

Sunday Teacher's Lesson for

Life of Christ

Jesus is sad Matthew 14:3-13a

Younger Verse

Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life." John 14:6

Older Verse

Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." John 14:6

Lesson Goals

See what Jesus did when He was sad
Trust God during hard times
Describe how making bad choices, affects us and others also

Welcome Time

Have you ever wondered what Jesus did when He was sad? Let's see in today's lesson.

Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

If you ever listen to news on the radio or T.V., you may hear about bad things that have happened to someone. Bad things also happened to people when Jesus lived.

One of Jesus' relatives was John who baptized people in the river. He was a man who boldly told people things from God. He would tell people to change their ways and follow God. He was not afraid to let people know about God.

Obviously, some people did not like the way he would tell the truth. He did not carefully share it. He would boldly tell a person with the news.

John did this to someone very important—the king! Let me explain what happened.

King Herod was not a very nice king. He did many things that were mean and sneaky. His brother, Philip, had a wife named Herodias. King Herod thought she was very pretty. He decided that he wanted her for HIS wife. So, she became King Herod's wife.

This was not right and John knew it. So, what do you think John did. He told King Herod that he was doing wrong. This made the king and his new wife very upset. In fact, Herodias had a grudge against John for saying the things that he did.

Because of his words, John was handcuffed and put in prison. Herodias wanted John killed for embarrassing her. She held a grudge for the things that John had done.

However, King Herod kept him alive because he knew that John was a man who loved God. He may have been afraid of what God might do to him if he killed John.

Another reason King Herod kept John alive was that he liked to hear what John had to say. King Herod enjoyed listening to John talk about God and how to get right with God.

One day, the palace had a big celebration. It was King Herod's birthday! There was lots of excitement and many people were there to celebrate the occasion. Most of the

people invited were special people and commanders of the armies. Everyone came dressed in their finest clothes.

During dinner, different people came to dance and entertain the king. One of the dancers was the daughter of Herodias. She performed a beautiful dance that impressed the king and his guests.

King Herod was so pleased that he told her in front of all his guests that he would give her anything she wanted!! Can you believe it!

Herodias' daughter ran to her mother to ask her advice. What do you think she should ask for? You won't believe it.

Remember, Herodias had a grudge against John. She saw this as a great time to "get even" with him. She told her daughter to ask for something unbelievable!

The girl hurried back to the king. She told him that she would like. . . John's head on a plate!

The king was shocked. He never imagined that she would ask for this. He wanted to keep John alive, but since he promised in front of all his guests, he had to keep his oath.

Immediately, the king had John beheaded and his head returned on a plate to Herodias' daughter who gave it to her mother. This bad thing happened because of bad choices that someone made, not because God did something bad to him.

John's friends put his body in a tomb and also told Jesus the sad news. Jesus went alone to a quiet place to pray and mourn John's death.

What did Jesus do when He was sad? He knew that God could help Him and give Him strength. He talked to God about His sadness and pain and God helped Him through the hard times.

It is so sad to hear when bad things happen to good people. John was trying to do special things for God and was put in prison and killed. Some people wonder why God would let this happen. God loves us and cares for us but sometimes things happen that we do not understand. It does not mean that God doesn't care. It means that we have to trust God and know that He promises to lead us through good times and bad times.

King Herod heard the message of how to get to Heaven, but he never took it to heart. You may have heard this message too. God made a way for us to get to Heaven. It is by believing in Jesus, His Son. If we believe in Him and ask Him to come into our heart and forgive our wrongs, Jesus will come into our lives and stay with us forever. He promises to take us to Heaven one day. Have you taken this message to heart? Don't be like King Herod who heard but never really listened and obeyed.

Learning Activities

Try activities to help the kids learn lessons from this story.

Memory Verse Activities

The verse shows us that there is one way to Heaven—through Jesus. Practice saying the verse and talk about how to get to Heaven.

Prayer Time

Ask God to help us care for those who are hurting. Also, ask God to help us forgive others who have hurt us.

Snack Time/CleanUp

Enjoy snacks together and look for teaching moments!

July 6th
Jesus feeds lots of people
Matthew 14:13b-21

Preschool Lesson
for
Jesus is sad

(Teachers: Be sensitive to your kids. If you think that hearing about death may be hard for them to handle, mention that John was hurt or harmed by the king.)

One of Jesus' relatives was named John. John was a special man. God told him to tell people the good news about Jesus. John went to many places telling people how they could know God and Jesus.

John was a man that told a person the truth and sometimes it hurt people's feelings. They may not have wanted someone to tell them what they were doing wrong. John didn't mind. He would just speak up and tell them that they were wrong and that they should start doing right.

One day John told the KING that he was doing wrong. The king got very upset and so did his new queen. In fact, she held a grudge about what he had said. That means that she kept remembering it so that one day she could "get even" with John..

Well, one day she had a chance to "get back" at John. The king promised he would do anything for the queen's daughter. The daughter asked for the king to hurt John.

The king was sad because he knew that John was a man of God. However, he gave his promise in front of many people, so he hurt John.

Some of John's friends ran to tell Jesus the news. When Jesus heard the news, He was very sad. Do you know what Jesus did? He went to a quiet place by Himself to talk and pray to God. He knew that He could pray to God and ask God for help when He was sad and hurting. God helped Jesus and made Him feel better.

When we are sad and hurting on the inside, we can talk to God about our problems. He will help us and make us feel better.

Thank God for listening to our prayers and loving us!

Hands-on Ideas For Jesus is sad

Look around your apartment complex and see if someone needs encouragement this week. Have the kids write cards or take flowers to that person. Help the kids see the importance of helping others in need.

Make up a dance or stomp routine with your kids.

In the story, Herodias held a grudge against John, even though she was the one at fault. She did not want to admit her wrong and she blamed John instead. In our lives, we must admit when we are wrong, ask for forgiveness and forgive others in the same way. God promises that He will forgive us when we tell Him our wrongs. He also tells us that He will clean us and forget all the wrongs that we have done.

Bring a backpack filled with something heavy, like books, bricks, rocks etc. Share how a grudge is like carrying a heavy backpack around with you. Let some of the kids carry it. Now remove the heavy items. Share how Jesus can help us remove the heavy “grudge” if we talk to Him and ask Him to help us.

King Herod heard John’s words but did not take them to heart. It is easy to hear about Jesus and know who He is. It is another thing to really believe and trust in Him with your heart. Teachers, you may have children today that do not know Jesus personally. Take time to share how Jesus can be more than someone they hear about in history; He can be their best friend!

Celebrate Birthdays today! Bring a cake and party favors. It would be fun to sing also! Make sure every child knows that you love them and that they are special.

King Herod worried about what others would think if he didn’t grant the dancer’s request. It is important to do what God wants and not worry what others think or say. Talk about how hard it is to do things and not be afraid of what others are whispering about you.