

DAY 3 TRUTH: JESUS WAS BETRAYED AND REJECTED

BIBLE STORY

Jesus Experienced Betrayal and Rejection
(Psalm 41:9; Isaiah 53:3,7; John 13: 18:1-19:16)

TODAY'S POINT

Jesus knew what would happen and still followed God's plan.

BIBLE VERSE

You will seek me and find me when you search for me with all your heart. *Jeremiah 29:13*

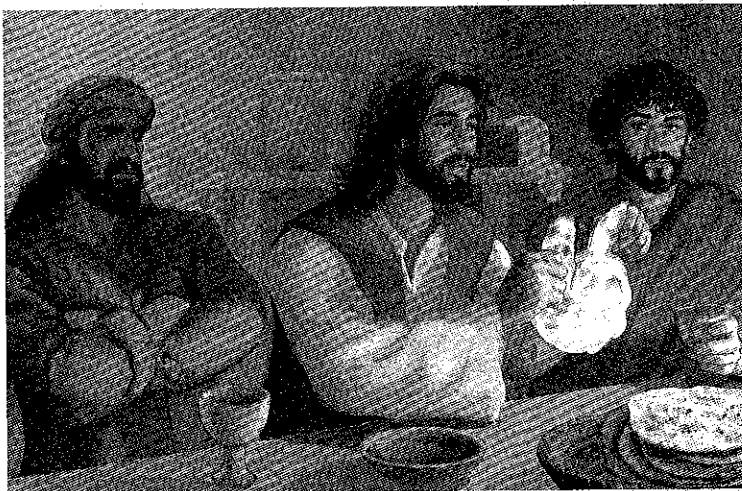
And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart. *Jeremiah 29:13 (KJV)*

As Bible study teachers, we often prefer nice, neat Bible passages with limited verses that contain an easy-to-tell story. However, sometimes we miss the amazing connections God has provided in His Word when we try to keep things short and sweet. Today's passages cover a lot, but when we sift through all those details, there are treasures to be found. Begin by reading all of the verses referenced, then we can focus on a few truths we discover.

The specifics of prophecy are amazing. God spoke through prophets that His Promised One would experience a close friend (the meaning of "one who takes or eats bread with me") who would turn against Him. Also, when He was brought before His accusers there would come a time when the Messiah would not open His mouth in His own defense. (Fulfilled in John 19:9.)

In John 13, Jesus sat at the table with His twelve handpicked disciples. All the elements of the Passover meal were before them. The group dynamics were typical of a close-knit group. There had been evidence of internal competition, of groups within the group, and of moments of complete obedience. They had witnessed miracles and signs and heard Kingdom truths from the lips of the King of Kings. They had learned much but failed to understand much more. Within that group, Judas was apparently trusted so much that he was the keeper of the group's treasury.

Jesus took what was before the disciples and instituted a new ordinance, the Lord's Supper. He knew they did not understand now, but they would soon understand. He also demonstrated true servant leadership by washing the disciples' feet. These two monumental demonstrations were some of the final instructions Jesus knew He was leaving with His followers.



Jesus and His disciples left the table and traveled to the Garden of Gethsemane. Judas had already departed for reasons unknown to the other disciples.

Many of us have experienced a season when we felt rejected and mistreated. However, can any of it compare to the long night of trials and rejection Jesus experienced? While in the garden, three of His closest followers could not stay awake and pray with Him because they failed to realize the gravity of the moment. One from His select circle of twelve opted to collect 30 pieces of silver in exchange for betraying Him. Jesus was first led before Annas (the former high priest) then before Caiaphas (the current high priest), yet neither one of the Jewish religious leaders was willing to see the truth. Finally after standing before two Jewish courts, Jesus was taken before Pilate (the Roman court). Jew and Gentile alike played a part in the rejection and execution of the Messiah.

The overwhelming truth of today's Bible study is that Jesus knew everything that would take place and He still followed God's plan. All of the places are real. All of the people really existed. And, most importantly, all of the events actually happened. Jesus, God's Son, came to earth, and was betrayed and rejected for our sins. He fulfilled the Father's promises. Jesus became the ransom for us.

FACTS AND ARTIFACTS

In addition to connecting Old Testament prophecies with New Testament fulfillments, this week of VBS links each day to real archaeological finds that further emphasize the reality of what we read in the Bible.

