

Jesus on trial (part one)

**Bible verses:**

Luke 22:47-53, 66-71

Jesus is arrested

**Aim:**

To learn that God chooses gentleness over violence

**Today's fruit:**

Gentleness



In this week's session we discover what happened when Jesus was arrested in the garden of Gethsemane.

The religious leaders were increasingly angry with Jesus teaching the people and declaring that he was Israel's Messiah and the Son of God. Jesus knew that the time was drawing near for the authorities to take him away. We'll see how Jesus responded to a moment of violence and we'll take a moment to learn from Jesus' example.

In a desperate situation, Jesus showed gentleness, even to people who did not believe in him and chose to be his enemies.

Each child will need:

- A range of art materials and paper to make their own memory verse poster – see Action It
- A memory verse from the *Memory verse* handout – optional
- *Explore It ideas* handout

You will need:

- A Jenga (or tumbling towers) game
- Today's fruit sign: *Gentleness*
- To display a prayer on a flip chart – see Pray It

**Start it**

Today's session is all about gentleness, so the children are going to play a game of Jenga. Set up the tower and see how gentle the children can be as they remove each brick.

Sing it

Display the *Gentleness* sign.

Discuss

Discuss the times when they may get frustrated with people or situations. How does it make them feel? How do they want to react?

Say:

There are times when things happen that really frustrate us and may even make us feel angry. Our song for today reminds us to be gentle with others, even when we're frustrated or annoyed.

Song

'The gentleness song' by Cheeky Pandas (2:48)



Tell it

Say:

As we get closer to Easter, we will be looking at the events leading up to the death and resurrection of Jesus. This week we join the story at the point where Jesus was praying in the garden of Gethsemane with his disciples. Jesus knew that he was close to being arrested and that one of his disciples would betray him. We find the story in the book of Luke.

Read:

'While Jesus was speaking, a crowd came up. One of the 12 apostles was leading them. He was Judas. He came close to Jesus so that he could kiss him.'

'But Jesus said to him, "Judas, are you using the kiss to give the Son of Man to his enemies?"'

(Luke 22:47-48 ICB)

Ask:

- Why do you think the people in charge were so against Jesus?
- Why did Judas kiss Jesus?

Say:

Judas gave Jesus a gentle kiss. This action was normally used to show love and respect, but Judas used it to betray Jesus. Another disciple stands out in this story. During the clip we watched in our last session there was a moment when Peter defended Jesus at the time of his arrest.

Ask:

What did Peter do to one of the men trying to arrest Jesus?

Say:

Today we are going to find out more about the moment Peter lost his temper and hurt one of the men. We are also going to see how Jesus responded with gentleness. Let's carry on with the story to find out what happened.

Read:

'The followers of Jesus were standing there too. They saw what was happening. They said to Jesus, "Lord, should we use our swords?" And one of them did use his sword. He cut off the right ear of the servant of the high priest.

'Jesus said, "Stop!" Then he touched the servant's ear and healed him.'

(Luke 22:49-51 *ICB*)

Say:

The man who had his ear cut off was part of a group trying to arrest Jesus and have him killed. Instead of responding in anger, Jesus chose to heal the man.

Ask:

- Why do you think Jesus chose to heal the servant of the High Priest?
- The disciples were ready to use their swords, but why do you think Jesus stopped them when his own life was in danger?
- How easy do you find it to be gentle, especially when you are stressed or angry?
- What can we learn from Jesus and the way he treated those who were unkind to him?

Say:

Jesus pointed out to the religious leaders that the timing of his arrest was a little suspicious.

Read:

'Those who came to arrest Jesus were the leading priests, the soldiers who guarded the Temple, and the older Jewish leaders. Jesus said to them, "Why did you come out here with swords and sticks? Do you think I am a criminal? I was with you every day in the Temple. Why didn't you try to arrest me there? But this is your time - the time when darkness rules.'"

(Luke 22:52-53 *ICB*)

Say:

The religious leaders had lots of opportunities to arrest Jesus in a non-violent way, but they chose to bring soldiers to take him away at night.

Ask:

- How do you think Jesus managed to stay so calm?
- What can we learn from this, that might help us in our own lives?

