentioned in John that she anointed His feet and wiped it with her hair (John 12:3). The vial contained pure nard, which was from the nard plant native to India. Since a denarius was a common day’s wages at this time, the value of this oil at 300 denarii (Mark 14:5) was likely equal to a year’s wages. This was perhaps Mary’s life’s savings, but no cost or sacrifice was too great for Christ. Because of her love for her Savior, Mary did not hesitate to break this vial and anoint Christ. What Mary did for Jesus was pure worship.

Judas’ Betrayal of the King (Matt. 26:14–16)

Judas Iscariot will forever be known for his betrayal. As one of the twelve disciples, Judas was constantly with Christ and observed His words and actions. Even with this intimate knowledge of the Son of God, Judas went to the chief priests to betray Him. Judas approached the chief priest with a proposition: “What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?” (Matt. 26:15). The Jewish leaders counted out a mere 30 pieces of silver as His price. Thirty pieces of silver was the price of a slave in the Old Testament (Ex. 21:32; Zec. 11:12). From that time on, Judas looked for an opportunity to betray Jesus (Matt. 26:15–16).

The Passover (Matt. 26:17–30)

Matthew begins chapter 26 with Jesus reminding His disciples that in two days time the Passover would occur. He explained to them that He would be delivered up to be crucified in a short time. It was Wednesday of the Passion week and Jesus would be crucified on Friday. During the Passover each year the Jews celebrate God’s deliverance of Israel from 400 years of bondage in Egypt. Exodus 12 recounts the events that took place during the first Passover. The Passover feast was initiated by God in remembrance of the night in which the Lord passed over those families who had the blood of the Passover lamb smeared on the doorpost and lintels of their houses. This blood was to come from “a lamb without blemish” (Exod. 12:5). The movement made by the one applying the blood on the door was that of the shape of a cross. The Passover lamb itself was cooked and eaten inside the home along with unleavened bread and bitter herbs (Exod. 12:1–14).

Throughout the Old Testament God had been preparing Israel for one great sacrifice that would occur during this Passover. God was preparing Israel for the One who would be the perfect sacrifice for the sins of mankind. The last prophet before Christ, John the Baptist, illustrated Jesus as the coming sacrifice when he said, “Behold! The Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29).

As the Passover grew near, the disciples asked Jesus where He would like them to prepare for the supper. Jesus gave them instructions to go into the city, to a particular man and tell him that “The Teacher says, ‘My time is at hand; I will keep the Passover at your house with My disciples’” (Matt. 26:18). The disciples did just as Jesus had instructed them. They prepared the room and they gathered together to celebrate.

While they were eating, Jesus told the disciples that one of them would betray Him. Jesus had told them many times that He would die, but this was the first time they had heard that one of the disciples would be His betrayer. The disciples were

very sad about this and each asked Jesus, “Lord, is it I?” (Matt. 26:22). Though Judas knew his plans to betray Christ, he also asked Jesus, “Rabbi, is it I?” Jesus said to him, “You have said it” (Matt 26:25). This betrayal that Judas was about to commit was exceptionally despicable. Judas had followed Christ, had seen His miracles, had heard His words and watched His life. Even with this undeniable evidence, Judas chose to reject the salvation that Jesus had come to give. Jesus responded to the horrific act that Judas was about to commit by saying, “...woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had not been born” (Matt. 26:24). Judas had destined his soul to hell. How far better it would have been if he had never been born than to experience the consequence of his sin. Jesus told Judas, “What you do, do quickly” (John 13:37). Then Judas left Jesus with the 11 remaining disciples.

On this night Jesus initiated the Lord’s Supper. He broke the bread and drank the cup. He transformed the Passover celebration into a celebration of a far greater deliverance—deliverance from the power and penalty of sin. He took an ordinance which was central to God’s Old Covenant with Israel and replaced it with an ordinance which is central to God’s New Covenant with the church (1 Cor. 11:25). Jesus took that which represented a temporal and limited redemption for one nation and transformed it into that which celebrates an eternal and comprehensive redemption for all people and for all time. The celebration of communion is as much superior to the Passover as the blood of Christ is superior to the blood of Passover lamb (Heb 9:11–14).

