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The Arrest

Luke 22: 31 – 62

This story begins at the end of Jesus' Passover meal. Jesus told the disciples that he was going to die for them. He chose to die, and he was prepared. Yet the next few hours were still terribly difficult for him. They were difficult for the disciples, as well. As you read, imagine what the disciples were feeling, especially Peter.¹

LOOK OVER the Text

1. The first sentence of a paragraph often gives the setting. Look over the first sentences of each section. Mark words and phrases that tell you WHEN things were happening or WHERE they were happening.

Note: In Section A, Jesus and the disciples are still in the room where they ate the Last Supper.

2. Write titles for the sections that tell you where the action is taking place.
3. Read Luke 22:31 – 22:62.

A. _____

22:31 “Simon, Simon!² Listen! Satan has received permission to test all of you, to separate the good from the bad, as a farmer separates the wheat from the chaff.³ 22:32 But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith will not fail. And when you turn back to me, you must strengthen your brothers.”

¹ If you are working in a group, ask if anyone would like to share about the death of someone close to them. Did you know that person was going to die? Did you have an opportunity to say “good-bye?”

22:33 Peter answered, “Lord, I am ready to go to prison with you and to die with you!” 22:34 “I tell you, Peter,” Jesus said, “the rooster will not crow tonight until you have said three times that you do not know me.”⁴

B. _____

22:39 Jesus left the city and went, as he usually did, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples went with him. 22:40 When he arrived at the place, he said to them, “Pray that you will not fall into temptation.” 22:41 Then he went off from them about the distance of a stone's throw and knelt down and prayed. 22:42 “Father,” he said, “if you will, take this cup of suffering⁵ away from me. Not my will, ⁶ however, but your will be done.” 22:43 An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. 22:44 In great anguish⁷ he prayed even more fervently;⁸ his sweat⁹ was like drops of blood falling to the ground.

22:45 Rising from his prayer, he went back to the disciples and found them asleep, worn out by their grief.¹⁰ 22:46 He said to them, “Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you will not fall into temptation.”

² “Simon” was Peter’s name before Jesus met him.

³ The chaff is the outside layer of the wheat. The wheat is good, but the chaff is nothing.

⁴ Verses 35-38 are omitted.

⁵ Suffering is pain or great difficulty. Jesus suffered with his body, spirit, and mind.

⁶ God’s “will” is what God decides, what God wants.

⁷ “Anguish” means suffering or having very painful thoughts.

⁸ “Fervently” means with great feeling.

⁹ Sweat is the liquid on your skin when you are hot or nervous.

¹⁰ Grief is deep sadness.

C. _____

22:47 Jesus was still speaking when a crowd arrived, led by Judas, one of the twelve disciples. He came up to Jesus to kiss him.¹¹ 22:48 But Jesus said, “Judas, is it with a kiss that you betray¹² the Son of Man?” 22:49 When the disciples who were with Jesus saw what was going to happen, they asked, “Shall we use our swords, Lord?” 22:50 And one of them struck the High Priest's slave and cut off his right ear. 22:51 But Jesus said, “Enough of this!”¹³ He touched the man's ear and healed him. 22:52 Then Jesus said to the chief priests and the officers of the Temple guard and the elders who had come there to get him, “Did you have to come with swords and clubs, as though I were an outlaw? 22:53 I was with you in the Temple every day, and you did not try to arrest me. But this is your hour to act, when the power of darkness rules.”

D. _____

22:54 They arrested Jesus and took him away into the house of the High Priest; and Peter followed at a distance. 22:55 A fire had been lit in the center of the courtyard, and Peter joined those who were sitting around it. 22:56 When one of the servant women saw him sitting there at the fire, she looked straight at him and said, “This man too

¹¹ This was a typical greeting among friends.

¹² “To betray” is to turn against someone who trusts you.

¹³ or “That is enough.”

was with Jesus. 22:57 But Peter denied¹⁴ it, “Woman, I don't even know him!” 22:58

After a little while a man noticed Peter and said, “You are one of them, too!”

But Peter answered, “Man, I am not!”

22:59 And about an hour later another man insisted strongly, “There isn't any doubt that this man was with Jesus, because he also is a Galilean!”¹⁵

22:60 But Peter answered, “Man, I don't know what you are talking about!” At once, while he was still speaking, a rooster crowed. 22:61 The Lord turned around and looked straight at Peter, and Peter remembered that the Lord had said to him, “Before the rooster crows tonight, you will say three times that you do not know me.” 22:62

Peter went out and wept bitterly.¹⁶ GNB

LABEL the Text

4. Work on different sections, and share what you learn with others. There is workspace on the next page.

Section A: What does Jesus know about Peter's future? Who will test Peter? Circle the reference to an animal. Why is it important to the story?

Section B: Mark the words that help you understand how Jesus felt. How did the disciples feel? Who helped Jesus? Put a box around Jesus' prayer.

Section C: Make a list below of all the people and what they did.

Section D: Make a list¹⁷ of all that Peter said and did. Could Peter and Jesus see each other?

¹⁴ To deny something is to say that it is not true.

¹⁵ Peter and Jesus were both from Galilee.

