

LESSON PLAN

TWO DISCIPLES FAIL JESUS

Matthew 26:14-16, 36-75; John 18:1-27

Lesson Memory Verse: 1 Cor 10:12 - "Wherefore let him that thinks he stands take heed lest he fall."

Lesson Aim: Teach the children to receive Jesus Christ as Savior and depend on Him to be strong.

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

KEY (for Attention): How many of you have had a baby born into your family recently? A new-born baby is quite helpless. When a person becomes a Christian, he or she is newly born into God's family. Like a new-born baby in your family is weak, so a new-born person in God's family is weak. He needs to learn how to become a strong Christian. He or she is weak in understanding the Bible, in knowing how to pray and in resisting temptations.

So how does a baby in your family get strong enough to stand, then walk and finally run? (Look for these answers: he or she must **eat, exercise and sleep.**) A new Christian needs to **read and memorize the Bible** like he is eating food. He or she needs to exercise by **obeying what God says** in the Bible. The new-born Christian rests like a baby sleeps when he **trusts God to take care of him**. If a new Christian does these three things faithfully, he or she will grow up and become a strong Christian.

HE (for Authority): Our memory verse gives us a warning. It tells us that we are probably not as strong in our Christian faith as we may think. We should not boast about our strength to stand against temptations. If we trust in our strength, we are sure to fall. We need to trust in the Lord to make us strong. He will make us strong as we obey what He says in the Bible.

SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scripture for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word. In today's lesson we are going to hear about two of Jesus' disciples that failed Him. One failed Jesus because he was not born again. The other one failed Jesus because he was not as strong as he thought he was. Today's Bible story will show you how to be strong enough to defeat Satan every day of your life.

I. Judas Failed the Lord

A. How Judas Failed the Lord

1. Judas made an agreement with the chief priests to betray Jesus for thirty pieces of silver (Mt 26:14-16). This was the price of an injured slave (Ex 21:32). Judas sold Jesus, Who was the most important Person on this earth, for the small price of a slave.

WE: We should value Jesus so highly that we would die for Him. Is He that valuable to you?

2. Judas pretended he was one of Jesus' faithful friends by staying with the disciples and he even pretended he did not know he would betray Jesus (Mt 26:21-25). Judas was bad because he did not let Jesus change his life.

WE: Do we ever pretend to love Jesus when we are with Christians, but are ashamed of Him when we are with our unsaved friends?

3. Judas betrayed Jesus with a kiss. He mocked Jesus by his kiss. A kiss should be a sign of love, but Judas made it a sign of betrayal. He kissed Jesus so that the soldiers would be sure that they captured the right person (Mt 26:47-50). Judas had led the soldiers to the garden where Jesus was praying and they brought Him to His enemies. They wrongfully condemned Him and had Him crucified. Some children are like Judas. They use the name of Jesus in prayer and then they use the same name in swearing. You may not know it, but saying "Gee" or "Geez" are shortened words for Jesus. Please do not use those words. We should only use Jesus' name with respect and worship.

WE: We must not use Jesus' name carelessly or in swearing. Use it in prayer; use it in telling others what He has done for you; use it in telling Him how much you love Him.

4. Judas went and hung himself (Mt 27:3-5). He should have repented and asked God for mercy, but instead he killed himself. Godly sorrow for our sins will lead us to salvation, but worldly sorrow will lead us to an early death (2 Cor 7:10).

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WE: When we sin, we need to repent and tell God how sorry we are for our sin. He is merciful and will forgive our sins and will cleanse us from all the wrong things that we have done. (1 Jn 1:9).

B. Why Judas Failed the Lord

Judas failed the Lord because he was never born again. He could not be strong because he had never received Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. Without Jesus every man is weak, even the ones that look strong. Satan can take control of their lives quite easily (2 Tim 2:26). You must receive Jesus Christ to be strong. Only the sons of God can overcome Satan (2 John 5:4-5).

II. Peter Failed the Lord

A. How Peter Failed the Lord

1. Peter bragged that he would never deny the Lord, even after the Lord told him that he would (Mt 26:31-35). Instead of listening to the Lord, Peter thought he knew more than the Lord. Our memory verse reminds us to be careful when we think that we will not deny the Lord (1 Cor 10:12).

WE: We must not boast in our strength to be true to Jesus. When we think we are strong, we will discover how weak we really are. Do we think we are stronger than Satan? No, never. We must trust in Jesus to be strong enough to defeat Satan's temptations.

2. Peter slept when he should have been praying (Mt 26:36-46). The Lord had told him to watch and pray, but Peter did not think there was any danger. He disobeyed the Lord and was not ready for Satan's attack. He depended on his own power instead of God's.

WE: Do we pray for God to give us His power to fight against Satan? We need to depend on Jesus.

3. Peter depended on his sword and he used it without permission from the Lord (Jn 18:10-11). He cut off Malchus' ear and had it not been for Jesus' rebuke and healing of the ear, he probably would have done more damage and even lost his own life. There was far more power available than Peter's puny sword to take care of Jesus' enemies. There were twelve legions of angels (72,000) ready to rescue Jesus if Jesus had called for them to come. Peter failed to get his orders from the Lord.

WE: Do we ever do something without asking the Lord? We need to pray to Him for everything we do.

4. Peter fled from the Lord and followed afar off (Mt 26:56-58). He was afraid to be close to the Lord when it looked like Jesus was going to fail.

WE: We need to stick close to Jesus and stand up for Him when sinners mock and laugh at Him.

5. Peter denied the Lord three times (Mt 26:69-75). When the enemies of Jesus were telling Peter that they were sure he was a follower of Jesus, he denied it. He did not want anyone to know he was a follower of Jesus. He was ashamed of Jesus. He even cursed and swore to make Jesus' enemies believe he was not one of His followers.

WE: What will we do when someone points a finger at us and says, "You are a Christian!" and then gets others to laugh at us? We need to pray to Jesus to give us the strength to be true to Him

B. Why Peter Failed the Lord

He failed because he did not trust the Lord for power. He trusted himself instead of the Lord. Read John 15:5; Phil 4:13; Zech 4:6. He failed to practice the three laws of growth that we talked about at the beginning of the lesson. That is why he was not strong. (Review the three laws if you have time.)

BE (for Action): What must you do to be strong? (Let pupils answer.) First, you must be born again by receiving Jesus Christ as your Savior. Second, you must depend on the Lord for His power all of the time. Are you strong enough right now to fight against Satan? You can be as strong as David when he fought against Goliath. He was strong because he trusted in the Lord for salvation and strength. Have the children bow their heads and give them an invitation for salvation first. Then ask those who are Christians to raise their hands if they will try to practice the three laws of spiritual growth and power. They will have spiritual power over Satan if they practice these spiritual laws. Close with prayer asking Jesus for His strength.