

Open Bible Stories — Jesus Is Betrayed

Introduction

Key Idea

The story of Jesus being betrayed teaches us about what it means to be faithful/devoted and unfaithful to Jesus.

Core Belief Verse

"He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not." Isaiah 53:3

God's Big Story

The eternal God created all things in six days.

He made a good and perfect world.

He made humans in his image to fill the earth and rule over creation.

But humans rebelled against God and ruined God's creation.

God set to restore his world through his promise.

God made a covenant with Abraham. He promised to bless all nations through Abraham.

God kept his promises across the generations.

God provided Abraham with a promised child, Isaac.

God gave Isaac a wife, and she bore twins, Jacob and Esau.

God blessed Jacob and his sons, and the blessing continued to the next generation.

God rescued Joseph, one of Jacob's sons, and used him to rescue his family.

God caused his people, the Israelites, to multiply in the land of Egypt; eventually, they became slaves.

But God raised up a deliverer, Moses, to deliver his people from their slavery.

God judged the Egyptians with harsh plagues; in the final judgment, he passed over his people, who covered their doorposts with the blood of a sacrificed lamb.

Then, God delivered the Israelites by bringing them out of Egypt and crossing the Red Sea on dry land.

God made a covenant with the Israelites and made them his people.

God tested Israel in a series of wilderness wanderings and eventually brought his people into the promised land of Canaan.

God raised up deliverers to lead Israel and rescue them from their enemies.

God formed Israel into a kingdom. He made a covenant with King David and promised to send a king that would rule his people forever.

Many of Israel's kings were evil, and the kingdom of Israel was divided into two kingdoms.

God sent prophets to warn his people of God's judgment and call them to repent.

When Israel did not repent, God sent his people into exile. After many years, he brought them back to the land.

Throughout the Old Testament, God promised to send his Messiah to deliver his people from their sin.

After many years, the prophet John was born. He would prepare people for the coming Messiah.

At the perfect time, God sent his Son, Jesus, to be born of a virgin Mary.

When John and Jesus grew up, John baptized Jesus as a sign that Jesus was God's beloved Son.

Jesus endured all manner of temptation without ever sinning.

When he was thirty years old, he launched a public ministry of preaching, teaching, and healing.

He taught his disciples about the life of compassion, sacrifice, and forgiveness.

Jesus performed many miracles: he fed a crowd of five thousand, he walked on water, he healed the sick, and he cast out demons.

He proclaimed to people the nature of real faith, God's kingdom, and how fallen humans can be restored in relationship with God.

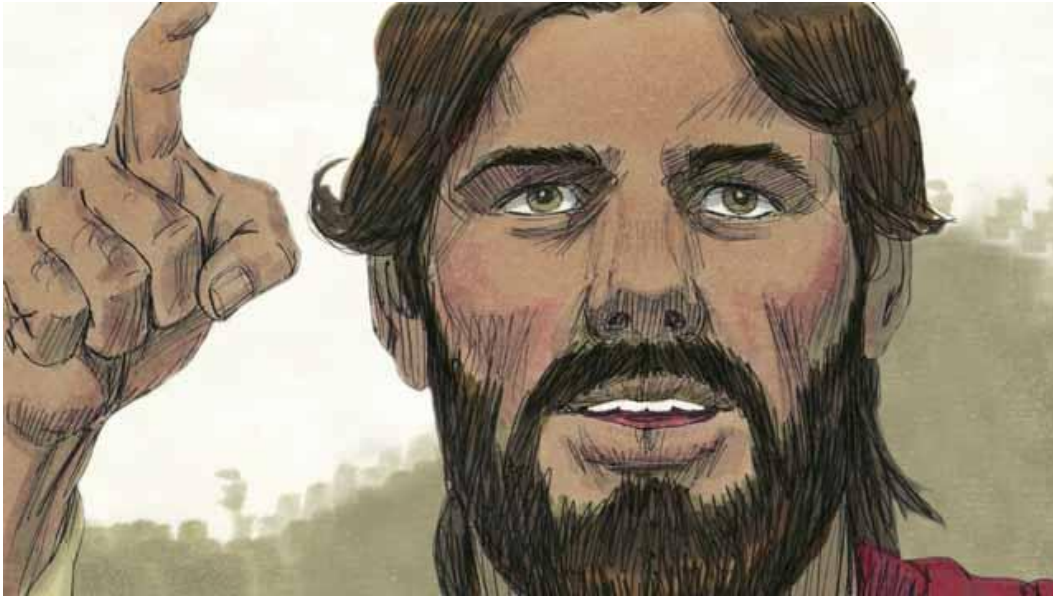
Toward the end of his ministry, Jesus revealed his power and glory to his disciples

He raised a dead man to life.