The Prophecy of Peter’s Denial (Matt. 26:31–35)

After they ate, they sang a hymn and Jesus took the disciples to the garden of Gethsemane. On the way to the garden Jesus told them more news that would be disturbing to them. He told them that they would abandon Him. Jesus quoted Zechariah 13:7, which says that the Shepherd will be struck and the sheep will scatter. That night, in a moment of fear, Christ’s disciples would forsake Him. Jesus omnisciently knew what would shortly happen. He knew that He would be betrayed, arrested, and eventually killed. Although there were many other events that Jesus could have told them about, He chose to warn them of their falling away. Peter boldly responded by saying that he would never abandon Christ, even if everyone else were to leave Him. Jesus responded by telling Peter that, not only would he abandon Him, but that he would deny Him three times before the rooster crowed. Peter answered that even if it meant death, he would not deny Christ. The other disciples also reaffirmed that they would not forsake Him. Instead of admitting their inability and asking for the Lord’s help, Peter and the other disciples showed their pride in themselves and ignorance of their weakness as they rejected Jesus’ words.

Jesus’ Agony (Matt. 26:36–46)

When Jesus and the disciples arrived at the garden, Jesus left the disciples and took Peter, James, and John with Him. In the garden Jesus became sorrowful and very distressed. He asked Peter, James, and John to stay there and watch as He went a little distance away to pray. Jesus experienced agony greater than we can humanly understand. He did not fear man or the pain that He would experience physically. Within a matter of hours He would be experiencing the full cup of divine wrath for the sins of man. He knew how agonizing this would be but He was also fully submitted to the Father’s will. As He prayed He said, “O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will” (Matt. 26:39).

Jesus' Betrayal and Arrest (Matt. 26:47–56)

Following Jesus' prayer, He tells His disciples, "Behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us be going. See, My betrayer is at hand" (Matt. 26:45b–46). And with those words Judas entered the garden, followed by a mob containing the chief priests, the elders of the people, temple police, an estimated 600 Roman soldiers, and people carrying clubs and swords. There was an estimated total of 1,000 people there to arrest Jesus and 11 disciples who were known to be peaceful. The garden of Gethsemane was away from the crowds that would have protested Jesus' arrest; since this arrest was done in the middle of the night there would not have been people to cause an uprising.

Judas approached Jesus and kissed Him. The kiss was a special symbol in this culture. It was a symbol of respect, affection, and the closest love. This made Judas' act all the more despicable. He not only betrayed the Lord but he did it with a symbol of adoring love.

As the officials took hold of Jesus, Peter took out his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Peter was defending his Lord but he was not trusting Him. Peter had seen the miracles that Jesus had performed. He had seen Jesus' power over nature and over illness. There was nothing that Jesus could not do. Even in this moment Jesus performed a miracle of healing to one who had come to arrest Him. Luke records that Jesus touched the man's ear and healed him (Luke 22:51). Jesus told Peter to put back his sword. Although Jesus' arrest was wicked and unjust, Peter was not right in taking action. Jesus reminded Peter that He had ready at His call twelve legions of angels. This would have been more than 72,000 angels that would have immediately aided Christ if He had asked. Willingly, Jesus would lay down His life in submission to the Father's divine will.

Finally, Jesus reminded the people that all of these things had taken place that the Scriptures might be fulfilled. Despite what may have appeared to be an evil conspiracy of man, the Word of God through the words of the prophets was being fulfilled this night.

When the disciples saw the situation they fled in fear. Although only hours before they had said that they would never abandon Christ, now they scattered in fear for their lives. While the disciples were unfaithful to the Lord because of their fear, Jesus fully trusted in the Father's sovereign plan and the Father's care.

The believer must also choose how he will respond to the King of kings. In today's passage we have seen four responses to the King. The first is the response of the scribes and Pharisees. They outwardly rejected Jesus' deity and messiahship. Instead of submitting to Christ's rule on earth, they proudly tried to destroy the Author of the universe. The second response to the King is that of the disciples, who said that they followed Jesus with their mouths but when true persecution came fled for their lives. Although they had been with Jesus and heard His words, they were still earthly minded. The third response to the King was that of Judas Iscariot who betrayed Christ in exchange for money. He was unwilling to submit to Christ and chose his own death over forgiveness. The last response is the pure worship of Mary. Mary thought nothing of giving an extremely valuable gift to Jesus because of her pure love for her Savior.

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.



Difficult Concepts

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 was in fact Jesus’ enemy and had neither faith nor love for Him as his Savior.

