



Jesus Prays & is Arrested

16th Confirmation Class Lesson

Supplies Needed: Notebooks; Handout; 1 playing card per student (have all of the cards be number cards, except for one face card – a joker would be the best); easel/whiteboard;

Opening Activity – Assassin

- Everyone sits in a circle
- Count how many are in the group.
- Count out one playing card per person.
- In the playing cards that are counted out, include one joker.
- Pass out one card to each person.
- Each person looks at their card, but does not tell or show anyone their card
- The person with the joker is the assassin.
- Once the cards are passed out, the game begins.
- The game is played by everyone in the circle looking at each other, in the eyes.
- The role of the assassin is to eliminate as many players as possible without getting caught.
- The assassin does this by winking at individuals in the group.
- If you get winked at, let a few moments pass and then say, “I’m dead.”
- Feel free to be dramatic about it.
- Players who have been eliminated, lower their heads.
- Each person in the group has one chance to name the assassin.
- If you think you know who it is, you say, “Can I get a witness?”
- If there’s someone who is willing to back you up, you then say who it is.
- If you are right, we start the game over.
- If you are wrong, you are eliminated

DO Opening Activity

Note: After playing two rounds, you can vary the activity by keeping everything the same, except you have everyone stand up, walk around and shake hands. The assassin will eliminate players by doing a double squeeze (somewhat hard) of the hand during the handshake. Players whose hands are squeezed wait for a moment (or 10) and then fall to the floor.

ASK

- Was anyone wrongly accused? If so, what was your response to that?
- When you were eliminating people, did that feel at all badly?
- When you were accusing someone, was it easy to do so or were you worried about getting the wrong person?

OPENING PRAYER

REVIEW

- Concepts we've talked about recently in class:
 - We talked about forgiveness in the story of the woman who anointed Jesus' feet with ointment because she was so thankful. Forgiveness is available to us and when we ask for it, it frees us from those feelings of guilt and shame and of not being good enough that weigh us down, and keep us closed-off to God and to others.
 - We talked about the parable of the Sower and how, if we thought of the Word of God like a seed and thought of ourselves as soil, then we'd have to prepare the soil to receive the seed. One way to do this is by paying attention to our breathing.
 - With the story of Jesus entering Jerusalem (what we call Palm Sunday) and cleaning out the temple, we talked about how following Jesus is disruptive. That disruptive quality of following Jesus can be unexpected and scary.
 - The Last Supper happens on the night Jesus is arrested. The Last Supper is the Passover meal, and Jesus equates his body and blood with the lambs of the Passover story that were slaughtered to save the oldest son of the household and which also led to freeing the Israelites from slavery 1400 years before Jesus lived. Jesus during this meal demonstrates the "take, bless, break, give" pattern that if lived out/practiced will bring communion to a community.

CHALLENGE OF THE WEEK REVIEW

What we were to do:

Jesus while in the midst of unfaithful and arguing disciples is thankful to have a meal with them. To be able to give thanks in such circumstances ((or "in all circumstances" as the apostle Paul puts it) takes practice. One way to practice is to review then give thanks after the fact. At the end of two different days this week, write down what you received during the day (good and bad) and give thanks to God for the ways you understand God was with you during those times.

So, was it hard to see how God was with you in the times that were hard/difficult? Any ideas/thoughts that you had that surprised you about your days that you looked back on and practiced thanksgiving about?

TELL

- During these next number of weeks, we are paying attention to the last week of Jesus' ministry. It started with what we know as "Palm Sunday." Today, we're going to talk about the Garden of Gethsemane and Jesus' arrest.

READ

Luke 22 Gethsemane and Jesus' Arrest

39 Jesus came out from the Passover meal and went, as was his custom during this week, to the Mount of Olives (outside of Jerusalem); and the disciples followed him. 40 When he reached the place, Jesus said to them, "Pray that you may not come into the time of trial."

41 Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed, 42 "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done." 45 When he got up from prayer,

he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of grief, 46 and Jesus said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial."

47 While he was still speaking, suddenly a crowd came, and the one called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him; 48 but Jesus said to him, "Judas, is it with a kiss that you are betraying the Son of Man?" 49 When those who were around Jesus saw what was coming, they asked, "Lord, should we strike with the sword?" 50 Then one of them struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear. 51 But Jesus said, "No more of this!" And he touched the servant's ear and healed him.

52 Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple police, and the elders who had come for him, "Have you come out with swords and clubs as if I were a bandit? 53 When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness!" 54 Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house.

Peter followed them at a distance. 55 When they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them. 56 Then a servant-girl, seeing him in the firelight, stared at him and said, "This man also was with Jesus." 57 But Peter denied it, saying, "Woman, I do not know him." 58 A little later someone else, on seeing Peter, said, "You also are one of them." But Peter said, "Man, I am not!" 59 Then about an hour later still another kept insisting, "Surely this man also was with him; for he is a Galilean." 60 But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about!" At that moment, while he was still speaking, a rooster crowed. 61 Jesus turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered Jesus' words, how he had said to him, "Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times." 62 And Peter left the courtyard and wept bitterly.