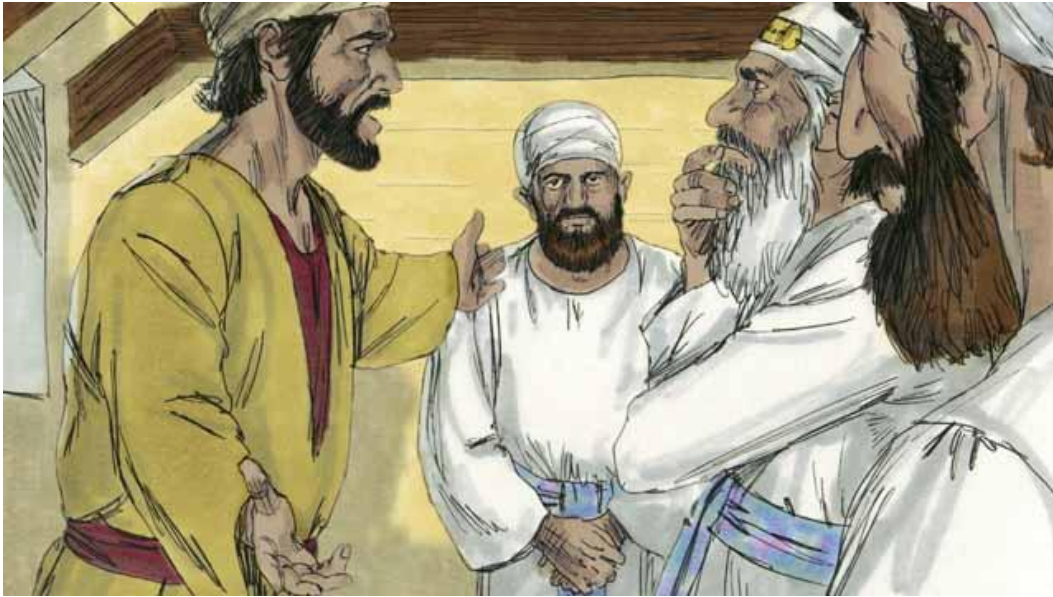
Jesus was betrayed by one of his disciples.

The Story: Jesus Is Betrayed

38-01

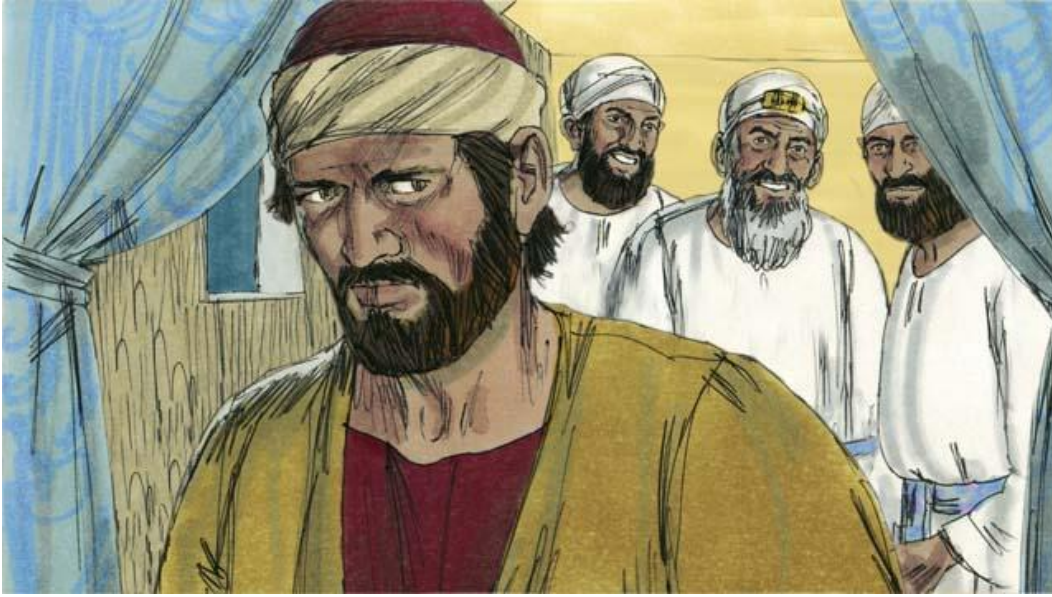


Every year, the Jews celebrated the Passover. This was a celebration of how God had saved their ancestors from slavery in Egypt many centuries earlier. About three years after Jesus first began preaching and teaching publicly, Jesus told his disciples that he wanted to celebrate this Passover with them in Jerusalem and that he would be killed there.



One of Jesus' disciples was a man named Judas. Judas was in charge of the apostles' moneybag, but he often stole money out of the bag. After Jesus and the disciples arrived in Jerusalem, Judas went to the Jewish leaders. He offered to betray Jesus by identifying him to the authorities in exchange for money. Judas knew the Jewish leaders did not accept Jesus as the Messiah. He knew that they wanted to kill him.