Say:

In the morning, they took Jesus away to be questioned.

Read:

'When day came, the older leaders of the people, the leading priests, and the teachers of the law came together. They led Jesus away to their highest court. They said, "If you are the Christ, then tell us that you are!"

'Jesus said to them, "If I tell you I am the Christ, you will not believe me. And if I ask you, you will not answer. But beginning now, the Son of Man will sit at the right hand of the powerful God."

'They all said, "Then are you the Son of God?"

'Jesus said to them, "Yes, you are right when you say that I am."

'They said, "Why do we need witnesses now? We ourselves heard him say this!"'

(Luke 22:66-71 *ICB*)

Say:

The religious leaders were angry that Jesus said he was the Son of God. When he refused to deny it, they took him away to be questioned by Pilate, the Roman governor.

Ask:

What questions do you have about this part of the story of Jesus?

Action it

Say:

Jesus knew that his Heavenly Father would be with him no matter what happened. He was calm because he knew that God was with him. He was gentle because he had God's strength and power on his side.

Ask:

Why did God's power enable Jesus to show gentleness?

Say:

Our memory verse for this month reminds us that we can rely on God's strength in any situation. Let's share it together.

Memory verse

'The Lord is my strength and shield.

I trust him, and he helps me.

I am very happy.

And I praise him with my song.'

(Psalm 28:7 *ICB*)

Explain that the children are going to create their own version of the memory verse. Supply the children with a range of crafts and art materials to create a picture that helps them to remember the main message of the verse. Some children may wish for a printout of the memory verse, from the Memory verses handout to help them. The children can share their creations with each other and discuss the artistic choices they have made.

Pray it

Say:

To bring our session to a close, we are going to think about how the Holy Spirit can grow the fruit of gentleness in our lives.

Watch the clip together and discuss what it means to show gentleness to others.

Video

God's story: fruit: gentleness by Crossroads Kids' Club (2:39)

Write the following prayer on the flip chart and ask the children to think about how they would complete it.

Dear Jesus,

I want to be gentle with others, just like you. Help me to be gentle when

Amen.

Ask the children to share their gentleness prayers and then bring the session to a close in prayer.

Explore it

Remember to send home the *Explore It ideas* for children and families.



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Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



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Aim:

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Today's fruit:

Gentleness



Pray

Write your own gentleness prayer and read it each day when you wake up in the morning.



Share

This week we discovered more about gentleness. Watch the clip with the people at home and discuss how you could be gentle with each other.

God's story: **fruit:** *gentleness* by Crossroads Kids' Club



Song for the week

'The gentleness song' by Cheeky Pandas



Memory verse

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(Psalm 28:7 ICB)

**LIVING
OUT FAITH**

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I trust him, and he helps me.
I am very happy.
And I praise him with my song.'**
(Psalm 28:7 *ICB*)



Start it

The religious leaders were angry with Jesus because he told the people he was the Son of God. They plotted to have him arrested. Peter was very angry and hurt one of the people who came to arrest Jesus. Instead of getting angry as well, Jesus showed gentleness and healed the man.



Tell it

Share a child-friendly version of Luke 22:47-53 or watch the following clip.

The servant's ear healed by Jesus 101 (1:30)

Sit in a circle and ask the group to share together:

- Peter found it difficult not to get angry about things. Do you ever feel like that? Explain what it feels like.
- What did Peter do to the servant of the High Priest?

- What did Jesus do?
- What important lesson did Peter learn on that day?
- What can we learn from Jesus' example of gentleness in today's story?



Sing It

'Shine! (from the inside out)' by Nick Jackson uploaded by Tangy Crayfish (2:20)

'Holy Spirit' for children by Ayi and her friends. Sing only the chorus (0:44-1:15)



Action it

Games and activities to reinforce the Bible passage:

- Show everyone your best angry face and slowly change it into a face full of gentleness.
- In pairs or small groups, act out the moment when Peter used his sword and Jesus healed the servant of the High Priest.
- Think of three ways you can be gentle instead of showing anger to others.
- See if you can finish this prayer. 'Dear Jesus, help me to be gentle when _____.'