

## Luke's Ancient Biography of Jesus 2

### Notes on Lesson Seven: The Arrest

# Lesson Seven: The Arrest

Luke 22: 31-62

## Central Message

Every one of the disciples turned against Jesus that night. Judas betrayed him. Peter denied that he knew him. The other disciples ran away. Jesus knew they would do this, but he also knew they would come back – all except Judas. That's why he told Peter, "And when you turn back to me, you must strengthen your brothers." Luke 22: 32.

## Life Application

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.

## Community-Building Activity and Introduction<sup>1</sup> *Betrayal, Denial, and Desertion*

**Preparation:** Write the instructions on a board, or print the worksheet or cover page from the supplementary materials. If you use the instruction strips, copy and cut enough strips for each person.

**Instructions:** One of Jesus' disciples will betray him, one of them will deny that he knows him, and the others will desert him this night.

"To betray," means to go against a friend, to turn a friend over to an enemy, or to turn against your own country by giving secrets to an enemy.

"To deny," means to refuse to admit that something is true, or to refuse to admit that you know someone or something. It is a response to an accusation. That is, someone says we did something wrong, and we say we did not. For example, someone says to you, "You were with the woman who stole the car. I saw you!" We can deny that this is true. We can say...

"No, I have never seen this woman!"

"No, you saw someone else. I wasn't even in town."

"I was just parking my car in the parking lot. I didn't do anything wrong!"

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<sup>1</sup> The community-building activities and the introductions are often combined in the lesson notes because sometimes the introduction is first, and sometimes the activity is first.

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“To desert,” means to run away, or to leave someone when they need you the most. The opposite is someone who stays with a friend through very difficult times. What are some examples of staying with someone or of betraying, denying, or deserting them?

**Teaching Notes:** This activity addresses some pertinent vocabulary before the lesson begins. The students can discuss something positive or negative. Their discussion will help them better understand the emotions involved in this story.

### Lesson Notes

#### Luke 22: 31-62

#### Preparation:

Note that the numbers below refer to the numbers in the workbook.

1. It is a great activity if the students have learned how to skim, but if not, it might be too difficult. Here are alternate instructions.  
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.
- 2/3 You can simplify the assignment by asking, “Write titles for the sections that tell you where the action is taking place.” They can do this based on the information they already have. You can have them think of titles before you read each section together, or divide into smaller groups.
4. The instructions are to work on one section of the text. If you divided the group for questions 2 and 3, you can use the same smaller groups, or put together groups with someone representing each of the above groups (A,B,C,D). There is room for notes on the next workbook page.
5. Skits can be done with dialog or with silent action and a narrator. Section A can be combined with D. This would work best with dialog. Sections B and C can be done as separate skits. These might work best as silent action with a narrator. Let them know how much time you are giving them for preparation. It doesn't take long, perhaps 5 minutes to plan and 5 minutes to practice. However, they cannot do this well until they have answered observation questions or spent some time discussing the text.
6. We know from earlier in Luke that the chief priests were afraid of the people.

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(Luke 22:2) The religious leaders also knew that they were doing something wrong. This comes out more in the next lesson about the trial.

Judas took them to the Mount of Olives. The text says, "Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him." (Luke 22:39) The "as usual" refers to, "Each day Jesus was teaching at the temple, and each evening he went out to spend the night on the hill called the Mount of Olives." (Luke 21:37)

7. It may help to remind them that a paraphrase stays close to the meaning of the text, but uses different words to express it.
8. The first part of the question, why did Judas do what he did, was discussed in the previous lesson and can be reviewed here. It is not necessary to read the LINK section about Judas at this time. The main focus is on Peter. They can give their opinions, but we do have these words in the text, "Satan has asked to sift you as wheat," or "Satan has been given permission to test you." (Luke 22: 31 NIV, GNB) Satan can only offer suggestions to Peter, but Peter was listening. We can say that he was listening to his fear. He did not intend to deny Jesus, but he was not being alert and praying "so that you will not fall into temptation." (Luke 22:46)
9. Again, we do not have the answer directly in the text. However, the text does tell us, "he went outside and wept bitterly." It is good for students to try to describe how he must have felt. For the second part of the question, they should go back to Luke 22:31-32 and also think about what they know about Jesus. Jesus told Peter "... when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers." Do you think Peter was thinking about this verse while he was weeping bitterly? No, this was the worst day of his life. He failed miserably in the one thing that mattered to him most, standing with His Lord.
10. Here is another way to ask the same question. "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?" Peter probably told them, although it is possible that John was looking on from a distance. (He gives extra details in his Gospel.) But for Peter, if this was the worst day of his life, why would he want others to know about it? He would probably not want anyone to know at this time, but later, when Jesus came back to life and asked for him by name, when he had experienced forgiveness and undeserved love, when his sorrow was changed to joy, he probably loved to tell this story. It was also part of his way of strengthening others.

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LINK I have also simplified this. I have written a simple explanation for the discrepancies between the Matthew account and Luke account. This is in a new footnote (see below.) Also note that this section can be skipped during the group time.

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.”<sup>2</sup> He went out and killed himself. We find out more in the book of Acts.<sup>3</sup>

Acts 1:18-19

With the money Judas got for his evil act, he bought a field;<sup>4</sup> where he fell to his death; he burst open and all his bowels spilled out.”<sup>5</sup> GNB

Peter explained to a group of about 120 believers that this fulfilled prophecies in the Old Testament.<sup>6</sup> 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 baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection.<sup>7</sup>

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

LIVE Discuss one of the questions or ask them to pick one to answer.

