

# 46. Sacrifice



## BIBLE STORY / REFERENCE

Matthew 26:17-30, 47-56,  
John 10:17-18

Jesus and his disciples eat the Last Supper together and then Jesus is arrested



## AIMS

To help the children understand the idea of sacrifice and that Jesus chose to give his life so that people could be forgiven.

To provide space for them to consider their response to that.

Jesus shared the Last Supper with his friends and spoke of his body being broken and his blood being poured out for them. Then he was arrested. None of this happened by accident – it was all part of God's rescue plan.



## PREP FOR LEADERS

Read through the Bible passages for this session and reflect:

- Where do these Bible passages show us that Jesus chose to sacrifice himself for us?
- What is your response to his sacrifice?

Take some time to pray for your group.



## GAMES / INTRO ACTIVITIES

Choose one or more of the following activities to introduce today's theme:

### ▶ Stuck In The Mud

For this game, you will need a large space for the children to run about. Depending on the size of your group, choose one or two children to be the chasers – they will try to catch the other children. If a child is caught, they have to stand with their arms out, and they are unable to move until one of the other children runs around them in a circle, going under both arms, to set them free.

This game was included in Session 34 of One Big Story,

but you could draw out the point of it further in this session by pointing out that sometimes, as the children attempted to free someone else, they were increasing the risk of being caught themselves. You could ask if any of them were intentionally taking that risk/ sacrificing themselves to help someone else, and why they made that choice.

### ▶ Elephant Ball

*You will need: a soft ball*

Get the children to stand in a circle with their legs apart and their feet touching the feet of the people beside them in the circle. Get them to roll the ball about inside the circle. The aim is to roll the ball through someone else's legs but to prevent it from going through their own legs. If the ball goes through someone's legs, that person has to do a forfeit, e.g.

*(continued overleaf)*

ten star jumps, run round the circle three times... They have to complete the forfeit to rejoin the game.

After you have played for a bit, a leader should begin offering to do the forfeit for them. Discuss how it felt when someone offered to do the forfeit and how they felt about accepting or rejecting the offer.

### ► Would you rather...?

Ask the children to make choices about what they would rather give up.

**Would you rather give up chocolate or chips?**

**Would you rather give up books or computer games?**

**Would you rather give up your favourite toy or your favourite trainers?**

**Would you rather give up your bed or your bike?**

**Would you rather give up your favourite snack or your favourite sport?**

**Would you rather give up your pet or your pocket money?**

Discuss why some things might be particularly hard to give up.

Ask if they can think of an example of a situation where they might choose to give up something that was really important to them, e.g. they may be willing to give up their favourite snack if it was something their brother or sister was allergic to, or to give up their pet if one of their family was allergic to it, or they may be willing to give money to help a person or a cause that they really cared about.

**Giving up something that is important to us can be really difficult, but sometimes we are willing to do it if it is going to help someone we care about.**

### ► Video Clip

*You will need: equipment to play video*

You could play a clip from a popular film to introduce the theme of sacrifice. Some examples available online are this video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UXuoOTjg35k> which is a compilation of clips from Toy Story 3, Frozen and The Lego Movie, or this one: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tXj61BxEy2M> which comes from Inside Out.

Show the clip and talk with the children about who is making a sacrifice and why.



### ► Intro/ Recap

*You will need: pictures on PowerPoint, or printed out (as detailed below)*

**Last week we talked about how Jesus arrived in Jerusalem on Palm Sunday and the people worshipped him and welcomed him as king. It was a time of great joy and celebration.**

**But do you remember what Jesus told his disciples was going to happen to him in Jerusalem? He said he was going to be killed but that on the third day he would rise from the dead.**

**Today we are going to jump ahead a few days to the Thursday of that week, which was the first day of the Passover celebration.**

If you have children who attended the group last year, you could ask if any of them remember what people celebrate at Passover.

As you provide the brief explanation below, you might want to use images from Free

Bible Images to illustrate it, such as slides 1, 4 and 8 from this presentation:

<http://freebibleimages.org/illustrations/sb-passover/>

**1. Back in the Old Testament, we read about a time when God's people were slaves in Egypt and God told Moses to lead them to freedom. Pharaoh wouldn't let the people go and there were several plagues that God sent on the Egyptians, ending with the last plague when the firstborn son in every Egyptian family was killed.**

**4. The Israelites were given instructions to take the blood from a lamb and paint it round the doorframe of their house. That would be a sign to God to pass over that house so that no-one would die there.**

**8. After this the Israelites were finally free to leave Egypt after being slaves there for many years, so it was something they celebrated every year to remember how God had helped them.**

### ► The Last Supper

*You will need: pictures on PowerPoint, or printed out (as detailed below)*

You could use pictures from Free Bible Images, either printed out or displayed on PowerPoint, to illustrate the story. The suggested images are drawn from two sets on the website. The first four images (labelled 1,4,7 and 9 below) refer to the corresponding images at this link:

<http://freebibleimages.org/photos/last-supper/>

and the other images (labelled 1, 4, 12, 17 and 20) refer to the corresponding images at this link: <http://freebibleimages.org/photos/jesus-gethsemane/>

**On the Thursday of the week when Jesus entered Jerusalem, he and his friends got together to celebrate the Passover. The**

disciples got a room for them to use and got everything ready. Then they all came in and sat round the table together and ate the meal.

Every year at Passover they would eat lamb to remember the lamb that had to be killed for the blood to be put round the doorframe at the first Passover.

1. Usually it was a happy time of celebration, but this time while they were sitting round the table, Jesus said something that disturbed his disciples. He said, "Tonight, one of you is going to betray me."