¹⁶ He cried with deep sadness and maybe anger at himself.

¹⁷ ...or mark the text.

Notes:

5. Prepare a short skit or dramatic reading.¹⁸

LEARN from the Text

6. Why *do you think* the chief priests arrested Jesus at night? How did they know where to find Jesus?

7. Write Jesus' prayer in your own words.¹⁹

8. Compare Judas²⁰ and Peter. Why *do you think* they acted against Jesus?

¹⁸ A skit is a drama with characters. It involves acting out a story. In a dramatic reading, readers speak for the characters and a narrator tells about the action.

¹⁹ This is a paraphrase, so it should have the same meaning as Jesus' prayer.

²⁰ Read the LINK section to find out what happened to Judas.

9. How did Peter feel after he denied Jesus? *Do you think* Jesus will forgive Peter? Give your reasons from the text (Luke 22:31-32) and also from what you know about Jesus.

10. We have a lot of detail about this event, even though it looks like the other disciples were not there. Who *do you think* told the others? Why?

LINK the Text to the Book of Acts

What happened to Judas after this? Matthew tells us in his Gospel. When Judas found out that Jesus was going to be killed, he was “filled with remorse.”²¹ He went out and killed himself. We find out more in the book of Acts.²²

Acts 1:18-19

With the money Judas got for his evil act, he bought a field,²³ where he fell to his death; he burst open and all his bowels spilled out.²⁴ GNB

Peter explained to a group of about 120 believers that this fulfilled prophecies in the Old Testament.²⁵ The prophecies said that someone would take his place, so they chose a disciple to take Judas’ place. Listen to the requirements.

Acts 1: 21-22

Therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from John’s

²¹ Remorse is regret. It is sorrow for what one has done. It is not the same as repentance, which is sorrow and then turning back to God to ask for forgiveness. This is from Matthew 27: 3.

²² “The Acts of the Apostles” is the continued story of the disciples after Jesus left the earth.

²³ The Jewish leaders could not take the money back, so they bought a field with the money – for a burial ground!

²⁴ He probably fell a long way. To “burst” is to break open. He may have hanged himself over a cliff on a branch, and the branch may have broken.

²⁵ Psalm 69:25 and Psalm 109

baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection.²⁶

You can read more in Acts 1:23-26.

LIVE What you Learn

Discuss one of these questions:

1. Judas did something evil. What are your own standards, rules, or philosophy for how you treat others? Do you think everyone should follow the same rules? Why?
2. Do you have any experience of being forgiven for something you have done?

Consider this:

Every one of the disciples turned against Jesus that night.

We think we are good people. We could never do something terrible like Peter did. However, we cannot keep our own rules, so how can we keep God's laws? Are you sorry about something you have done? The good news is that Jesus is ready to forgive you. All you have to do is ask him with a simple prayer.

“And when you turn back to me, you must strengthen your brothers.”

The Final Word

“If we say we have no sin, then we deceive ourselves,²⁷
and there is no truth in us.
But if we confess²⁸ our sins to God,
he will keep his promise and do what is right:
he will forgive us our sins and purify²⁹ us from all our wrongdoing.”
1John 1:8-9 GNB

²⁶ Jesus' resurrection is when he came back to life again. This new disciple saw Jesus after that time. That way he can be a witness – someone who saw or heard something and tells others.

²⁷ We hide the truth from ourselves.

²⁸ To confess is to admit.

²⁹ To purify is to take away sin, to clean our hearts.

God's Forgiveness

Here are some ways to think about God's forgiveness.

1. Money

When you owe money, you have to pay it back. You have to pay the money you owe, called a "debt," and maybe some interest.

What if someone paid that debt for you because they loved you?

WOW! If someone paid the debt, it would be "canceled," or "forgiven." You would owe nothing! You would be so thankful! You would be so amazed!

2. A Courtroom

When you have done something against the law, you have to be punished. The punishment for murder, for example, is death (or at least prison). But what if the judge said you didn't have to go to prison, that you could go free? You would be very happy, right? But the judge cannot do that. Judges have to follow the law. You have to go to prison. But what if someone could take your place—go to prison instead of you?

What if someone loved you so much that they chose to die in prison in your place so that you could go free?

WOW! You would be free from the requirement of the law because that person went to prison instead of you. They took the punishment; they paid the price of your crime. You would be so thankful! You would be so amazed!

3. God's Way

The Bible says that when you sin, you have to be punished. The punishment for sin is death and a complete separation from God. God loves us, but God follows His own Laws. He cannot just say we are free from this punishment. The only way for us to come back to God is for someone to take our place, to pay the price. Only someone who is completely good can do that, so God sent His Son.

"God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life." John 3:16

WOW! Jesus took our place; he paid for our sins with His death. He offers life— not for those who are good enough, but for those who accept that Jesus died for them. You will be set free. You will be forgiven. You will be able to know God. You will still sin (and you will still need to ask for forgiveness), but you will never be separated from God again. You will live with Him forever. "Eternal life" starts when you believe, and it goes on forever — even after your body dies.

You will be so thankful! You will be so amazed!