38-03



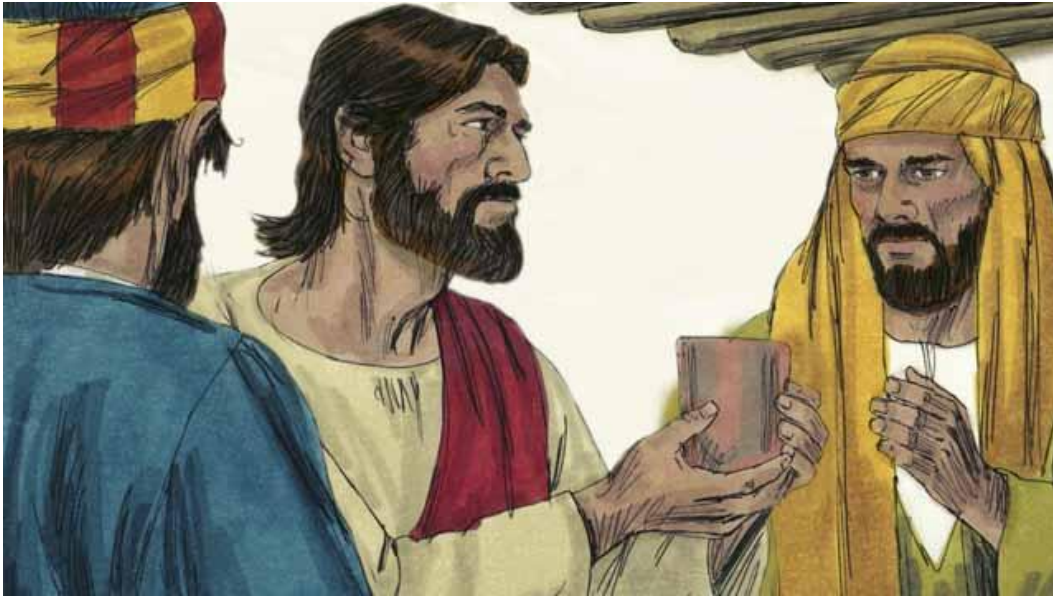
The Jewish leaders, led by the high priest, paid Judas 30 silver coins to betray Jesus by handing him over to them. This happened just as the prophets said it would. Judas agreed, took the money, and went away. He began looking for an opportunity to help them arrest Jesus.

38-04



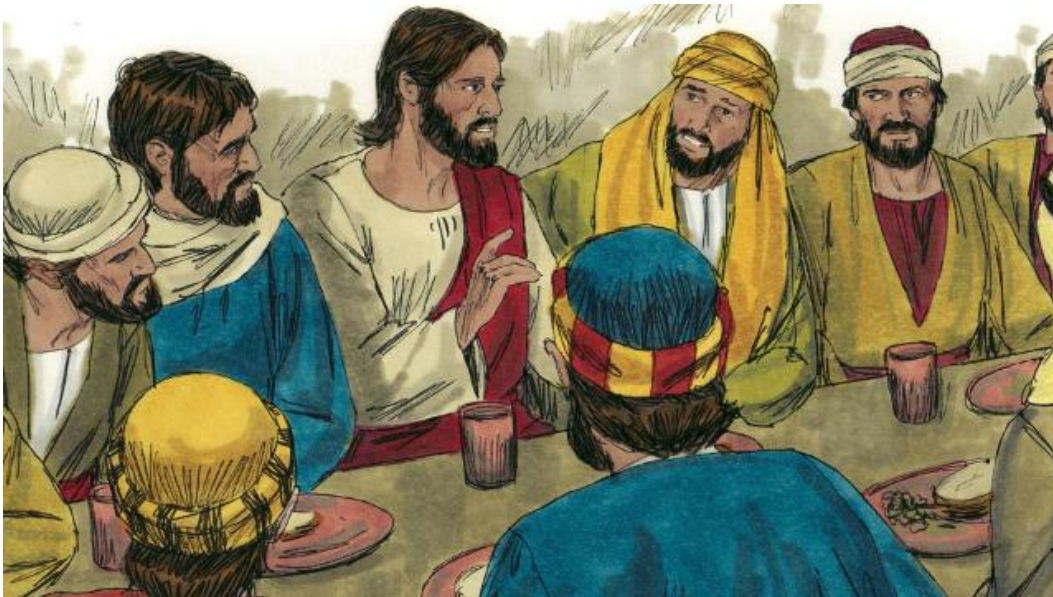
In Jerusalem, Jesus celebrated the Passover with his disciples. During the Passover meal, Jesus took some bread and broke it. He said, "Take and eat this. This is my body, which I will give for you. Do this to remember me." In this way, Jesus said that he would die for them and he would sacrifice his body for them.