TODAY'S ARTIFACT: STEPS TO CAIAPHAS' HOUSE

A path of stone steps at one time descended from Mount Zion to the Kidron Valley. Jesus and His disciples would have most likely followed this path to Gethsemane and, later, back up to Caiaphas' house.

THINK ABOUT IT:

Have you ever pondered the long night of trials and struggle Jesus experienced? Does this impact your feelings about Jesus' sacrificial death for our sins?

BONUS VERSE

The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. *Matthew 20:28*

Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many. *Matthew 20:28 (KJV)*

TEACH THE BIBLE STUDY (30 MINUTES)

START IT PREP

- Leader pack items 1, 2, 11, 12
- Fill a box with sand. Hide the "Shoe Cards" in the sand.

START IT (5 MINUTES)

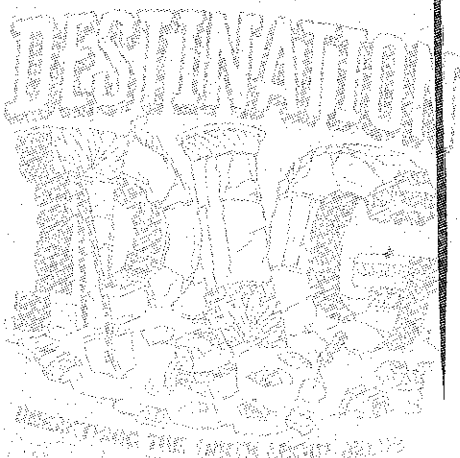
1. As kids enter the room, number them off into two groups. Say: "Today we're going to have a friendly competition between two archaeology teams." Allow the teams to think of team names.
2. Say: "We often think about archaeologists finding pots and scrolls and rocks, but did you know that they also find ordinary things, like shoes? In fact, there's a site in England where archaeologists have found over 7,000 leather shoes! Just think, someday thousands of years from now, someone might run across your shoes and imagine what it would have been like to live in your time."
3. Line the two teams up on one side of the room. This is a relay style race. The kids will race to the box, dig through the sand to find a "Shoe Card" (pack item 11), and race back. When all of the cards have been found, the team with the most "finds" wins.
4. Encourage the kids to look at the shoe pictures and note the differences between the ancient shoes and the modern ones. Say: "Like clay pots, leather is a material that seems to hold up well over time. Not long ago in Jerusalem, the city where today's story takes place, a Roman sword from Jesus' day was discovered, and some of its leather scabbard was still preserved (a scabbard is a sword holder)."
5. Lead the kids to turn their shoe pictures over to find portions of a larger picture on the back (pack item 12). Ask them to put the pieces together like a puzzle, revealing the Roman sword discovered in Jerusalem.
6. Add the Day 3 "Banner Add-on" (pack item 2) to the wall near the "Destination Dig Banner" (pack item 1). Add a piece of yarn stretching from the add-on to the number 3 on the banner.

LEARN IT PREP

- Leader pack item 13
- Leather strips
- VBS 2021 Kids
Memory Maker.

LEARN IT (10 MINUTES)

1. Say: "Leather has been an important element of archaeological discovery because it teaches us about fashion, military equipment, and other things about the way people lived. So, today we're going to use leather to help us visualize our story."
2. Give each child a leather strip.
3. Say: "Remember that this is a real historic event we're talking about, all about lots of things that happened in just one night. This night is important because we're going to see Jesus following God's plan even though He knew what was going to happen."
4. Open your Bible to John 13, and use the Bible story on the back of the "Day 3 Bible Story Picture" (pack item 13) as a guide to help tell the story.



Jesus Experienced Betrayal and Rejection

Jesus spent three years teaching people about God and doing miracles that proved who He was. Finally, the time came when Jesus knew He was about to take the punishment for all of our sins. He shared one last special supper with His disciples. During the meal, Jesus taught His disciples about serving others.

Say: "How did Jesus show the disciples how to serve? By washing His disciples' feet! Their feet were dusty and gross after walking around all day in their leather sandals. Tie a knot in your leather to remember that even though Jesus is God, He served His disciples."

Jesus also explained at the meal that one of the men who was sharing His bread would betray Him. The disciples looked at each other and wondered who He was talking about. Jesus knew that His betrayal and death would fulfill the plans God had told the prophets long ago.

After they had eaten, Judas left. He was the one who would betray Jesus by telling the authorities where Jesus was.

