



Grace Church Elementary

Camp Grace

LESSON 67

1st and 2nd Grade

Principle: Submission to God's will.

Bible Character(s): Jesus and Judas

Scripture Reference: Matthew 26:36-56



PERSONAL PREPARATION: Before this weekend, read through Matthew 26:36-56.

Jesus was about to begin the final stages of fulfilling His purpose on earth as the sacrifice for the sins of the world. He was overwhelmed with sorrow and distress as He prepared Himself to face the cross. The ultimate temptation was before Him, to give up His mission, but Jesus willingly chose to drink from this cup of suffering in order to obey God's will. As you read through the text, notice each time that Jesus makes a choice to submit to God's will. Jesus knew who was in charge and submitted willingly, despite the agony of what He was about to endure. Do you willingly submit to God's will each day? Do you think about God's sovereignty as you make daily choices to submit to His will? If we know and believe we are submitting to a God who is our true authority, and who is sovereign and in control of everything, how much easier will it be for us to submit? Spend some time in prayer, asking God to reveal how you do not submit to His will. Ask God for strength and courage to choose His will over your own.

PLUG IN TIME - 5-10 minutes as the kids begin to arrive

Arrive early to check the supplies in the bin and review the lesson. Write today's principle on the whiteboard. Remember to greet all campers upon arrival; meet their parents; welcome and introduce all visitors. Create a welcoming cabin for all campers!

“Jesus Prays” Coloring Sheet



BIG GROUP TIME - 35-40 minutes

As you line up, remind campers we are going to have fun as an entire Camp Grace group! We are going to live out GRACE by **Glorifying God** through worship, **Respecting All leaders**, and **Accepting Responsibility** to listen with attentive ears, minds, and hearts – fully **Celebrating Christ** with passion! We should **Encourage Others** to do the same, by not distracting them from their worship of God.

The Bridge to Small Group

Today we will begin by setting the stage for Jesus' arrest and betrayal. We will focus on the ways that Jesus submitted to God's authority, even though it was hard. We will look at what submission looks like for us, as well.

Small Group Time - 25-30 minutes

Getting Started

If your cabin did well in Big Group, acknowledge it. If not, take a couple of minutes to talk about how they can do better next time.

What did you learn in Big Group? What were Quarter Back and Balla Rena holding onto? (Their dream, the plan they had made for their life.) **What did Dr. Smith teach everyone?** (He wants God's plan for his life more than he wants his own; God can do more with our lives than we can even imagine.)

What did we learn about last week? (Leadership is shown through serving.) **How did we see Jesus serve?** (Jesus served His disciples by washing their feet. He did not have to wash their feet; it was normally the job of a household servant to do.) **Why did Jesus wash His disciples' feet?** (Jesus chose to wash their feet because He was giving them an example of how to be a leader through serving.) **Jesus humbled Himself, putting His disciples above Himself by choosing to wash their feet. How does God want us to serve?** (God calls us to love and serve others by putting others above ourselves, just as Jesus did with His disciples.)

At the time when Jesus washed His disciples' feet, they were beginning to prepare for Passover. Does anyone remember what Passover is? (Allow responses.) Passover is a celebration of God delivering the Israelites from Egypt. Jesus knew that Passover was the time when God had planned for Him to be crucified. He also knew that Judas, one of His disciples, would betray Him by giving Him over to be arrested. How would you feel if one of your friends betrayed you? (Allow responses.)

Today we will read the Bible in Matthew 26 to see what God had planned for Jesus.

Matthew 26:36-39 [NLT]

³⁶ Then Jesus went with them to the olive grove called Gethsemane, and he said, "Sit here while I go over there to pray."³⁷ He took Peter and Zebedee's two sons, James and John, and he became anguished and distressed. ³⁸ He told them, "My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me."

³⁹ He went on a little farther and bowed with his face to the ground, praying, "My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine."

Jesus was deeply troubled; He knew God's plan was for Him to experience great suffering. He did not want to suffer this way. How would you feel if you knew God's plan was for you to experience suffering? (Allow responses.) Would you obey what God wanted? (Allow responses.)

Jesus asked God to find another way, yet He ended His prayer with, “I want your will to be done, not mine.” Jesus knew that God’s plan was the best. He was willing to go through unbelievable suffering so that God’s plan would be accomplished. He submitted to God’s will.

Submission Defined



The purpose of this activity is to define submission.

Supplies:

Worksheet – definition side (1 per camper)

Strip with “SUB” and “MISSION” cutouts (1 strip per camper)

Glue sticks

Have campers cut the strip so they have a separate “SUB” and “MISSION.” Define “sub” and “mission” for the campers, and as you provide the definitions, have the campers paste the word cutouts on the paper with the definition.

Sub: under or below.

Mission: a task that one is sent to do.

Submission: to willingly come under instruction that one is given.

Tie It Together

 If submission means to willingly come under instruction that one is given, submission is related to obedience. If you are given instruction and submit to it, you obey. If you are given instruction and do not submit to it, you are disobeying. Submission also means to own the mission of another. When you submit, you willingly take on that mission.