Jesus knew that he had enemies - people who hated him, and the things he was teaching, and wanted to get rid of him - and he was saying that one of his own disciples was going to hand him over to his enemies.

4. The disciples looked round at one another and wondered who it could be.

7. A little bit later as they were eating the meal, Jesus took some bread and he broke it up and passed it round for his disciples to eat. He said, "Take this bread and eat it. This is my body which is given for you." He was pointing ahead to what was about to happen. I don't think the disciples completely understood what Jesus was talking about, but they passed the plate round and each of them took the bread and ate it.

9. Then Jesus took some wine and he poured it out and said to them, "Take this wine and drink it. This is my blood which will be poured out as a sacrifice to forgive the sins of many people."

Again, he was talking about what was going to happen next. He knew that he was going to die very soon, but he knew it was part of God's plan.

He said that his death was going to be a sacrifice to forgive the sins of many people.

If you think back to the first Passover, the Israelites had to choose a lamb. It had to be a good lamb that had nothing wrong with it, and the lamb had to be killed so that its blood could be put on the doorframe of the house. That was what saved the Israelites from being killed.

Jesus was saying that he was like the lamb. Many times in the Bible it talks about Jesus as the Lamb of God. The Bible says that he was perfect, that he never sinned, and Christians believe that when Jesus died it was making a way for us to be saved from punishment for the things we have done wrong. It provided a way for us to be forgiven so that we can be right with God. Just like the people were saved at the first Passover by putting their faith in God and following his instructions, Christians believe that people can be saved today by putting their faith in Jesus.

That's why Jesus' death and the things we think about at Easter are so important to Christians.

As they finished up the meal, one of the disciples left. It was Judas Iscariot. He was the one who was going to betray Jesus. He had already arranged with Jesus' enemies that they would give him money if he led them to Jesus at a time when he wasn't surrounded by a crowd. Judas saw his chance and he snuck away to do that.

1. Jesus and the rest of the disciples went out to a garden once they had finished up.

4. Jesus told the disciples to pray while he went off himself and prayed to God.

12. After a while Judas arrived with some men armed with

swords and clubs and they arrested Jesus.

17. At first one of the disciples tried to fight back, but Jesus told them to put their swords away. He said, "This has to happen to fulfil the words of the prophets."

20. Jesus allowed the men to take him away, and the disciples ran away because they were scared.



## REFLECT & RESPOND

### ► Discussion

The part of the story we're looking at today is a difficult one. It's not nice to think about Jesus saying he is going to die, or being betrayed by one of his closest friends, or being arrested, but what things from the story show us that it was not just an accident but that it was part of God's plan?

If you used the "Would you rather...?" intro activity you could refer back to that. **We talked about how hard it would be to give up certain things, but Jesus gave up something even greater – he gave up his life.**

**The Bible is clear that it is something Jesus chose to do because it was part of God's plan.** Read John 10:17-18:

"The Father loves me because I am willing to give up my life, in order that I may receive it back again. No one takes my life away from me. I give it up of my own free will. I have the right to give it up, and I have the right to take it back. This is what my Father has commanded me to do." (GNT)

**Why do you think Jesus made that choice?**

Allow the children to give some

answers, drawing out the points that it was out of obedience to God the Father, and because of his love for people, to make a way for people to be forgiven and to know God.

### ▶ **Reflection/ Prayer**

*You will need: large sheet(s) of paper, pens, printout(s) of John 10:17-18 (from additional document: John 10), glue/ tape, equipment to play music*

Lay out a large sheet of paper with the words from John 10:17-18 stuck in the middle of it. If you have a larger group, you may want to divide the children into groups and have a sheet for each group to use.

Play some music, e.g. Once Again by Matt Redman (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9MwxC9AvwQc>) or You Chose The Cross by Martyn Layzell (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vzMubghVEMO>) and as you do, encourage the children to write or draw their responses to Jesus' sacrifice on the paper around the Bible verses. It could be a prayer, a question, a drawing that illustrates something they've learned or anything else they like.

Give them a couple of minutes to do this and then lead them in prayer, thanking Jesus for his sacrifice.



## **ADDITIONAL IDEAS**

### ▶ **Lumo Project Videos**

*You will need: equipment to play video*

These two videos could be used to tell or recap the story for this session:

The Last Supper - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3tPMMHjtikU&list=PLcJVluh18isJJgv2R7PgPTFK5hpZSwckj&index=45>

This clip also includes Jesus predicting Peter's denial – stop the clip at 2.43 if you want to omit this section

Jesus praying in the Garden of Gethsemane and his arrest - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EPX7ujjXASo&list=PLcJVluh18isJJgv2R7PgPTFK5hpZSwckj&index=46>

### ▶ **God's Story Video**

*You will need: equipment to play video*

This video tells the story of the Last Supper, focusing on some details not mentioned elsewhere in this session such as Jesus washing the disciples' feet and some of what he taught his disciples at that point. It would not replace the teaching for this session, but could be used to complement it if you have time to go into more detail. You can find it here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wYAVu4MR7rc>

### ▶ **Easter Cross Craft**

*You will need: cross outlines and pictures printed from <https://craftingthewordofgod.com/2016/03/25/easter-picture-cross/> coloured pens or pencils, glue sticks, scissors*

This is a craft that the children could make over Sessions 45-48 as they explore the Easter Story. Each week they can colour the corresponding picture(s) to add to their cross. By the end of the four weeks they will have an Easter decoration to take home which will remind them of the story. For this session, they should add picture E.