Fear: The disciples knew Jesus’ identity but had the wrong perspective on how big God is. They feared man more than trusting God and fled when the situation seemed like man was in control. They had not prepared themselves through prayer as Jesus had encouraged them and when the time came they abandoned their Savior.

Pure Love: Mary loved her Lord and had a right view Him. She loved Him so much that no sacrifice was too great nor gift too big for her Savior. Many people say that they do not believe in God. They try to disprove God and will not trust in Him as their Savior. There are other people who say that they are Christians but their lives have no fruit of repentance. There are also others who love God and serve Him with their lives. For those who love God no sacrifice is too great to give Him.



What Is a Plot?

Make sure the children 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 lessons that they have already been taught. For example, friends: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph; enemies: Cain, Men of Sodom, 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 of the children shake it. 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 children 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.



What Is Patience?

Discuss patience with the students. Begin by asking the students how they feel when they are anticipating a big and exciting event such as a birthday or a special trip or something that can be scary like going to the doctor or their first day in a new school. Then, discuss the meaning of patience as waiting with a humble heart. Ask how Jesus may have felt as He was waiting for His death on a cross. Although He knew that it would be a difficult event He waited patiently and willing to obey God's will (Matt. 26:36–46). Finally, explain that God waits patiently for people to repent. Although, because of sin everyone deserves death, God patiently waits for every sinner to repent of their sins and turn to Christ as his or her savior.



Gifts of Love

Ask the students what they think of when they see someone give flowers to someone else? Often it means that one person loves another. People often give gifts to show that they love others. On Christmas people give gifts to say that they love their family and friends. In today's lesson we will learn about a woman named Mary who gave an extremely valuable gift because of her love for her Savior.



Ongoing Big Book

During the resurrection lessons, create a big book with one new page a day. Project the coloring pages to the wall using an overhead projector. Trace the picture onto poster board. Have the students color the pictures and then put them into the book. Use the Big Book to review all of the lessons on Resurrection Sunday. (Note: Some copy centers can also enlarge copies onto poster board.)

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 alongside the teaching time. Read the Bible passage several times before you read these pages. All teaching should be done right from the Bible.

Bible Lesson

Passage Outline:

The Pharisees Plot to Kill the King (Matt. 26:1–5)

Mary’s Pure Worship of the King (Matt. 26:6–13)

Judas’ Betrayal of the King (Matt. 26:14–16)

The Passover (Matt. 26:17–30)

The Prophecy of Peter’s Denial (Matt. 26:31–35)

Jesus’ Agony (Matt. 26:36–46)

Jesus’ Betrayal and Arrest (Matt. 26:47–56)

Reading of the Text

Read Matthew 26:1–56.

Introduction

Can you think of a time when you have had to make a decision? Decisions are part of life. We make many decisions each and every day. People make decisions about how they will respond to other people and to things that happen in their lives. In today’s lesson we will learn about the responses of different people to Jesus. Some reject Him and others love Him. Let’s see who had the right response to Jesus.



Lead-off Question (LOQs)

LOQ: What did Jesus tell the disciples would happen in two days?

Answer: Jesus said that in two days would be the Passover and that would be when He would be handed over to be crucified.

LOQ: Who plotted to kill Jesus?

Answer: The chief priests, the elders and Caiaphas the high priest plotted to kill Jesus.

LOQ: What did the woman do who came to Jesus the night He was at the home of Simon the leper?

Answer: While Jesus was there a woman came to Jesus with a vial of very costly perfume called nard and poured it on Jesus’ head (and feet Luke 7:38).

LOQ: What was nard and why was this anointing so special?

Answer: Nard was very expensive. The value of the nard was an average man's wages for a year! That was a lot of money to use in just a few minutes. Even the vial that it was used to keep the nard was very valuable and Mary broke the top in order to pour it out on Christ. Mary loved Jesus so much that she would have done anything for her Savior.

LOQ: What did the people say who saw what she had done?

Answer: They were upset with her because she had poured out the expensive perfume rather than selling it and giving it to the poor.

LOQ: How did Jesus answer these people?

Answer: Jesus told them to leave her alone because she had done a good deed for Him. He told them that when she poured the perfume on His body, she did it to prepare Him for burial.

LOQ: What did Judas Iscariot ask the chief priests?