38-05



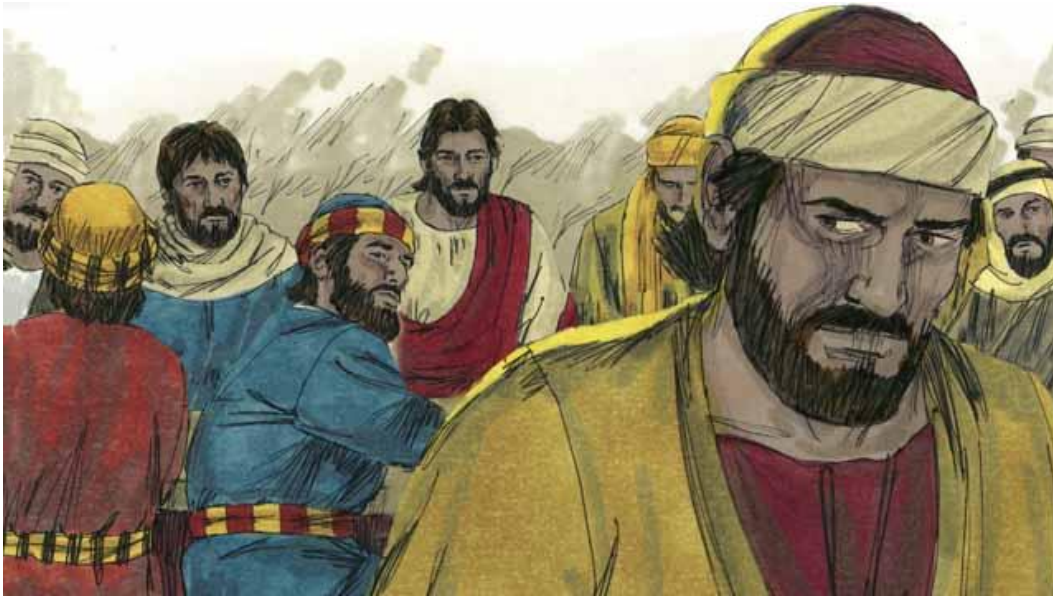
Then Jesus picked up a cup of wine and said, "Drink this. It is my blood of the New Covenant that I will pour out so that God will forgive your sins. Do what I am doing now, to remember me every time you drink it."

38-06



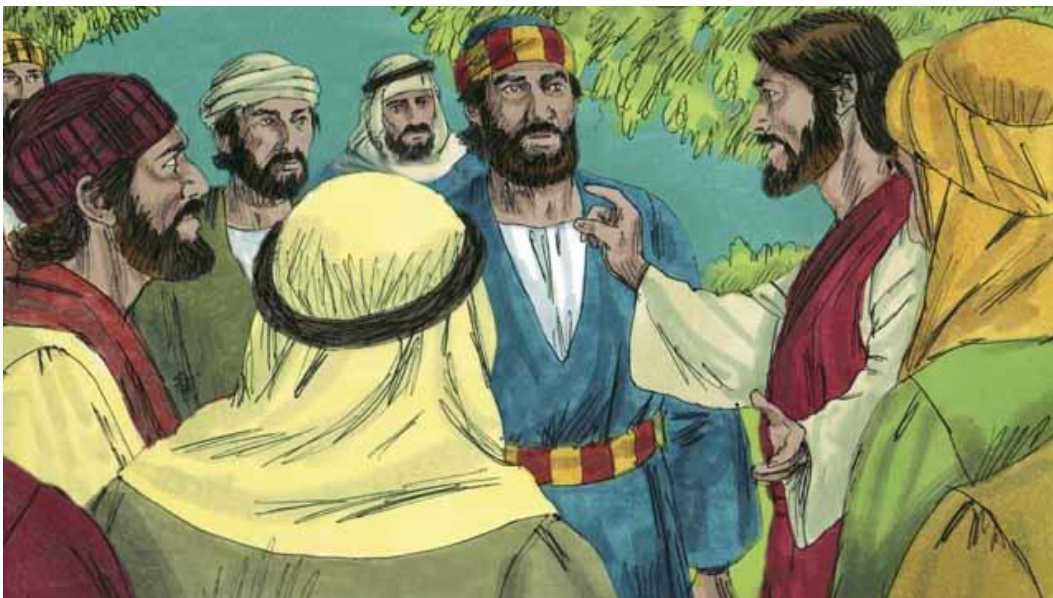
Then Jesus said to the disciples, "One of you will betray me." The disciples were shocked, and asked who would do such a thing. Jesus said, "The person to whom I give this piece of bread is the betrayer." Then he gave the bread to Judas.

