

THE PLOT TO KILL JESUS

THE LIFE OF CHRIST WITH SAINT LUKE



TRAPS ARE SET BY THE PHARISEES & SADDUCEES

Luke 20:20-40

The Pharisees and Sadducees were two groups of Jews. They had some differing beliefs, but they both agreed that Jesus needed to die. After all, they saw Him as a direct threat to the order and stability of the Temple. Additionally, there was a risk of rebellion amongst the Jews if they followed Jesus instead of their leadership. Rome would intervene if peace was not maintained amongst them and any freedom the Jewish leadership enjoyed would vanish. The



Sadducee:
only used the Torah, did *not* believe in angels or demons, & did *not* believe in life after death



Pharisee:
used both the Torah & oral laws, believed in angels, demons, and life after death



Passover:
in Greek is "Pascha"

1

GOAL

What were the events leading up to Jesus' arrest?

2

AT CHURCH

Holy Week Services

3

AT HOME

Reading the Bible to our kids: making connections between the OT & NT

Pharisees and Sadducees needed to proactively stop all of this from happening! They felt that Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead (after being in the tomb for 4 days), His triumphal entry into Jerusalem, and then the audacity He displayed as He cleansed the Temple of the (scamming) money changers and merchants was just too much. It was the last straw in their eyes! Jesus had to go!

The Pharisees devised a plan to try and trap Jesus by asking Him a trick question. “Is it lawful for us to pay taxes to Caesar or not?”

When they asked, “*Is it lawful,*” they were referring to the *Law of Moses*, not the Roman law. They had reasoned that this was a “yes” or “no” answer - and either way, they had Jesus trapped! It was a no win question because if He answered “yes” then He would be a traitor to the Jews. (They believed only God was the rightful King.) If He answered “no” then they could report Him to the Romans for treason and testify against Him at His trial.

But...that’s not how it worked out. Jesus responds to them in the most unexpected way. First, He harshly reprimands them for trying to maliciously trap Him like that. Then He reveals His divine wisdom.



Denarius of the Emperor Tiberius shown to Jesus

“Show Me a denarius. Whose image and inscription does it have?’ They answered and said, ‘Caesar’s.’ And He said to them, ‘**Render** therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.’”

Render means, “to return.” Christ is telling them that the coins belong to Caesar and therefore they should return what belongs to him, but our far greater concern is our obligations to God.

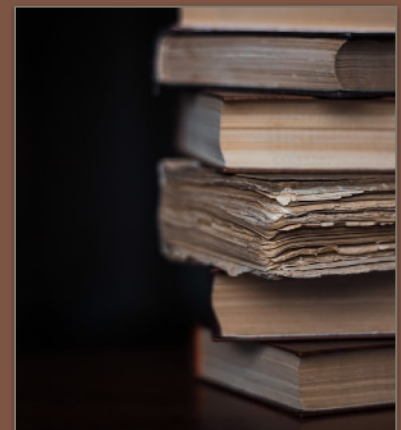
Next, the **Sadducees** attempt to discredit Jesus. They ask Him a theoretical question concerning a married man dying before having children with his wife. *The goal of their question was not about family dynamics, but rather about the resurrection.* (The Sadducees did not believe in life after death.)

EXTENDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

The Explanation of the Holy Gospel According to Luke by Blessed Theophylact, covering chapters 20 & 22 of Luke

The Gospel of Luke: Good News for the Poor by Fr. Lawrence Farley, covering chapters 20 & 22 of Luke

The Crucifixion of the King of Glory by Eugenia Scarvelis Constantinou, covering chapters 9, 10, & 28



Jesus is less harsh with the Sadducees. They were not being as mean as the Pharisees, but He does tell them they are wrong and explains to them that they didn't fully understand the Scriptures.

In the Scriptures, God explains to them that their life after death when He says, 'I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' God says "am" in the present tense, indicating that Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are still alive.

Therefore, the Sadducees were unable to discredit Jesus either, but this made both the Pharisees and Sadducees all the more frustrated with Jesus and threatened by Him. Plans would continue to be made on how they would get rid of Him.

THE BETRAYAL OF JESUS BY JUDAS ISCARIOT

Luke 22:1-5

Then the Jewish leadership got the break they were looking for in order to arrest Jesus. One of Jesus' own disciples, Judas Iscariot, came to them! Perfect! When he asked them, "What will you give me if I deliver Him to you?" (Matt. 26) - they jumped on the opportunity and "agreed to give him money." (Luke 22)

Now, they just had to wait for the signal from Judas and they could finally arrest Jesus!