Answer: He said, "What are you willing to give me to betray Him to you?" (26:14). They said that they would give him thirty pieces of silver. So Judas looked for an opportunity to betray Jesus.

LOQ: What did the disciples ask Jesus?

Answer: They asked Jesus where He wanted them to prepare to eat the Passover. Jesus gave them instructions and they found it just as He had described.

LOQ: What did Jesus tell the disciples would happen?

Answer: Jesus told them that one of them would betray Jesus. Jesus identified the betrayer as the one who dipped his hand in the bowl with Jesus.

LOQ: What promise did Jesus make with the disciples that night?

Answer: He broke bread and gave wine and ate it with them. He said that the next time he would do this with them would be in His Father's kingdom.

LOQ: Where did they go after the supper?

Answer: After singing a hymn they went to the Mount of Olives.

LOQ: What did Jesus predict would happen that night?

Answer: Jesus said that all of them would fall away because of Him that night. But that He would be raised and would go into Galilee before them.

LOQ: What was Peter's response?

Answer: Peter said that even if everyone fell away he would not fall away, even if it meant that he would die.

LOQ: What did Jesus tell Peter would happen?

Answer: Jesus told Peter that that very night that he would betray Him 3 times before the rooster crowed.

LOQ: What instructions did Jesus give to the disciples once they arrived at the garden?

Answer: Once they arrived Jesus told the disciples to wait while He went to pray and He brought Peter, James and John with Him.

LOQ: What emotions was Jesus showing as He was with the three disciples?

Answer: Jesus was grieved and distressed. He told them that His soul was greatly grieved and distressed to the point of death.

LOQ: What instructions did Jesus give the disciples?

Answer: Jesus told the disciples to pray as He went a little ways away to pray.

LOQ: What did Jesus pray to His Father?

Answer: Jesus prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will." Jesus went to pray to seek God's help in doing the task that He was 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: What were the disciples doing when Jesus returned?

Answer: When Jesus returned the disciples were asleep. Jesus said, "So, you men could not keep watch with Me for one hour? Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation: the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak" (26:40-41).

LOQ: How many times did Jesus go to pray and then find His disciples asleep?

Answer: Jesus found them asleep three times.

LOQ: What happened the as He returned to them the last time?

Answer: Jesus said, "Behold, the hour is at hand and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners" (26:45).

LOQ: Who came up to Jesus and who was with him?

Answer: Judas came up to Jesus with a large crowd carrying clubs and swords. The chief priests, elders of the people and soldiers were also with Judas. They had come to take Jesus away.

LOQ: How did Judas show the religious leaders which man Jesus was?

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

LOQ: What did Peter do?

Answer: He struck the slave of the high priest with a sword and cut off his ear.

LOQ: How did Jesus respond?

Answer: Jesus told Peter to put his sword away and reminded him that He could at once have at His disposal more than 12 legions of angels.

LOQ: What happens to all of the disciples?

Answer: All the disciples left Him and fled.

Summary

God had planned for Jesus to die during the time of the celebration of Passover as a symbol that Jesus was a spotless lamb, here to save His people. Even though the Pharisees, scribes, and Caiaphas thought that it would not be a good time to do

this, God made sure that all of the events transpired as planned. Jesus had an appointed time to die on the cross for the sins of mankind. The religious leaders hated Jesus. Judas was greedy and cared more about making some money than about 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 thirty pieces of silver to which he agreed. From that time on he looked for a chance to betray Jesus.

Application

Different people respond to Jesus in different ways. In today's lesson we have seen the different ways that people responded to Jesus. Like the Pharisees, some people hate Jesus. They have rejected Him and don't want to be under His authority so they try to destroy Him. Others are like Judas who pretended to be a follower of Christ but don't live out true faith. They go to church every Sunday but show no fruit in their lives. But others are like Mary. They love Christ and desire to show their love for their Savior by giving all to Him, even their very lives. So where do you stand with Jesus? Do you hate Jesus like the Pharisees did? Are you just pretending to be a true Christian like Judas or are you truly a follower of Christ, giving your very life to Him as a gift of love?

Presentation Ideas



A Beka Book® Flash-A-Cards®

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



Betty Lukens Flannel Graph

Use appropriate flannel graph pieces with the lesson.



Time Line

Create a time line of the events of today's lesson. As you teach through the lesson place pictures of objects such as coins, bread and wine, praying hands, ears, lips, rooster, etc. along the timeline at key points in the lesson.



