

**GLENVIEW NEW CHURCH SUNDAY MORNING PROGRAM**  
**Primary Lessons: Phase 1 - Lesson 31**  
**The Lord's Last Days on Earth: Betrayal and Arrest (Matthew 26:36-56)**

**I. Underlying Ideas for the Teacher**

- A. The rejection of the Lord by the people after He had been received as king marked the end of their church as the means of the Lord's presence among men.
- B. In betraying the Lord and then killing himself, Judas pictures the ancient Jewish Church.
- C. We, like Judas, may betray the Lord by not trying to live according to the things we say we believe.

**II. Story Circle**

- A. Introduce the Story
  - 1. Last week we learned about the Lord's celebration of the Passover with His disciples. This happened four days after Palm Sunday.
    - a. What do we call the Lord's last meal with His disciples? (The Last Supper)
    - b. What do Christians celebrate that is like the Last Supper? (Holy Supper, also called communion)
  - 2. Today we will learn about how Judas betrayed (turned against) the Lord on the night of the Passover and Last Supper.
- B. Tell/Read the Story
  - 1. Read aloud Matthew 26:36-56.
- C. Ideas to Discuss
  - 1. Where did Jesus go to pray? (Gethsemane) Who did He take to be with Him while He prayed? (Peter, James, and John)
  - 2. What did He tell those three disciples? ("My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me.") Did they watch with Him? (No, they fell asleep.)
  - 3. When Jesus came back from praying the third time, what did He tell the disciples was about to happen? (He was about to be betrayed into the hands of sinners.)

## Primary Sunday School Lessons: Phase 1 - Lesson 31

4. Which of the disciples came with a multitude (a crowd of people) that had swords and clubs? (Judas)
5. How did Judas show the multitude which person was Jesus? (He kissed Him.)
6. What did Jesus ask Judas? ("Friend, why have you come?")
7. What did one of the disciples do when the crowd laid hands on Jesus and took Him? (He used his sword to cut off the ear of the high priest's servant.)
8. Did Jesus allow His disciples to fight to set Him free? (No)
9. What did the disciples do then? (They forsook Him [left Him by Himself] and ran away.)

### D. Further Ideas

1. Who did Jesus pray to at Gethsemane? (His heavenly Father)
2. Was His heavenly Father a different Person from Himself? (No. The heavenly Father was the Lord's inner goodness, and it was this inner goodness that gave Him the strength to be brave against the evil spirits and against evil people who wanted to hurt or kill Him.)
3. How could the people who welcomed the Lord as king on Palm Sunday so easily turn against Him and take Him prisoner just a few days later? Don't we often decide to break a bad habit and then find ourselves doing the same bad thing, maybe even that same day? Or we may decide that we will always do a certain good thing, like make our beds, say "thank you", be on time to school, and then we forget to do it. This is like the Jews who loved the Lord on Palm Sunday and wanted Him to be king, but then they forgot the good.

## III. Enrichment Activities

### A. Music

1. "Heavenly Father, Thou art near," HYMNAL #158.

### B. Activities:

1. Discuss what the Lord did during the week following Palm Sunday:
  - a. Palm Sunday - Jesus rode into Jerusalem

**Primary Sunday School Lessons: Phase 1 - Lesson 31**

- b. He spent Monday and Tuesday teaching in the temple in Jerusalem against the scribes and Pharisees.
- c. He spent the nights in Bethany with Mary, Martha, and Lazarus.
- d. Thursday evening He celebrated the Passover and ate the Last Supper with His disciples in Jerusalem.
- e. After supper, He went to pray in Gethsemane (the Mount of Olives).
- f. He was seized and taken to the high priest in Jerusalem.

**Primary Sunday School Lessons: Phase 1 - Lesson 31**

2. Look at a Map:
  - a. Older primary students may be interested in seeing a map showing Jerusalem, Bethany, and Gethsemane.

**C. Project**

1. Prayer at Gethsemane
  - a. On black construction paper (12 X 18), draw a picture with oil pastels of the Lord praying at night a slight distance from the sleeping disciples, Peter, James, and John.
  - b. On black construction paper (12 X 18), make a torn construction paper collage. Provide children with white paper for Jesus and three other colors for the three disciples. The white paper should be torn to show Jesus in a kneeling position; perhaps the three disciples could be depicted lying down to show they were asleep.
2. Betrayal and Arrest
  - a. Use oil pastels on black construction paper (12X 18) to draw Jesus and Judas (perhaps kissing Jesus' cheek). Be sure to include the crowd with sword and clubs and perhaps the disciples fleeing.

**IV. Teaching Aids**

- A. Map for showing location of Jerusalem, Bethany, and Gethsemane
- B. Pictures of Jesus praying and Judas' betrayal

**V. Further Reading for the Teacher**

- A. Dole's BIBLE STUDY NOTES, Vol. 4, "The Lord's Last Days on Earth" (Matthew 26:27), pp. 385-398.
- B. THE SOWER, Vol. IV, Matthew 26:36-75