

Thursday: Jesus Is Betrayed



Introductory Question: ***Tell us about a time when a friend let you down.***



Yesterday we read about when Jesus foretold His death. Today we will continue the story in **Matthew 26:17-75**, where Jesus is betrayed and arrested. (Incorporate your family's or group's answers to the Introductory Question – for example,) *like Joe's friend let him down by playing with someone else, and Megan's friend let her down by gossiping about her, most of Jesus' friends deserted Him when He was arrested and put on trial.*

Continue to tell the story from **Matthew 26:17-75**, including main points such as:

- The disciples prepared the traditional Passover dinner. As they were eating, Jesus said, "One of you will betray me" (v. 21). All of them, including Judas, said, "Surely not me, Lord?" And Jesus said to Judas, "You have said so" (v.25).
- Then "...Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Take and eat; this is my body.' Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins'" (v. 26-28).
- Then they sang a hymn and went to the Mount of Olives.
- Jesus told His disciples that all of them would fall away. Peter insisted that even if he had to die, he would not disown Jesus. And the other disciples said the same. Jesus told Peter, "Before the rooster crows tonight, you will disown me three times."
- In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus was filled with sorrow. He prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will" (v. 39). He asked His disciples to keep watch, but they fell asleep twice while He was praying.
- Judas arrived with an armed crowd and kissed Jesus on the cheek to signal that Jesus was the man they were looking for. Then all the disciples deserted Jesus and ran away.
- The priests, elders, and teachers of the law put Jesus on trial. Outside in the courtyard, Peter was asked three times whether he was with Jesus. He denied Jesus each time, and then a rooster crowed. Peter remembered what Jesus had said, and he wept bitterly.



Invite your family to spend a few minutes in Listening Prayer and Journaling: *As we've listened to these words from the Bible, God has been speaking to us through them. What is God telling you about: Himself, yourself, others, and what to do? You can talk to God about anything.*



When everyone begins to finish Journaling, give each person an opportunity to share what God has been speaking to them. After each person shares, pray for them.

KEY VERSE: Matthew 26:28

"This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."