What Kind of Heart Did They Have?

Using today's coloring sheet discuss with the students the different responses of the different people to Christ. Ask them what kind of heart they had by their response to Christ. Place a black sticker on each of the individuals who responded incorrectly to Christ such as the religious leaders, the Jews, and Pilate. Place a red or white heart on Jesus because He is sinless and was being obedient to His Father's will.

Praise and Worship

Lord, I Lift Your Name on High

Jesus Loves the Little Children (all three verses)

There Is a Redeemer

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 that review and apply the truths of the Bible lesson.



Preparing for the Cross

Jesus and Judas were both preparing for the cross. Ask the students how each one prepared for the cross. Jesus prepared for the cross as He prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane. Judas prepared for the cross by agreeing to betray Jesus to the high priests. What would happen because of Jesus death on the cross? Those who believe would now be able to spend eternity in Heaven with God. What did Judas think would happen? He believed that he would receive 30 pieces of silver for the betrayal but instead he received eternity in Hell. How are you preparing for the kingdom?



Mask Craft: “Are You Really Jesus’ Friend?”

Materials: “Are You Really Jesus’ Friend” craft page, paper plates, construction paper, tissue paper, yarn, glue, crayons, and craft sticks

Directions: Have the students create their own masks using paper plates or circles cut out of 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.

Text: Are you really Jesus’ friend? On the outside, Judas looked like Jesus’ friend by spending time with Him, calling Him Rabbi, and kissing 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 are really 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.



Frozen in Time

Divide the students into groups of four or five. Each group needs to 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 now decide what Bible characters are a part of each scene and decide what they might say. For the student who represents Jesus, encourage him or her to portray the humility aspect about which you have been talking. 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 or she 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 or her 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.



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Coins of Betrayal

Take the same coins used in the point activity “bad money” 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.



The “Four Responses to Jesus” Mobile

Materials: copies of the “Four Responses to Jesus” craft pages, five strands of yarn per student, scissor, hole-punch, glue, crayons

Directions: Instruct the students to cut off the top strip of the first page along the black line. Next have them color and then cut out the foot, lips, nose symbol, and heart from each page. Have them match the shapes and glue them together back-to-back. Punch hole where indicated and then tie each shape to the title strip using the yarn. Tie one piece of yarn to the top strip for hanging.



“Judas Betrays Jesus”

Use this worksheet to reinforce the key truths of today’s lesson. It is located at the back of this lesson.



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3

Small Group Activity: “A True Friend”

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

Coloring Pages

Give each student a copy of the coloring sheets at the back of the lesson. He or she can color the pages in class or take them home to color.



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 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 by
spending time with Him and
calling Him Rabbi.

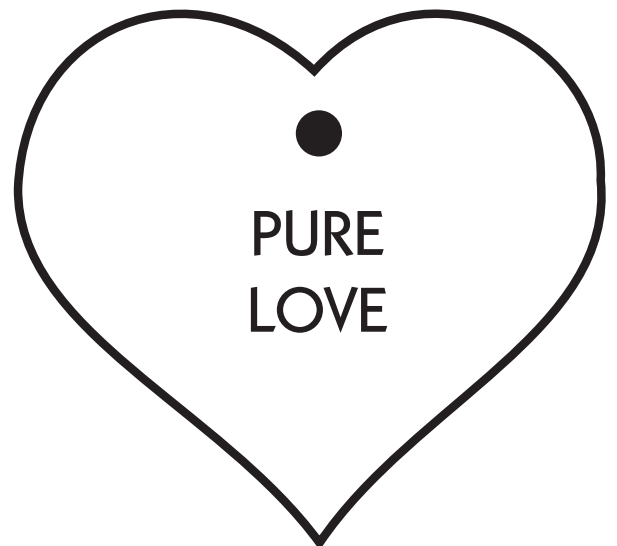
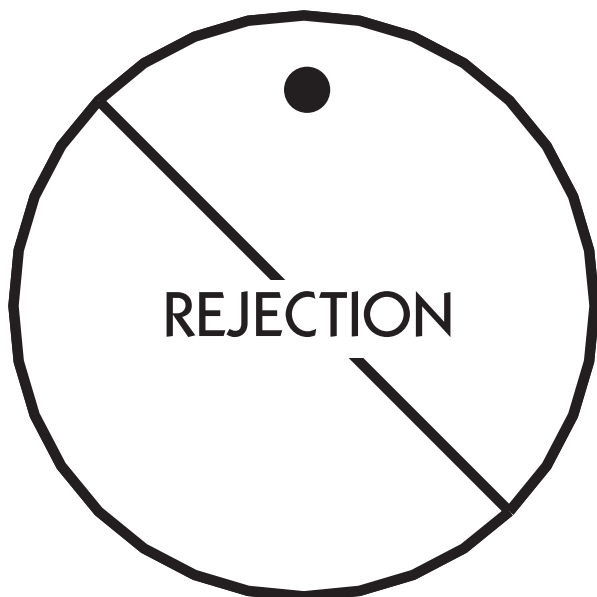
But in his heart,
Judas was unloving and bitter.
Judas did not act like a friend; he
betrayed Jesus.