38-07



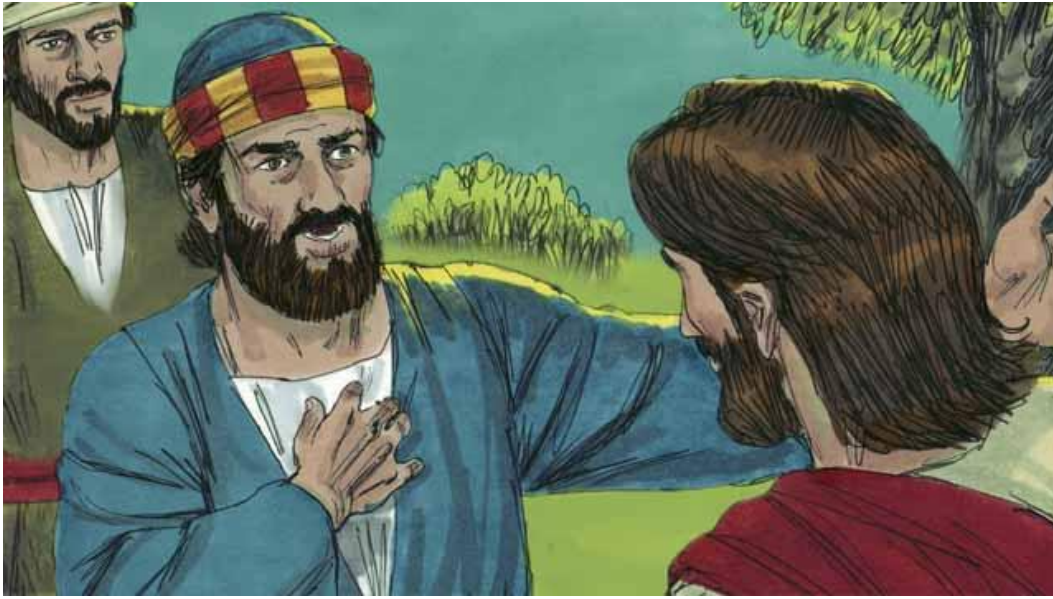
After Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him. Judas left and went to help the Jewish leaders arrest Jesus. It was nighttime.

38-08



After the meal, Jesus and his disciples walked to the Mount of Olives. Jesus said, "You will all abandon me tonight. It is written, 'I will strike the shepherd and all the sheep will be scattered.'"

38-09



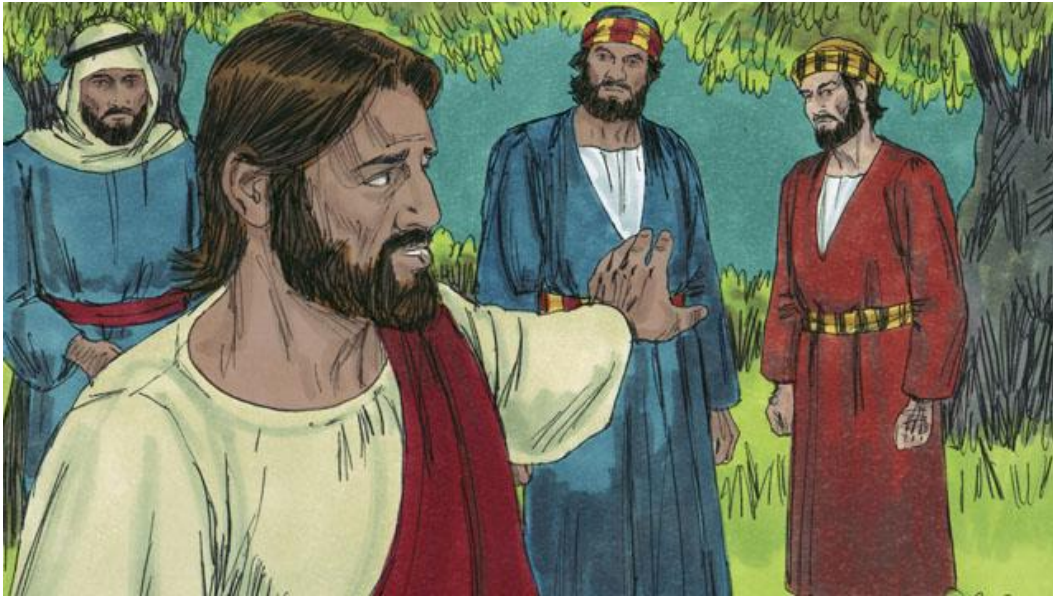
Peter replied, "Even if all the others abandon you, I will not!" Then Jesus said to Peter, "Satan wants to have all of you, but I have prayed for you, Peter, that your faith will not fail. Even so, tonight, before the rooster crows, you will deny three times that you even know me."

38-10



Peter then said to Jesus, "Even if I must die, I will never deny you!" All the other disciples said the same thing.

