

Bible Story 42: JESUS IS ARRESTED AND JUDGED

SCRIPTURE:	Prays at Gethsemane:	Matthew 26:36-46
	Soldiers Arrest Jesus:	Matthew 26:47-56; Luke 22:47-54
	Religious Leaders Judge Jesus:	Matthew 26:57-68
	Peter Denies Knowing Jesus:	Matthew 26:69-75
	Pilate Judges Jesus:	Matthew 27:11-31; Mark 15:1-15

MEMORY VERSE: 1 Thessalonians 5:17; Luke 22:42

BIBLE STORY:

FRIDAY

Around midnight on Thursday, Jesus arrived with His disciples at the Garden of Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives. Jesus told eight of His disciples to sit at the entrance to the garden. Then Jesus took Peter, James and John inside the garden with Him.

With great sorrow, Jesus asked Peter, James and John to pray. Then Jesus walked a little distance away. He knelt down with His face to the ground and sorrowfully prayed, ***“My Father, take this cup from Me, but do Your will and not Mine.”*** His sorrow was so great that His sweat was like drops of blood falling down His face.

Jesus returned to His three disciples. They were so tired that they had fallen asleep. He woke them up and again asked them to pray. Once again He walked a little distance away and for the second time He prayed, ***“My Father, take this cup from Me, but do Your will and not Mine.”***

Afterwards He returned and found them asleep. So He walked a little distance away and for the third time He prayed, ***“My Father, take this cup from Me, but do Your will and not Mine.”***

After the third prayer, the disciple Judas Iscariot arrived with guards from the Temple and some Jewish religious leaders. Judas greeted Jesus with a kiss, showing the guards which person was the man they were searching for to arrest. The guards went to arrest Jesus. To protect Jesus, Peter took his sword and cut off an ear of a priest's servant. Jesus told Peter to put his sword away, because He was going to fulfill God's will. Then Jesus touched the servant's ear and healed him.

The Temple guards bound Jesus and took Him to the house of the high priest to be judged by the Sanhedrin, Jewish teachers of the law. Peter followed at a distance.

As Jesus was being judged, Peter sat in the courtyard to wait and see what would happen to

Jesus. A maid asked Peter, ***“Aren't you with Jesus?”*** Peter replied, ***“I don't know who you are talking about!”***

Then Peter walked to the gateway. Another girl said, ***“This man was with Jesus!”*** Peter replied, ***“I don't know Jesus!”***

Someone else came to Peter and said, ***“This man's accent shows that he is one of Jesus' followers!”*** Then Peter began to curse and swear, saying, ***“I don't know this man, Jesus!”*** The rooster crowed. Peter remembered that Jesus had told him earlier that he would deny Him three times before the rooster crowed. Peter left, weeping bitterly.

The religious leaders who were judging Jesus wanted Him to be condemned to death, but they did not have that authority. So very early Friday morning, Jesus was taken to Pilate, the governor. Pilate looked at Jesus and asked, ***“Jesus, are you the King of the Jews?”*** Jesus replied, ***“Yes.”***

After questioning Jesus and listening to the accusers, Pilate found Jesus not worthy of death. Yet, Pilate knew the chief priests wanted Jesus condemned to death. It was the custom to release one of the prisoners the people requested at the Feast of the Passover. So Pilate asked the crowd, ***“Who do you want me to release, Jesus or Barabbas?”*** Barabbas was a notorious prisoner. The crowd yelled, ***“Barabbas!”***

Then Pilate asked, ***“What shall I do with Jesus Christ?”*** The crowd yelled, ***“Crucify Him!”***

Pilate asked, ***“Why should I? What crime has He done?”*** Again the crowd yelled, ***“Crucify Him!”***

They continued the loud shouts, ***“Crucify Him! Crucify Him!”*** So Pilate decided to do as they asked, condemning Jesus to death.

The soldiers took Jesus, mocked Him, spat on Him and beat Him. Then the soldiers led Jesus to be crucified at Golgotha, arriving around nine Friday morning.

LIFE LESSONS:

1. With great sorrow, Jesus prayed. Pray when you go through difficult times. God listens to each person’s prayers and will help, giving you hope, His comfort, grace and presence.
2. Jesus was ready to obey God, even to face the cross. Follow Jesus’ example and obey God’s leadership and commandments in the Bible, even when it’s difficult.
3. Three times Peter denied knowing Jesus. Be courageous. Do not let your words or actions deny that you know and follow Jesus.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What did Jesus ask Peter, James and John to do in the Garden of Gethsemane? What did they do?
2. What did Jesus do in the Garden of Gethsemane? What prayer did he pray? How many times?
3. What is prayer? What are some of your needs and concerns? Pray about them.
4. What did the disciple Judas do when he arrived with the guards at the garden? What did Peter do? What did Jesus do?
5. When Jesus was judged before the high priests and religious leaders, Peter was outside in the courtyard. What did the girls say? What did Peter reply? What happened next?
6. Have you ever been betrayed by a family member or friend? How did it make you feel? How can you overcome your pain of betrayal? How can God help you?
7. Have you ever betrayed someone? What can you do to make amends and restore the relationship?
8. What did Pilate ask Jesus when He was brought before him? What did Jesus reply?
9. Who do you say Jesus is?
10. What happened when Pilate judged Jesus? Did Pilate think Jesus was worthy of death? What did the religious leaders and crowd want to do with Jesus? What was Pilate’s final judgment of Jesus?
11. Have you ever been treated unjustly? How? Who can help you? How can God help you?

SUGGESTIONS FOR THIS BIBLE STORY:

Choose activities that may be used in your specific situation. Consider the age and maturity of each person, locality where the story will be told (customs and traditions), and available resources, time and space.

PRESENTATION:

- Ask, “What is prayer? Who can pray? What are some things we can pray about? Does God listen to our prayers?”
- Say, “Jesus knew that He was on His way to face judgment and the crucifixion. His heart was heavy with sorrow. Let me share what happened.”
- Using appropriate expressions, tell the Bible story in your own words. Afterwards, apply life lessons from the story to the lives of the listeners.

PRAYER WALK:

- As an individual or group, choose a place to go to and pray for that place and people who live or work in that area. Examples:
 - (1) Walk around the school or classrooms and pray for the administration, teachers and students.
 - (2) Walk around a neighborhood and pray for the residences in that community.
 - (3) Walk around government buildings and pray for their work and employees.
 - (4) Walk around an area that has been affected by a tragedy, a flood, hurricane, tornado, drought, etc. and pray for individuals and the reconstruction of the community.

DRAMA:

- Using drama, let individuals portray:
 - (1) **John**, telling what happened about praying in the garden.
 - (2) **Judas**, telling what happened when he entered the garden and betrayed Jesus.
 - (3) **Peter**, telling what happened when he denied knowing Jesus in the courtyard.
 - (4) **Pilate**, telling what happened when he judged Jesus.

PRAYER DIARY:

- Make a Prayer Diary to use as a guide while praying.

Suggestion: Make a booklet with three columns:

 - 1st Column: Date of the prayer request.
 - 2nd Column: Prayer request.
 - 3rd Column: Date and how prayer was answered.
- Daily pray for these requests and update information.

DAILY BIBLE READING - Matthew 26:36-75, 27:11-31; Luke 22:47-54; Mark 15:1-15

1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th
Matthew 26:36-46	Matthew 26:47-56	Luke 22:47-54	Matthew 26:57-68	Matthew 26:69-75	Matthew 27:11-31	Mark 15:1-15