ASK/TELL

- There's a lot here, isn't there? We'll talk about some of it, but if there's something that's of interest to you that we don't mention, please bring it up.
- Verse 39, what do the disciples do?
- Verse 40, what does Jesus tell the disciples to do? (pray to not come into temptation)
- Verse 42, what is Jesus asking God for in prayer? (to release him from what God is asking him to do)
- But in asking for this, what does Jesus also say? (that God's Will is more important than Jesus' will).
- Verse 42 is a pretty often quoted verse. Note that even though Jesus makes a request, what he's asking for is that God change God's mind. Jesus doesn't talk about what he himself wants. He's asking that God's Will be different, that God change what God's calling Jesus to do. When talking to friends or parents or teachers, do you talk this way? Do you ask them to reconsider their decisions or behavior...but also let them know that whatever their decision is, you will follow through with it? If you don't do this, what do you think would happen if you did try it?
- In the meantime, what are the disciples doing (verse 45)? (sleeping)
- In verse 47, who is Judas leading? (the crowd)
- We've talked about how there's these different groups of disciples, crowd and Pharisees. And how disciples come from the crowd and from the Pharisees. And how being a disciple is learning a new way, a different way. Notice that under duress or stress, the disciples will sometimes (even often)

revert back to the ways of the crowd (sleeping = short attention span/lack of focus) or of the Pharisees (Judas leading the crowd is a prime example of this tendency).

- In verse 49 and 50, the disciples have finally awoken, but what is their response? (to attack – this fits into the just mentioned “falling back” on old ways observation)
- In verse 51, Jesus heals one of the people who has come to arrest him. Are you surprised by this? (Note: in other Gospels, Jesus doesn’t heal the servant).
- Verse 52 – 54: The people arresting Jesus are all of the “upstanding” citizens of the Israelites as well as their political and moral leaders. And yet, they are hiding their actions by cover of night. Jesus is calling them out on that. Just like in the assassin game, the assassin has to do his work in secret to not get caught. Witnesses are the worst thing for an assassin. So it is, also, for the Pharisees when arresting Jesus.
- So, according to their rules, a person is innocent until proven guilty. You can’t just arrest someone without cause. And you certainly don’t bring them to the high priest’s *house*. The Pharisees are breaking all of their rules in order to arrest Jesus. This is the equivalent of a cop arresting you and bringing you to his/her house. If that happens, know that you are in big trouble because that’s not where you are supposed to go. You are supposed to go to the police station...
- In addition to the Pharisees breaking their own rules, also notice that the people arresting Jesus are not the Romans. The Romans were the authorities and were the ones who would usually make arrests. They could arrest you for whatever reason they wanted to, but they liked to have a real reason because otherwise the natives would get too restless and unhappy and cause riots. The Israelites were a rowdy bunch, in general, so the Romans tried not to get them stirred up too much.
- And finally, the story ends with Peter. He’s scared, but he’s trying to be loyal to Jesus by being in close proximity...but he does so by lying about his relationship with Jesus.
- So we don’t get Judas’ response to what has happened. But we get Peter’s. What does he do? (leaves and weeps bitterly)
- So, Jesus has his Passover meal with his disciples, and within maybe two hours of that meal, he’s been betrayed by Judas, arrested, abandoned by his followers, except for Peter, who then denies knowing Jesus. And it’s only going to get worse.
- It’s no wonder that Jesus was asking that God remove the cup.
- Does it concern you that what God is telling Jesus to go through with is detrimental to Jesus’ health and well-being?
- We talk a lot about God’s love, but does this seem like love? To direct someone to allow him/herself to be arrested, tortured and then killed?

SNACK

TELL

- We’re going to do an activity where you get to be a judge and fine the characters in the story we just read.
- You are charged with fining the characters based upon who you think is to blame (from most blame to the least blame) for Jesus’ arrest. The more you think an individual or group is at fault, the more you fine them.

- You have to hand out a total of \$10 million in fines and you have to give explain and justify why the fine is being given (because, after all, you don't want your decision to be appealed and overturned in a higher court).
- Examples:
 - You can fine Jesus for listening to God.
 - You can fine God for not removing the cup.
 - You can fine the High Priest servant for getting his ear cut off or fine the disciple who cut the ear off the servant (only the ear? How did you miss his neck? Etc).
- Think about this and have fun with it.
- We'll share answers in...5 minutes.

DO Judge/Fine activity

- Everyone shares who they fined, how much they fined them and why.
- Use the easel/whiteboard to track the ideas.

TELL

- This story clearly highlights the shortcomings of the way of the crowd (illustrated by the disciples: Sleepy/distracted) and the Pharisees (violent and two-faced: Doing everything that is opposite of what they supposedly stand for and *knowing* it, which is why they arrest Jesus at *night*).
- This story also highlights how seeking God and being obedient to God does not always provide easy, happy times (as illustrated by Jesus).
- This story also illustrates how our prayer life affects our actions, as we've seen by comparing Jesus' response (a prayerful response) to being arrested to his disciples' response (a sleepy, then panicked response) to Jesus being arrested.
- The temptation for Jesus to choose the way of the Pharisees or the crowd (fight or flight), must've been very strong in him. Those choices must have looked pretty attractive to him in that moment, right?
- But just think what would've happened if Jesus gives in to the temptation and fights or flees in this moment? It would invalidate most of everything he's done up to this point.
- One reason this story is so powerful is because it distinctly captures in one moment what we are capable of doing when we don't pay attention to God (as illustrated by the Pharisees and disciples) and what we are capable of when we DO pay attention to God (as illustrated by Jesus healing one of the people who has come to arrest him).
- So it's easy to blame people in the story for what went wrong, but let's also keep in mind what went right: Jesus prays, accepts the "cup" that God does not take away, doesn't give into the voice of temptation and heals one of the individuals who is there to arrest him.
- In our next class, we'll talk about why Jesus dies.

CHALLENGE OF THE WEEK

Think about ways that you do not support your friends or Jesus/God as well as you would like. Using the list of actions that you fined the characters for, think about if you do any of those actions that you were willing to fine others for.

CLOSING PRAYER – ask for prayer requests and give time during prayer for students to pray.