



JESUS FACES THE SANHEDRIN

MATTHEW 26:57-68

GOAL

- ▶ To teach children about the injustice and ridicule Jesus faced in order to save us from our sins.

WORDS TO KNOW

- ▶ **Sanhedrin:** council of elder rabbis

Trinity: God is one, made up of three persons—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit

MEMORY VERSES

- ▶ **Matthew 26:64:** “You will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.”

James 1:12: Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

OVERVIEW

- ▶ **Read Matthew 26:57-68:** The crowd that arrested Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane took Jesus to see Caiaphas, the high priest, and the Sanhedrin, the council of elder rabbis. The Sanhedrin were looking for false testimony against Jesus. Many people came forward to bear false witness against Jesus, but they could not find Him guilty of anything. Finally, two men came before the council and told them that they had heard Jesus state that He could destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days. Caiaphas asked Jesus if this story was true, but Jesus remained silent. Caiaphas demanded that Jesus answer whether or not He was the Son of God, and Jesus replied, “You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.” Upon hearing this, Caiaphas torn his robes and declared Jesus’ statement to be blasphemy. He asked the crowd of people there whether they needed to hear any more testimony and what they thought should be done with Jesus. They replied that they thought Jesus deserved to die for His blasphemy.



SUGGESTIONS

- **Jesus is the Messiah:** The Jewish people had been promised a Savior. They had been waiting for Him for many, many years. Prophets warned them that they would not accept this Messiah, and that He would be put through much suffering and sorrow. When they met Jesus, many rejected Him as the Son of God, just as Scripture predicted.
- **Jesus is the Son of Man:** Jesus became human to save all of humanity. As a man, he experienced physical, mental, and spiritual pain and suffering as well as joy and happiness. He was tempted, and felt the pull of humanity's sinful nature, but He never committed a sin.
- **Jesus is the Son of God:** Jesus was fully man, but He was also fully God. He is the Son of God, part of the Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

PRE-LESSON ACTIVITY

Ages 8-10 | **Heavenly Clouds** | **Supplies:** print out of coloring page of Jesus, cotton balls, glue sticks, decorating supplies such as crayons, markers, and glitter

Give each student a print out of Jesus to color, cotton balls, and a glue stick. Have the students color the picture of Jesus using crayons or markers, then have them glue on the cotton balls below His feet. Let them decorate the rest of the paper however they want. Somewhere on the paper, have the students write "You will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."

MEMORY VERSE MEANING

Matthew 26:64: As a man, Jesus was both fully human and fully God. He is seated next to the Father and will one day return to earth on the clouds of heaven.

James 1:12: Jesus remained steadfast under trial, and, as with every aspect of His life, we can look to Him as an example of how we should act as we face challenges in our lives.



POST-LESSON ACTIVITY



Ages 5-7 Follow the Leader | Choose a student to play the leader. Have the students line up behind the leader. Have the leader make movements that the students behind him or her must also do. Continue until everyone has had a chance to be the leader.

Ages 5-10 The Gauntlet | **Supplies:** plastic bowls, plastic spoons, M&Ms, and soft toy balls (jump-pit balls)

Divide the students into two or three teams. Give each team a bowl and a spoon. On one side of the room, place a bowl for each team that contains M&Ms, and have one member from each team line up across the room. Have the other team members line up alongside the path to the M&Ms and give each student a ball. The point of the game is for team members, one at a time, to go from one end of the auditorium to pick up one of the M&Ms on the spoon without using their hands and return without dropping the M&M. As students try to return to the other side of the room with their M&Ms, the other students will throw their balls at members of opposing teams to knock the M&Ms off of the spoons. If the player drops their M&M before they get back and place it in their team's bowl, they run back to the start line, and give another player on their team a chance to go retrieve an M&M. The first team to accumulate a predetermined number of M&Ms wins the round.

Ages 8-10 Scrambled Verse | **Supplies:** printout of one of the memory verses, envelopes, construction paper, glue sticks, decorating supplies such as crayons and markers

Create a print out of one of the memory verses so that there is one for every student in the class. Cut out each word of the verse and put the full verse of cut out words into individual envelopes. Give each student an envelope with the cut-out words and a piece of construction paper. On "Go!" students should arrange the words in the correct order of the verse and glue them to their construction paper. The first student to arrange the words correctly wins. Let the students decorate their paper however they want.



TAKE
HOME



- **Jesus is the Messiah:** Jesus came as the promised deliverer who sacrificially gave His life to save us from sin and death.
- **Jesus is the Son of Man:** Jesus rose in glory to show us what we will become in Him. Jesus is the perfect example of how we are to live our lives. Right now, the man Jesus Christ sits at the right hand of the Father. One day, He will come back to rule all of Creation!
- **Jesus is the Son of God:** Jesus' sacrifice restored the relationship between humanity and the Father.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 1



Q1a: Which of the disciples followed the crowd that arrested Jesus?

A1: Peter followed the crowd that arrested Jesus.

Q1b: Have you ever been around when a friend has gotten in trouble?

Teacher's Note: Let students answer. This can be an awkward situation. We want to help our friends, but we really want to stay out of it. In Peter's case, he wanted to distance himself because he didn't want to get into trouble, too, but because he loved Jesus, he wanted to be near Him and see what happened.

SLIDE 2



Q2a: The Sanhedrin was looking for what?

