

Bible background

Matthew 26:14-16; 36-56

Aim of lesson

To teach how bad Judas' act of betrayal was, and the importance of caring for people and not for money.

Preparation required

One cereal or shoe box per child. The box should have one side cut away and the cut away side should be cut into nine strips.

Colouring Materials, scissors.

Make your activity scene before class as an illustration. Colour and cut out the garden. Stick to the back of the box as a background to the scene. Each character should be coloured, cut out and stuck onto a strip of card. These can then be pushed through a slot cut in the base of the box.

If your class is very young, you may prefer to make only one scene for the whole group, or partially prepare their activities.

Suggested outline of lesson

1. Tell the children that for today's lesson you would like one of the children to hide. The child should still be able to hear the lesson. so under a table or in a large box would be best. If there is nowhere suitable, just have everyone pretend he is hidden in a secret cupboard. Ask the children to pretend that some enemies want to capture the child who is hidden - they want to kill him. They come into the room and offer each of the children some money if they will tell where the child is - if they will betray him.
Use this reference to show how bad it would be to accept money rather than protect a friend from being killed.
2. Tell the children that Jesus had enemies who wanted to kill him because they were jealous. They were the religious leaders, but Jesus was popular with the people and they were not. They wanted to send soldiers to capture him when he was not with the crowds of people who might fight for him. So they offered one of the disciples some money to betray him.
3. Show your 'characters' to the children and introduce them. Ask the children to guess which of the four friends of Jesus accepted the money and told where Jesus could be captured. Explain how Judas knew Jesus would go to a garden to pray that night, and he led the soldiers to capture him.
4. Show your scene and describe Judas coming and the arrest of Jesus. Move the characters along the slot in the base as you tell the story.
5. Ask the children to make their own scenes.
6. Read the rhyme 'The Men Who Hated Jesus' to the children.

Alternative activities

1. Make a garden in a seed tray, using sand/soil, plant cuttings, stones etc. Use play figures to be Jesus and disciples, and Judas and guards.
2. Ask the children to draw pictures of their friends and people they trust e.g. parent/teacher etc.

Relevance to the children's lives

Ask the children how they can protect their friends from danger, e.g. keeping safety gates closed for baby brothers or sisters, not letting friends run on to the road after a ball.

Prayer

Ask for prayer about being a good friend, and about caring more for people than for money.

Verse

'People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap.' 1 Timothy 6:9-10.

Rhyme

The Men Who Hated Jesus

The men who hated Jesus
Were planning what to do
They wanted to arrest him
And then they'd kill him too.
They wanted to arrest him
When no-one else would see
But this was hard because they didn't
Know where he would be.
They offered Judas money
To lead them to the Lord
He led them to the place at night
They came with sticks and swords.
Judas took the money
Though I can't tell you why
But Judas took the money
And Jesus went to die.