Do you think it is always easy to submit? (Allow responses.) Submission is not always easy. Sometimes we are asked to do something we do not want to do. Jesus, who was perfect and without sin, prayed and asked God for any other way. But He chose to follow God’s will, not His own. If He had not submitted to God’s will and took on God’s mission to die on the cross for our sins, there would be no hope for any of us to be right with God. God’s will is perfect. Jesus knew that submitting to God’s will was more important and better than following His own plan.

Let’s continue reading the Bible to see what happened next and how Jesus responded.

Matthew 26:45-50

⁴⁵ Then he came to the disciples and said, “Go ahead and sleep. Have your rest. But look—the time has come. The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴⁶ Up, let’s be going. Look, my betrayer is here!”

⁴⁷ And even as Jesus said this, Judas, one of the twelve disciples, arrived with a crowd of men armed with swords and clubs. They had been sent by the leading priests and elders of the people. ⁴⁸ The traitor, Judas, had given them a prearranged signal: “You will know which one to arrest when I greet

him with a kiss.”⁴⁹ So Judas came straight to Jesus. “Greetings, Rabbi!” he exclaimed and gave him the kiss.

⁵⁰ Jesus said, “My friend, go ahead and do what you have come for.” Then the others grabbed Jesus and arrested him.

Jesus knew exactly what was happening. He knew that Judas would betray Him. This was all part of God’s plan. Jesus did not run away, but instead submitted to God’s will and plan for His life. He made a choice to allow Judas to betray Him.

Act It Out



The purpose is for the campers to gain a better understanding of God’s sovereignty and Jesus’ submission.

Supplies:

Plastic sword (1 per bin)

Passage – Matthew 26:51–56 (below)

Characters: Jesus, man with the sword, high priest’s slave, crowd of men arresting Jesus

Ask for volunteers to act out the passage below.

Matthew 26:51–56

⁵¹ *With that, one of Jesus’ companions reached for his sword, drew it out and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear.*

⁵² *“Put your sword back in its place,” Jesus said to him, “for all who draw the sword will die by the sword.”⁵³ Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels?⁵⁴ But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?”*

⁵⁵ *In that hour Jesus said to the crowd, “Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? Every day I sat in the temple courts teaching, and you did not arrest me.*

⁵⁶ *But this has all taken place that the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled.” Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.*

Tie It Together

How did Jesus respond to the men arresting Him? (Allow responses) He chose not to fight the men who came to arrest Him. Jesus could have defeated these men. In verse 53, He says that He could send for thousands of angels to protect Him. Jesus knew that being arrested was part of God’s plan. He chose to submit to God’s plan and allow Himself to be arrested. Jesus told the people arresting Him that God is in control of this situation. The only reason they could arrest Him was because it was a part of God’s plan, and He was submitting to God’s plan.

Jesus Submits



The purpose of this activity is to identify how Jesus submitted to God's plan.

Supplies:

Passage - Matthew 26:51-56 (above)

Whiteboard

Recap the verses with your campers and talk about the four ways Jesus submits to God's plan. List the four ways on your whiteboard. (The four ways were: not running away as Judas approached; allowing Judas to kiss him; not defeating the men who came to arrest Him; allowing Himself to be arrested.)

Tie It Together

There are four times in this passage that Jesus could have chosen to do something other than God's plan. He could have chosen to do what He wanted so that He would not experience the suffering that came with God's plan for Him. But Jesus knew that God's plan was the best; He knew that God was in control of everything. He trusted God and submitted to His plan. Do you think it was easy for Jesus to submit to God's plan? (Allow responses.) How easy or difficult is it for you to submit to God's plan? Why or why not? (Allow responses.)

Rebellion or Submission Game



The purpose of this activity is to review examples in the campers' lives and decide if they are in full submission or rebellion.

Supplies:

Set of rebellion/submission pages (1 set per bin)

Set of rebellion/submission cards (1 set per bin)

Lay the "Submission" and "Rebellion" pages on the table, and put all of the submission and rebellion example cards in a pile. Pull cards out randomly, read them, and then hand them to the campers to put on either the "Submission" or "Rebellion" page.

Tie It Together

We have a choice to submit to and obey God's plan, or disobey God's plan and follow our own will. Jesus saw the big picture of what God had for Him. He knew that God's plan was the only way we could all be saved. He chose to obey God's plan for His life so that we could be saved from our sin. It is easy for us to forget that God's plan was the only way we could be saved from our sin. It is also easy for us to forget that God's way is the best way. Sometimes we do not believe this because we want things our way. We need to remember that submitting to God's plan is the best thing, even when it is hard. God is sovereign and in control, and He only wants what is best for us.

Prayer Time

Spend a few minutes in prayer to close small group time. Thank Jesus for submitting to God's plan so that we could all be saved from our sin and made right with God. Ask God for help to submit to His plan for our lives, even when it is hard.



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