38-11



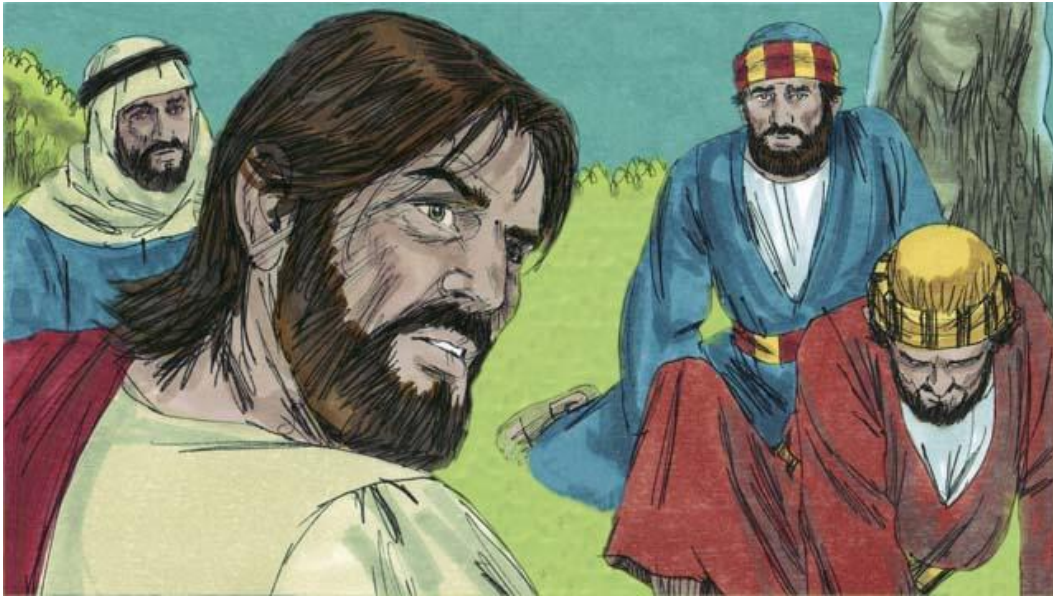
Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane. Jesus told his disciples to pray that they would not enter into temptation. Then Jesus went to pray by himself.

38-12



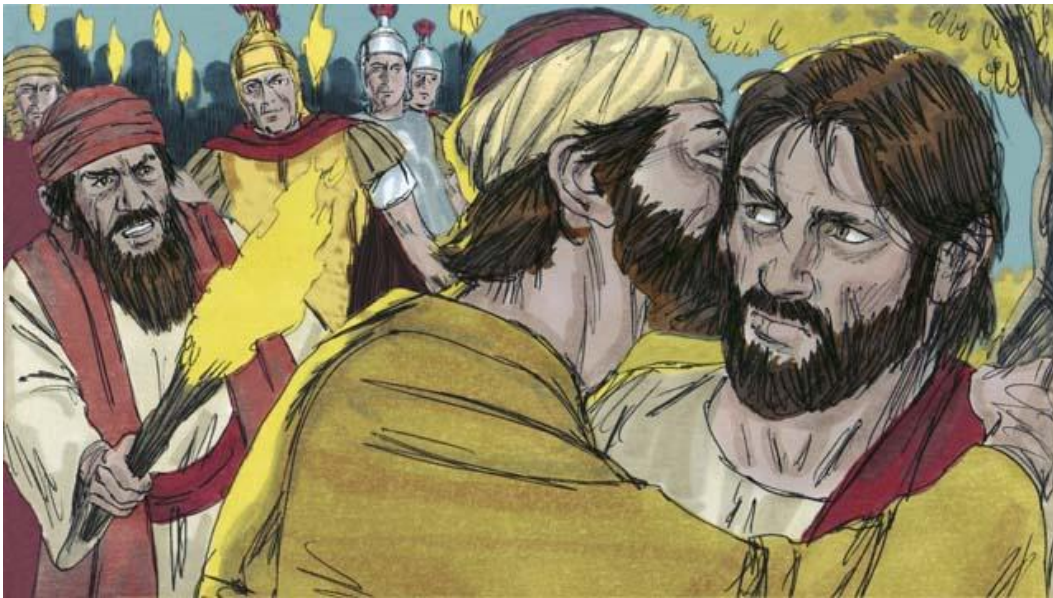
Jesus prayed three times, "My Father, if it is possible, please let me not have to drink this cup of suffering. But if there is no other way for people's sins to be forgiven, then let your will be done." Jesus was very troubled and his sweat was like drops of blood. God sent an angel to strengthen him.

38-13



After each time of prayer, Jesus came back to his disciples, but they were asleep. When he returned the third time, Jesus said, "Wake up! My betrayer is here."

38-14



Judas came with the Jewish leaders, soldiers, and a large crowd. They were carrying swords and clubs. Judas came to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Teacher," and kissed him. He did this to show the Jewish leaders the man to arrest. Then Jesus said, "Judas, are you betraying me with a kiss?"



As the soldiers were seizing Jesus, Peter pulled out his sword and cut off the ear of a servant of the high priest. But Jesus said, "Put the sword away! I could ask the Father for an army of angels to defend me, but I must obey my Father." Jesus healed the man's ear. Then all the disciples ran away.

A Bible story from: Matthew 26:14-56; Mark 14:10-50; Luke 22:1-53; John 18:1-11

Community Study: Godly Relationships—Vital Foundations for Personal Relationships

- **Key Idea:** understanding the dynamics of godly relationships
- **Key Passage:** Psalm 37:1-9
- **Main Session:** OBS Story 38 (Jesus Is Betrayed)

Recite the Core Belief Verse (3–5 minutes)

The verse below summarizes the teaching of the current passage. Read the verse out loud as a community. Read it again several times as a group until the whole community can recite it from memory.

