

7th Grade New Testament (Gospels)**Lesson Plan:** Gethsemane and Arrest

Learning Goals: Through a deeper understanding of the setting of Jesus' prayer and arrest, students should grasp a fuller appreciation of the spiritual agony Jesus endured before heading to the cross.

Question: Have you ever felt abandoned? What was that like?

Prayer

Discuss Question on Board

Map of Jerusalem (7.5.9) - Keep out to look at location of Gethsemane

Read Matthew 26:36-56**Gethsemane**

- The name means "olive press" (oil press - see picture on back)
- Peter, James and John (where have we seen these three - Transfiguration)
 - Jesus invites them to pray (pray with me - they abandon Jesus), they too would be tempted;
 - they were close by (a stone's throw away) and probably heard what Jesus was praying (typical to pray out loud)
 - Jesus has poured himself into the disciples for years and at the moment that he needs them, they abandon him.
- We see clearly Jesus' agony regarding the cross
 - sweat *like* drops of blood (not sweating drops of blood)
- "Let this cup pass from me"
 - Fearing physical death?
 - Spiritual death
 - ▶ giving life as a ransom for many (Mark 10:45)
 - ▶ Being made sin, who knew no sin (1 Corinthians 5:21)
 - ▶ bearing our sins in his body on the cross (1 Peter 2:24)
 - ▶ suffering for our sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous (1 Peter 3:18)
 - ▶ becoming a curse for us (Galatians 3:13)
 - ▶ Feared the consequences of drinking the cup God had ordained for him (Mark 10:38)
- "Not my will, but thine be done"
 - victory was won right there
- Jesus cries out to "Abba" not so much as a petition but as an expression of pain.

Arrest

- Jesus goes out to meet them (no wimpy, passive messiah here)
- Doing it in the garden at night gave Jesus' opponents a way to arrest him quietly/privately/secretly, away from the crowds
- Betrayed with a kiss (usual way for disciple to greet teacher/Rabbi)
 - Especially bad - They had broken bread together
 - to share food was to enter into unique bond - it meant acceptance and even the responsibility to protect and defend (see Genesis 19)

- To betray someone you had not only eaten with, but accompanied, shared lodging, broken bread, shared his cup, and even eaten the Passover with him - was an unspeakably heinous act
- That Jesus served him at the last supper, knowing that Judas was going to betray him is an amazing act of forgiveness and grace (even before he did anything)
- Motivation - we really don't know
- Disciples' reaction to the guards
 - Most ran/disappeared
 - Peter drew his sword and cut off the ear of the high priest's servant (Malchus in John's Gospel)
 - Peter is rebuked (live by the sword, die by the sword)
- Jesus is not afraid because "his hour had come"
 - Kairos time, not Chronos time
 - Everything had been building up to this moment
- Fulfillment of prophecy in Genesis 3:14-15
 - Jesus is bruised as he crushes the head of the serpent once and for all

Summary - we can see clearly the depth of human sin

- Disciples are weak - can't watch and pray with Jesus
 - Disciples flee like cowards
 - Judas' betrayal
 - The Jewish Religious leaders - fear, feeling threatened, following the letter of the law, but missing the spirit, etc.
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Lesson Summary/Review:

Students should review and highlight the following vocabulary terms and concepts from this lesson in their notes:

- Judas Iscariot
- Gethsemane