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 are really
grumbling and bitter in
your heart?

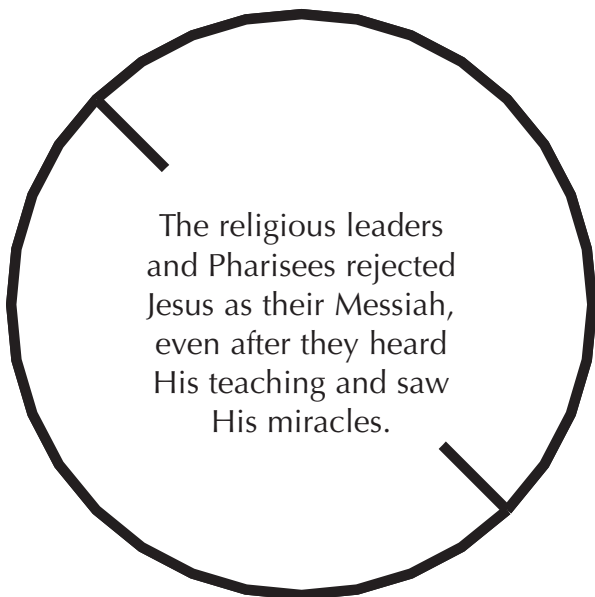
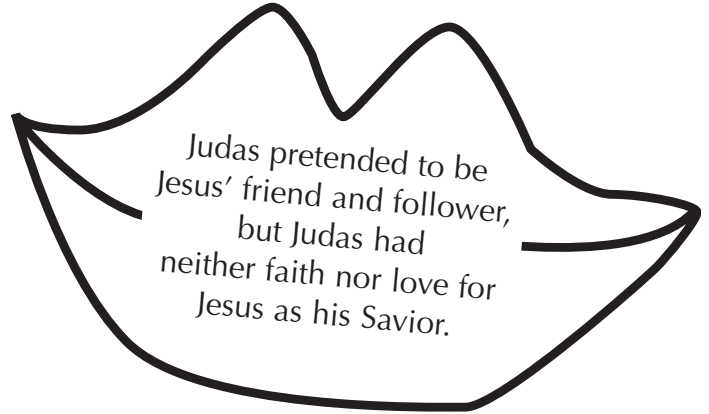
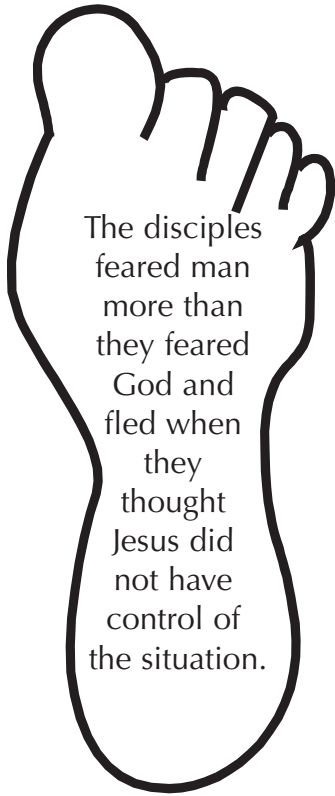
You can truly act like Jesus' friend and demonstrate your love
by obeying God. This includes worshiping God with joy
in your heart, obeying your parents, and being kind
to other people. Jesus said, "If you love Me,
keep my commandments" (John 14:15).