44 Let these words go deeply into your ears: The Son of Man will be betrayed into the hands of men.

Luke 9:44

OR

11 Jesus Christ is the stone which you as builders despised but which has been made the head

cornerstone. 12 There is no salvation in any other person, for there is no other name under heaven

given among men by which we must be saved." Acts 4:11-12

Retell Your Story (5-10 minutes)

God sent Jesus to save people from their sin. One of Jesus' own disciples betrayed him. Think about a

time when you have experienced a painful betrayal or a broken relationship. Describe the characteristics

that made the relationship not function well.

Some of the characteristics of bad and unhealthy relationships are...

Read the Passage (3-5 minutes)

God is the foundation of all healthy relationships. The characteristics that cultivate a person's relationship

with God are similar characteristics that help Christians cultivate relationships with one another. As a

community, read the following Bible passage together to understand the characteristics of godly

relationships and the factors that destroy godly relationships.

1 Do not be irritated because of evildoers; do not be envious of those who act unrighteously. 2 For

they will soon dry up as the grass and wither as the green plants. 3 Trust in Yahweh and do what is

good; settle in the land and graze in faithfulness. 4 Then delight yourself in Yahweh, and he will give

you the desires of your heart. 5 Give your ways to Yahweh; trust in him, and he will act on your

behalf. 6 He will display your justice like the daylight and your innocence like the day at noon. 7 Be

still before Yahweh and wait patiently for him. Do not be angry if someone succeeds in what he does,

or when he makes evil plots. 8 Do not be angry and frustrated. Do not worry. This only makes

trouble. 9 Evildoers will be cut off, but those who wait for Yahweh will inherit the land. Psalm 37:1-9

Discuss the Passage (10-15 minutes)

Movement 1: Understand the Story

Read each question aloud. Give the group time to answer before sharing the answer.

Observation Questions

38-01

What was the meaning of Passover that the Jews celebrated every year?

The Passover was a celebration of how God had freed the ancestors of the Jews from slavery in Egypt.

How long did Jesus preach and teach publicly?

Jesus preached and taught publicly for three years.

What meal did Jesus want to celebrate with his disciples toward the end of his three-year public ministry?

Toward the end of his three-year public ministry, Jesus wanted to celebrate the Passover with his disciples in Jerusalem.

What else would happen to Jesus in Jerusalem?

Jesus would be killed in Jerusalem.

38-02

What was Judas responsible for?

Judas was a disciple of Jesus in charge of the apostles' moneybag.

Why did Judas go to the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem?

Judas met with the Jewish leaders to betray Jesus.

What did Judas want in exchange for betraying Jesus to the Jewish leaders?

He offered to betray Jesus in exchange for money.

Why would the Jewish leaders agree to this?

The Jewish leaders did not accept Jesus as the Messiah and wanted to kill him.

38-03

How much did the Jewish leaders pay Judas to betray Jesus?

They paid him 30 silver coins.

Who said that the Messiah would be betrayed for 30 silver coins?

The prophets predicted that this would happen.

What did Judas do after he agreed to betray Jesus?

Judas took the money, went away, and looked for an opportunity to help them arrest Jesus.

38-04

What food did Jesus give his disciples at the Passover meal?

Jesus took bread and broke it for them to eat.

At the Passover meal, what did Jesus say about the bread?

He said, "This is my body, which is given for you."

What did the bread symbolize?

Jesus gave his disciples the bread to remember that Jesus would die as a sacrifice for them.

38-05

What other item did Jesus serve his disciples?

Jesus picked up a cup of wine for them to drink.

What did Jesus say about the cup?

He said, "It is my blood of the New Covenant that I will pour out so that God will forgive your sins."

What did Jesus want them to do with the cup in the future?

Jesus told his disciples to continue to do what he was doing with the cup as a way to remember Jesus every time they drank from it.

38-06

How did the disciples respond when Jesus said one of the disciples would betray him?

The disciples were shocked and asked who would do such a thing.

Who did Jesus say would betray him?

Jesus said the one to whom he would give the bread would betray him.

Who did Jesus give the bread to at that time?

Jesus gave the bread to Judas.

38-07

What happened to Judas after he took the bread from Jesus?

Satan entered into Judas.

Where did Judas go after taking the bread?

After this, Judas left the meal and went to help the Jewish leaders arrest Jesus.

What time of the day was it at this moment?

It was nighttime.

38-08

Where did Jesus go with his disciples after the meal?

After the meal, Jesus went with his disciples to the Mount of Olives.

What did Jesus predict would happen to the disciples that night?

He said they would all abandon him.

What Scripture did Jesus quote?

Jesus quoted a passage that said, "I will strike the shepherd and all the sheep will be scattered."

38-09

How did Peter respond to Jesus predicting that the disciples would abandon him?