1. Add this at the beginning, “Judas did something evil.” The question that follows helps to define what is evil, and whether there is a universal moral law. (A helpful background paper for this is in the first workbook, beginning on page 33, “God's Laws.”)
2. The question does not need to be answered by a Christian. However, it is wonderful for Christian internationals to share their answer to this question.

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<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> “The Acts of the Apostles” is the continued story of the disciples after Jesus left the earth.

<sup>4</sup> The Jewish leaders could not take the money back, so they bought a field with the money – for a burial ground!

<sup>5</sup> 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.

<sup>6</sup> Psalm 69:25 and Psalm 109

<sup>7</sup> 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.

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**Be sure to read the “Consider This” section.**

Add the following underlined sentences as an introduction.

Every one of the disciples turned against Jesus that night. Judas betrayed him. Peter denied that he knew him. The other disciples ran away. Jesus knew they would do this, but he also knew they would come back – all except Judas.

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.” (This, of course, is from Luke 22:32.)

FINAL WORD: The Final Word is a summary of the application of this lesson. It could also be a lesson in itself. Note the new footnote. Also note how this connects to the background paper on forgiveness.

“If we say we have no sin, then we deceive ourselves,<sup>8</sup>  
and there is no truth in us.  
But if we confess<sup>9</sup> our sins to God,  
he will keep his promise and do what is right:  
he will forgive us our sins and purify<sup>10</sup> us from all our wrongdoing.”

1John 1:8-9 GNB

BACKGROUND PAPER: “God's Forgiveness”

There are many ways to explain the meaning of forgiveness, especially God's forgiveness. The background paper uses word pictures from scripture. This is enough for them to consider at this time, but there is more that you can say when they are ready. The verses and quote that follow are given to help the leader with these concepts.

Money Analogy:

- Luke 7: 41-43 “Two men owed money to a certain moneylender...” (See text.)
- Matthew 18: 21-35 “...the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts..... ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that

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<sup>8</sup> We hide the truth from ourselves.

<sup>9</sup> To confess is to admit.

<sup>10</sup> To purify is to take away sin, to clean our hearts.

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debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart."

On the need to forgive others:

- Luke 11:4 "Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us."
- Colossians 3:13 "Forgive as the Lord forgave you."

Courtroom Analogy:

One aspect is judgment.

- Romans 2:5 But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed.
- Revelation 20:12 "And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.....Nothing impure will ever enter [Heaven], nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life."

Another aspect is the punishment.

- Romans 6: 23 "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."
- Revelation 20:15 "If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire."

Another is atonement, at-one-ment, the bringing together of those who were once enemies. God has made a way to bring us back to Himself. This can be explained by talking about the sacrificial system, the Passover, the Day of Atonement (see below), and Jesus as the Passover lamb. Some of these ideas have been covered in previous lessons. Here are some other passages:

- Isaiah 53:6 "We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way, and the LORD has laid on him, the iniquity of us all.
- 2 Corinthians 5:21 "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God"

The NIV Dictionary has a helpful entry on atonement. It is quoted here from the electronic version by Zondervan Press. Again, this is offered mainly for the teacher's understanding.

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“In the ritual of the Day of Atonement (Lev 16:15-17, 20-22) the Lord wanted his people to know the significance of what had happened in secret when the high priest sprinkled the blood on the “atonement cover.” Therefore he commanded the ceremony of the live goat so that they might actually see their sins being laid on another and see their sins being borne away never to return again.

In Christian theology, atonement is the central doctrine of faith and can properly include all that Jesus accomplished for us on the cross. It was a vicarious (substitutionary) atonement. On the Day of Atonement, the goat that was substituted was in some sense not as valuable as a person, though the goat had never sinned; but God in his matchless grace provided a Substitute who was *infinitely* better than the sinner, absolutely sinless and holy, and dearer to the Father than all creation....

There are two opposite facts that the ingenuity of the theologians could not have reconciled without God's solution: First, that God is holy and he hates sin, and that by his holy law sin is a capital crime; and second, that “God is love” (1 John 4:8). So the problem was, “How can God be just and at the same time justify the sinner?” (cf. Rom 3:26). John 3:16 tells us that God so loved that he gave his Son. In the eternal counsels of the Trinity, Jesus offered himself to bear our sins (Rev 13:8). He voluntarily emptied himself of the divine trappings of omnipotence, omniscience, and glory (Phil 2:5-8), that he might be truly human. He perfectly fulfilled the law on our behalf (Matt 5:18) and then paid the penalty for our sins in his death for us on the cross. Our Lord's work of atonement looks in three directions: toward sin (1 Peter 1:18-19), toward us (Rom 5:6-11), and toward the Holy Father (1 John 2:1).

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Romans 3:22-26 This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished — he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

Hebrews 2:17 For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people.

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# The Arrest

**In the last lesson**, Jesus shared his last Passover meal with his disciples. He told them that he was giving his life for them.

**In this lesson**, Judas brings the temple guards to arrest Jesus. But before that, Jesus gives an astounding message to one of his best friends. How can it be true?

## Community Time



### Betrayal, Denial, and Desertion

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