PREPARING FOR THE PASSOVER MEAL

Luke 22:7-13

Jesus sends Peter and John into Jerusalem to prepare for the Passover meal. They were instructed to look for the man carrying a pitcher of water. Now, this doesn't seem all that odd to us because we know they didn't have running water

during this time, but...it would be very odd to see a man carrying the water because usually this was a woman's chore. This man would definitely stand out to them!

When they find this man, Peter and John are to follow him and then ask the master of the house, "Where is the guest room where I may eat the Passover with My disciples?" They would be shown the upper room of the home and could begin their preparations.

For the Passover meal, there were many rules associated with its preparation. For instance, Peter and John would have to bring the sacrificial lamb back to the house from the Temple where it would be specially prepared for Jesus and His disciples. Additionally, the meal needed to be eaten within the city limits of Jerusalem, which necessitated a level of secrecy when arranging for a place for their meal. Jesus was going to be betrayed and arrested. It was just a matter of when would Jesus allow it to happen.



"Then Satan entered Judas, surnamed Iscariot, who was numbered among the twelve. So he went his way and conferred with the chief priests and captains, how he might betray Him to them. And they were glad, and agreed to give him money." Luke 22:3-5



THE MYSTICAL SUPPER

Luke 22:14-23



Let's learn about the icon:

- **Christ is the central figure** in the icon and He is holding a loaf of bread that He has just broken and distributed to each of the disciples. "And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me." This is the first Holy Communion.
- **John** (the beloved disciple; the Theologian; the Evangelist) is leaning against Jesus.
- **Judas Iscariot** has his hand holding his piece of bread. "But behold, the hand of My betrayer is with Me on the table." Luke 22:21
- You can see the **bread** broken and distributed to everyone present and the **wine** as well on the table.
- The curtain draped over the wall indicates this is an indoor event and depicts the "large, furnished **upper room**" where the meal took place.

You will sometimes hear people refer to this event as the Last Supper in reference to this

being the last meal Christ had with His disciples. As Orthodox Christians, we typically refer to this event as the Mystical Supper because of the significance of this being the first time Holy Communion is offered.

ACTIVITIES:

You know your class best. What holds their interest? What do they not know yet? What do you feel is most critical to cover?

- Continue listing the events of Christ's life on the **timeline**
- **Where's Bethany on the map in relation to Jerusalem?** Christ would come into Jerusalem to teach in the Temple during the day when it was too risky for the Jewish leaders to arrest Him publicly, but would leave for Bethany in the evening as He waited for the right time to be arrested. He voluntarily was led to the Cross and voluntarily died for the salvation of each one of us. He was the sacrificial Lamb of God.
- **Visual sequencing of events for Holy Week:** (dry erase boards or paper story boards) After the lesson, ask the students to visually depict the events they learned about today. Then, from their memory of Holy Week, which events come next? They can check their drawings after future lessons.
- **Discussion on the dating of Pascha:** This year, there is 5 weeks difference between Western Easter and Pascha. Why? For our kids, we can explain to them that Pascha always occurs after Passover. Jesus had the Passover meal just before being arrested and then crucified. This year, Passover is April 22nd - 30th. Therefore, Pascha is the Sunday afterwards on May 5th.

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AT HOME

FOR PARENTS

Judas loved money more than Christ, a naked and uncomfortable truth that should prompt us to ponder our own attachment to money and possessions.

Eugenia Scarvelis Constantinou
The Crucifixion of the King of Glory

We can have some discussions with our kids about greed. What is greed? What are some examples of greed? Why is it important to think of others and not just ourselves?

Why is repentance so important and how can we prepare our children for Confession?

We can ask them some questions: What is the difference between Peter's denial of Christ and Judas' betrayal of Christ? Peter repented and Judas did not. This is why we encourage our children to seek forgiveness from those they have hurt and repent to God when we go to Confession.

HOME ACTIVITY #19

Learn more about the Jewish Passover: 1) [Jewish Encyclopedia](#), 2) [Encyclopedia Britannica](#)

Watch "The Ten Commandments" movie with Charlton Heston as a family. (It is currently available for rent on Amazon.) Then read and discuss Luke 22 and the movie in relation to the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Draw a connection between the Old Testament always pointing to Christ and Christ is the sacrificial Lamb of God who died for the salvation of all.



This week, we learned about the events that occurred in Luke 20 & 22. Please illustrate / sketch and then label the events you learned about in the storyboard below.

From your memory of Holy Week and reading the Bible, what events come next?

Scene:	Scene:	Scene:

Scene:	Scene:	Scene:

Create your own at Storyboard That