Say: "Judas was paid to betray Jesus. His money may have been tied up in a little leather bag. Make another knot in your leather to remember that Judas betrayed Jesus, just like the prophets said he would."

Jesus had done nothing wrong. The chief priests and Pharisees didn't like the things Jesus was telling people about God because they thought they were the spiritual authorities.

After supper, Jesus left with His disciples who remained and walked to the garden in Gethsemane. While they were there, Judas brought the soldiers and the chief priests to the garden.

Say: "These soldiers may have been carrying swords in leather scabbards like the one found in this very city a few years ago. Tie another knot in your leather to remember that Jesus was arrested."

The soldiers arrested Jesus, took Jesus to the former high priest, Annas, and the long night of trials began. Annas listened to the charges, then sent Jesus and His accusers to the current high priest, Caiaphas. After Caiaphas heard the charges, he sent Jesus to the Roman governor. By this time it was very early in the morning. Pilate, the governor, came out to listen to the charges. But the Jewish leaders wanted Jesus killed. Only the Romans could carry out such a drastic form of punishment. Pilate tried to find a way to release Jesus. He even had Jesus beaten and then brought to the crowd to see if that was enough.

Say: "The Roman soldiers beat Jesus with a leather whip. Tie another knot in your leather to remember that Jesus was beaten."

But the people shouted, "Crucify Him!" At one point Pilate asked Jesus a question. Jesus remained silent just like the prophecy in Isaiah said He would.

Finally, Pilate gave in to the people's demands and Jesus was given to the soldiers to be crucified.

Psalm 41:9; Isaiah 53:3,7; John 13: 18:1-19:16

HELPFUL DEFINITIONS

Crucified—Put to death on a cross.


Prophet—Someone who got a special message from God and told the people what God said.

TEACH THE BIBLE STUDY (30 MINUTES)

KNOW IT PREP

- Leader pack item 5

SHARING THE GOSPEL

The  Identifies an opportune time to share the gospel as led by the Holy Spirit.

LIVE IT PREP


- VBS 2021 Kids Activity Book

FINISH IT PREP


- Daily Tag
- VBS 2021 Kids Memory Maker

5. Use the kids' leather strips to review the story, asking the group to recall what each of the knots represents in the story. Use the review and discussion questions on the back of the "Day 3 Bible Story Picture" (pack item 13) to spur further discussion. Allow the kids to add the key chains to their Memory Maker bags.

KNOW IT (7 MINUTES)

1. Refer to the "Jeremiah 29:13 Poster" (pack item 5). Read the verse together.
2.  Ask: "Why should we want to seek Jesus with our whole heart?"
(Answers will vary. Because He knew what was going to happen to Him, and He followed God's plan anyway. And that plan was to rescue us from our sins.)
3. Ask: "What is sin?" (Anything I think, say, or do that breaks God's law.)
4. Lead the kids to form three groups. Ask the first group to think of something (or things) that we sometimes think that breaks God's law, the second group something we sometimes say that breaks God's law, and the third group something we sometimes do that breaks God's law.

LIVE IT (6 MINUTES)

1. Give each child a Bible and help kids to find Isaiah 53:3,7. Ask volunteers to read the verses aloud.
2.  Say: "Isaiah wrote these words about the Savior that God had promised. How did we see these words come true in today's Bible story?" (Jesus was rejected by the people, and He was silent while He was being accused.)
3. Say: "Jesus knew exactly what was going to happen to Him, but He didn't protest. He willingly accepted the punishments and didn't argue against the accusations."
4. Give the kids their activity books.
5. Say: "On page 7 you'll see sites where Jesus went on the night before He was crucified." Lead the kids in a review of the story to help them put the locations in the proper order.

FINISH IT (2 MINUTES)

1. Give each child the Day 3 Tag.
2. Ask: "How did Jesus know everything that was going to happen on this night?" (He is God.)
3. Pray for the kids, asking God to help them understand how amazing it is that Jesus chose to suffer and allow Himself to be falsely accused so that we could know Him.