A2: The Sanhedrin was looking for false evidence against Jesus.

Q2b: Have you ever felt like someone didn't like you?

TN: Let the students answer. Feeling like this is really difficult. Sometimes there doesn't seem to be anything we can do to change a person's mind about us. This is okay. Not everyone is going to like us. If we've done nothing to deserve their opinion, we haven't done anything wrong. Sometimes, we just don't get along with people. In such cases, it is important that we don't let it affect our behavior toward this person. We should always show people love, no matter what.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 3



Q3a: What did the two men tell the Sanhedrin Jesus said?

A3: The two men told the Sanhedrin that Jesus said he could destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days.

Q3b: Have you ever heard the expression, “I’m so hungry I could eat a horse!”?

TN: No matter how hungry we are, we are not capable of eating an entire horse! It’s just not possible. This is an exaggeration. Jesus did say that he could rebuild the temple in three days, but He was not talking literally about the physical temple building; He was talking about Himself. He was referring to His death and resurrection after three days in the tomb. His words were taken out of context and used against Him.

SLIDE 4



Q4a: What question did Caiaphas demand that Jesus answer?

A4: Caiaphas demanded that Jesus answer whether or not He is the Son of God.

Q4b: Have you ever told the truth even though you knew it would get you in trouble?

TN: Let the students answer. We should always be truthful, even if it will get us in trouble. Jesus knew that the council was looking for anything they could use against Him, but He also knew that lying is a sin, so He would have to tell the truth.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 5



Q5a: How did Jesus respond to Caiaphas' question?

A5: He answered yes, by saying, "You have said so."

Q5b: Someone asks if your friend is at school. You answer, "He has the flu." Have you answered the person's question?

TN: That response does not really answer the question. It indicates that our friend is probably not at school because he has the flu, but it could mean that he is at school even though he has the flu. Likewise, Jesus did not give Caiaphas a direct answer to the question about whether or not He is the Son of God.

SLIDE 6



Q6a: How did Caiaphas react to Jesus' answer to his question?

A6: Caiaphas tore his clothing and said that Jesus had committed blasphemy.

Q6b: What is the most popular toy or game right now with your group of friends?

TN: Often one person will get something, and a lot of other people admire it, making them want to get the item as well. This can sometimes lead to things called fads in which lots of people decide that they want a particular item simply because lots of other people have it. This can sometimes happen with opinions and actions as well. One person of authority decides that something is right or wrong and others begin to believe the same way. Caiaphas was the chief priest, making him a man of great influence over the Jewish people in Jerusalem at the time. When he declared Jesus' statement to be blasphemous, the people who had become accustomed to following him believed that he knew what he was talking about, so they followed his lead and behavior.



SLIDE 7

QUESTION & ANSWER



Q7a: What did the angry crowd of people do to Jesus?

A7: The crowd of people hit and spit on Jesus.

Q7b: How do you feel when you see someone act rudely to someone else?

TN: Seeing someone be mean or rude to another person is difficult to watch. We often feel uncomfortable, and sometimes it makes us angry. This happens because we understand that it is wrong to act this way to another person. We love Jesus so much, it can be difficult to hear about how Jesus was treated. Knowing what He went through to save us, it's hard to understand how anyone could be cruel Him. Jesus knew He would have to go through all of it, but the important thing to understand is that, if given the chance, He would do it all over again. He loves us that much!



QUESTION & ANSWER

MEMORY VERSES

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BIG IDEA

▶ Jesus endured insults and violence to carry our sins.

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CLOSING PRAYER

▶ Father God, thank You for loving us so much that you would sacrifice Your Son for our sake. Help us to remember Jesus' strength as he endured great suffering and sorrow. Help us to draw on His example as we face our own challenges. We ask these things in Jesus' name, Amen.



LESSON TRANSCRIPT

SLIDE 1



The angry crowd arrested Jesus and led Him to where Caiaphas, the high priest, and other teachers of the law and the elders had assembled. Peter, one of Jesus' disciples, followed the crowd at a distance, slowly entered the courtyard, and sat down with the guards to see what was happening.

SLIDE 2



The chief priest and the council of elder rabbis, called the Sanhedrin, were looking for false evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death. Even though many people came forward to offer false testimony against Jesus, the Sanhedrin were unable to find Him guilty of anything.

SLIDE 3



Finally, two men came forward and told the council, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and rebuild it in three days.'" When the high priest heard this, he stood up and said to Jesus, "Are you not going to explain or defend yourself against what these men say against you?" But Jesus remained silent.

SLIDE 4



Jesus' silence and refusal to respond to the men's accusations irritated Caiaphas. The high priest said to Jesus, "I charge you under oath by the living God to tell us if you are the Messiah! Tell us if you are the Son of God!"

SLIDE 5



To this question, Jesus finally gave an answer. Jesus responded, "You have said so, but I tell you, from now on, you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."



LESSON TRANSCRIPT

SLIDE 6



Upon hearing this, Caiaphas tore his clothes and said, "He has spoken blasphemy! Why do we need any more witnesses? Look, now you have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?" The angry crowd agreed that they had heard enough, and they answered, "He is worthy of death!"

SLIDE 7



The crowd of people who had offered false testimony against Jesus and wrongly convicted Him of a crime He did not commit, began to hit Him and spit in His face. The angry people slapped Him and said, "Prophecy to us, Messiah. Who hit you?"