Peter said he would not abandon Jesus even if all the other disciples did.

What did Jesus warn Peter?

Jesus warned Peter that Satan wanted to have all of the disciples, but Jesus prayed that their faith would not fail.

What did Jesus say that Peter would do before the rooster crowed?

He said that Peter would deny three times that he knew Jesus.

38-10

How did Peter respond to Jesus' prediction that Peter would deny him three times?

Peter said that even if he had to die, he would not deny Jesus.

How did the disciples respond to Jesus' predictions about them?

They said that they would die rather than deny Jesus.

38-11

Where did Jesus go with his disciples to pray?

Jesus went with his disciples to Gethsemane.

How did Jesus tell his disciples to pray?

Jesus told his disciples to pray that they would not enter into temptation.

Where did Jesus go?

Jesus went by himself to pray.

38-12

How many times did Jesus pray in Gethsemane?

Jesus prayed three times.

What did Jesus pray to his Father at Gethsemane?

He asked his Father not to make him drink the cup of suffering but for God's will to be done if there was no other way for people's sins to be forgiven.

How troubled was Jesus?

Jesus was very troubled and sweat drops of blood.

How did God strengthen Jesus?

God sent an angel to strengthen Jesus.

38-13

What were the disciples doing while Jesus prayed?

They were sleeping.

What did Jesus say to his disciples the third time?

Jesus told his disciples, "Wake up! My betrayer is here."

38-14

Who came to arrest Jesus?

Judas came with the Jewish leaders, soldiers, and a large crowd.

What were people carrying?

They were carrying swords and clubs.

How did the soldiers know which person was Jesus?

Judas greeted Jesus and kissed him as a sign for them to arrest him.

What did Jesus say to Judas?

Jesus asked Judas, "Judas, are you betraying me with a kiss?"

38-15

What did Peter do in order to defend Jesus?

As they were seizing Jesus, Peter pulled out a sword and cut off the ear of a servant of the high priest.

What did Jesus tell Peter to do?

Jesus commanded Peter to put his sword away.

Why did Jesus say that he did not need Peter to defend him?

Jesus said he could ask the Father for an army of angels, but he must obey his Father.

What did Jesus do with the man's ear?

Jesus healed the man's ear.

What did the disciples do after Jesus was arrested?

They all ran away.

Movement 2: Theological Questions

What Does This Story Teach Us?

1. How does Jesus' death bring about salvation and the forgiveness of sins? How is Jesus' death a sacrifice for sin? How does Jesus' Passover meal with his disciples teach us about the importance of Jesus' death as a sacrifice for sins?
2. What is Jesus like, and what is his relationship with God the Father? What did Jesus' time in Gethsemane teach us about the character of Jesus and his relationship with God the Father?
3. What does it mean to be a disciple fully committed to Christ? How do various people in this story (from their positive or negative examples) teach us what it means to follow Jesus faithfully?

Movement 3: Live It Out

Personal Implications & Applications From The Story

Guide the group to discuss practical obedience from this story and name concrete next steps.

1. When have you ever experienced betrayal, disloyalty, and overwhelming sorrow? What were these experiences like?
2. How most challenges and encourages you about how Jesus endured suffering to serve God?
3. Which people in the story most describes the strength of your faith?
4. Think about this week. Where does "Jesus Is Betrayed" challenge you to obey God in a practical way?
5. How does this key idea shape one decision you need to make right now: The story of Jesus being betrayed teaches us about what it means to be faithful/devoted and unfaithful to Jesus.

Movement 4: Retell the Story

Invite the group to retell the story several times until they can tell it clearly and faithfully.

1. Can someone retell "Jesus Is Betrayed" from beginning to end in their own words?
2. Retell this story again, but focus on what God did at each key moment.
3. Retell the story in three parts: beginning, middle, and ending. What changed in each part?
4. If you were teaching this story to your family tonight, how would you tell it simply and clearly?

Church Ministry

Ministry Preparation: Take time to consider how you could minister this story to others. Record some ministry ideas below.

Ministry Implementation: Minister this story to a group of believers as you had planned. Use the information in this study to help develop a teaching/lesson or lead a discussion of this story with other believers. Record your ministry plan below.

Ministry Reflection: Think about what you learned from ministering this story to other believers. Reflect on your experience below.

Movement 5: Share It

Help each person plan how they will share this story with others before the next gathering.

1. Who is one specific person you will share "Jesus Is Betrayed" with this week?
2. When and where will you share this story with them?
3. What is the one main truth from this story you want them to remember?

Report-back next meeting: Who did you share with, and what happened?

Mission Engagement

Witness Preparation: Take time to consider how you will witness this narrative to unbelievers. Record some ideas below.

Witness Implementation: Share this story with an unbeliever. Use the information in this study to help develop a teaching/lesson or lead a discussion of this story with unbelievers. Record your witness plan below.

Witness Reflection: Think about what you learned from ministering this story to unbelievers. Reflect on your experience below.