Four Responses to Jesus

from Matthew 26



Four Responses to Jesus



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? _____

- a. the chief priests
- b. the scribes
- c. the elders
- d. all of the above

3. The name of the high priest was _____.

- a. Pilate
- b. Judas
- c. Caiaphas

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

- a. James
- b. Judas
- c. John

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

- a. 20
- b. 30
- c. 40

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

- a. God
- b. Judas
- c. the religious leaders

A True Friend

Do you have a group of friends with whom you like to spend time? 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?



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

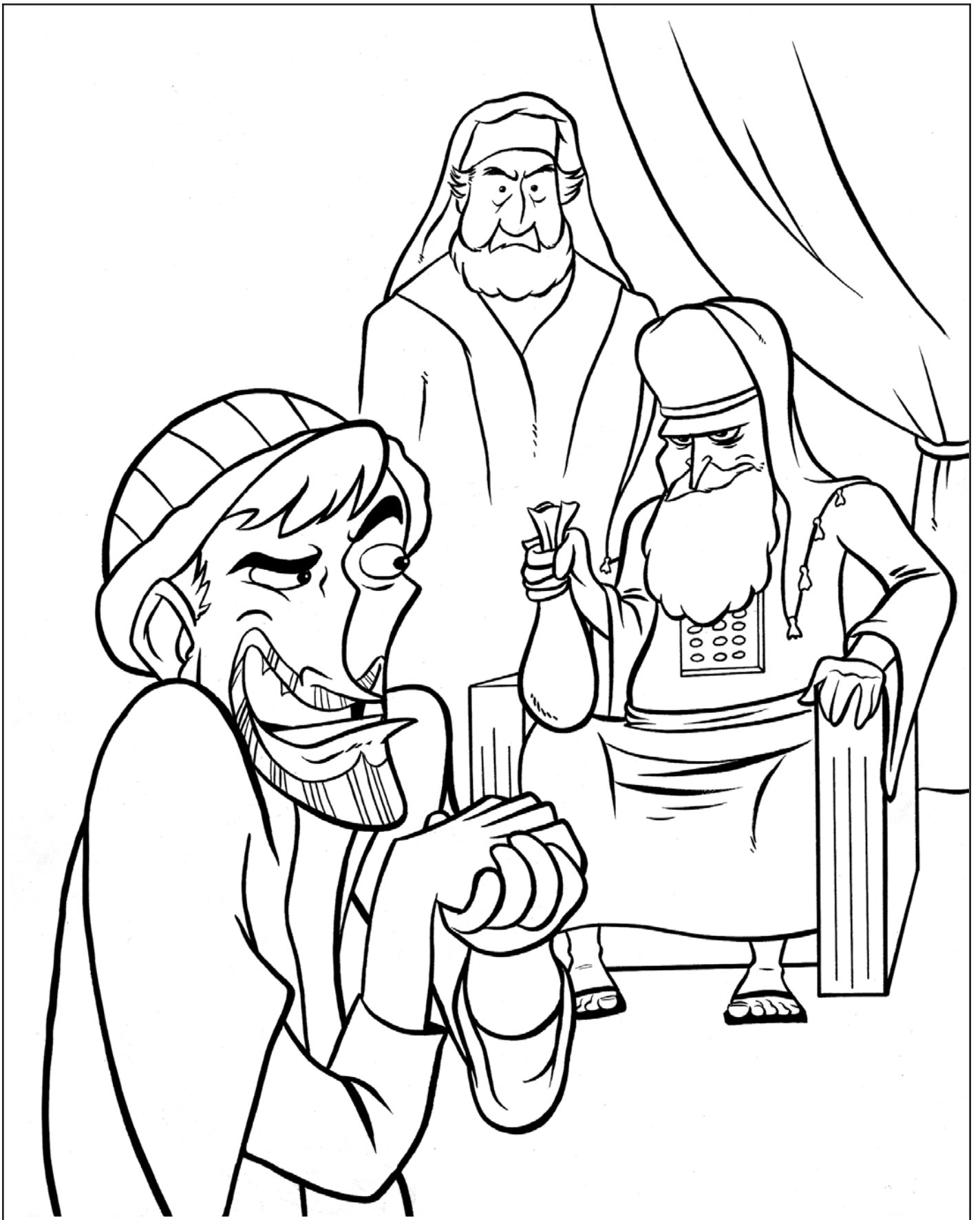
How has Jesus Christ demonstrated friendship to sinners?

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 [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