A MOMENT OF SILENCE

Application Activity #1—10 minutes

Prep

- VBS 2021 Kids Activity Book
 - Use tape to mark lines on the floor to represent steps.
 - Option:* Take the kids to a set of stairs in your building.
1. In the activity book, refer to the picture of Caiaphas' steps on page 7. Explain that this is one place we know that Jesus actually walked.
 2. Say: "With every step that Jesus took that night, He knew exactly what was going to happen. Jesus knows everything that is ever going to happen."
 3. Explain that even though Jesus knew He had done nothing wrong, He didn't argue with Caiaphas when He walked up these steps to stand before him. Instead, He stood silent, just like the prophet Isaiah had written hundreds of years earlier.
 4. Using the tape lines on the floor (or a staircase in your building), tell the kids that you are going to time them walking up and down the steps for one minute in total silence. If they make a sound, they have to sit down. See how many children make it to the end of the minute in silence.
 5. Say: "Was it hard to keep quiet for so long? Imagine how Jesus must have felt that night. He is fully God and could have easily defended Himself. But He chose not to so He could fulfill God's plan."

FOOT RACE

Application Activity #2—10 minutes

Prep

- No additional supplies needed.
1. Direct the kids to form two teams. Ask them to remove their shoes and put them in a big pile on one side of the room (one pile for each team).
 2. Say: "We're going to play a game where you race to serve each other!"
 3. Explain that when you say, "Go" kids will race, relay-style, running to grab a pair of shoes that belongs to someone else, not their own. Tell them that they will deliver the shoes to their rightful owner, who will put them on. The first team that has all of their shoes back on their feet wins.
 4. Ask: "Do you remember how Jesus served His disciples in today's story?" (*He washed their feet.*)
 5. Say: "By washing the disciples' feet, Jesus set an example for serving others just like you did when you grabbed a friend's shoes for her!"

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY OPTIONS

POTSHERD PICK

Bible Skills Activity—10 minutes

Prep

- Leader pack item 9
- Label 4 terra-cotta pots (2 Old Testament, 2 New Testament).
- Write the books of the Bible on index cards, one book per card. Make two sets.

1. Say: "The water that Jesus used to wash the disciples' feet probably came from a water pot or jar. Archaeologists often find pieces of pottery (called potsherds) in their finds. They help us learn about cultures and help us figure out when things happened, based on what the pot is made from and what kind of art is on it."
2. Group the kids into two teams. Give each team two terra-cotta pots, one labeled "Old Testament" and one labeled "New Testament."
3. Give each team a set of the shuffled index cards.
4. Display the "Books of the Bible" poster (pack item 9).
5. Say: "The Bible is divided into two parts: the Old Testament and the New Testament. All of this week's Bible stories are from the New Testament, since the New Testament starts with Jesus' arrival on earth. The prophecies about Jesus' coming are all in the Old Testament."
6. Explain that the kids will sort their index cards and place them either in the Old Testament or the New Testament pot. The team that sorts their cards first wins.

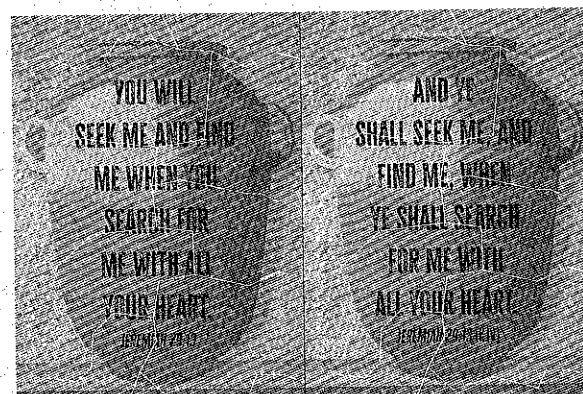
POTSHERD PUZZLE

Bonus Verse Activity—10 minutes

Prep

- Leader pack items 14 and 15

1. Display the "Matthew 20:28 Poster" (pack item 14). Ask kids to read the verse aloud with you. Cover the poster.
2. Say: "Archaeologists, we have found an amazing artifact: a collection of potsherds that we think may be a complete ancient pot when they are reconstructed! Can you put the pieces together?"
3. Let the kids complete the "Potsherd Puzzle" (pack item 15) as a team.
4. Ask a volunteer to read the verse. Ask: "What does this verse make you think of from today's story?" (*Jesus washing His disciples' feet.*)
5. Ask: "Why do you think Jesus chose to serve others?" (*Answers will vary, but may include to be an example to us, because He loves us, etc.*)
6. Challenge kids to remove one piece of the puzzle at a time as they repeat the verse, until they can say it by memory.



Pack Item 15