



**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Series:** Signs on Believers' Hwy  
Winter Year 4, Lesson 46

# Jesus' Arrest and Peter's Denial

**Take Home Point:** \*Jesus is faithful—even when we are not. \*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

**Bible Event:** John 16:25-18:27

**Key Verse:** Hebrews 10:23, "We must continue to hold firmly to our declaration of faith. The one who made the promise is faithful."

**We will help kids know:**

- The Bible event of Jesus' high priestly prayer (*John 17*), Jesus' arrest, and Peter's denial.
- Jesus is faithful, praying for his disciples then, and us today.
- Jesus is faithful even when we are not.




**We will help kids feel:**

- Overwhelmed by Jesus' love for them (especially as they view the video and watch Jesus pray for them).
- Courage to follow Jesus despite our mistakes, but because of his power.

**We will help kids do:**

- Make a craft to remind them Jesus, who was sent by God, took the punishment for our sins.
- Talk about times we have betrayed others or broken promises and how God still accepts us because Jesus was faithful by going to the cross.

# THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
<b>Small Group Warm-Up</b> (15 minutes) 	3	Using a ball of string or yarn, kids demonstrate how relationships can be severed by betrayal.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>yarn or ball of string</li> <li>scissors</li> </ul>
<b>Large Group</b> (20-30 minutes) 	4  8  10  10	<b>Overview</b>  <b>Puppet Presentation:</b> "Gordy's Friend Fails Him"—Gordy feels betrayed and disappointed when a friend tricks him.  <b>Video:</b> the <i>Gospel of John</i> --- John 16:25-18:27  <b>Signs Along Believers' Highway</b>  <b>Puppet Conclusion:</b> "Gordy's Friend Fails Him"—Gordy learns that Jesus remained faithful to the end and forgave his friend who betrayed him.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gordy</li> <li>construction workers outfit</li> <li>sign on stick that says, <i>"Though Jesus was betrayed, on the cross our lives he bought."</i>(p. 14) On back it says, <i>"Jesus is (faithful) even when we are (not)."</i>(p. 15)</li> <li>two or four chairs</li> <li>cardboard car front</li> <li>DVD <i>Gospel of John</i> by Visual Bible International, 2003</li> <li>yarn for Gordy</li> </ul>
<b>Small Group Application</b> (20-25 minutes) 	4	Children make a craft to remind them they are never alone or forsaken when they stay connected to Jesus. ( <i>Appendix A</i> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>yarn or ball of string</li> <li>5" x 4" piece of plastic canvas</li> <li>Lanyard cording in two colors</li> <li>6 pony beads in colors to match your lanyard</li> <li>Scissors</li> </ul>

# Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



**Purpose:** *Get pointed in the right direction!* Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

*Supplies: a ball of string or yarn to be passed or tossed across the circle of children*

*It is important the kids are seated in a well-defined circle before you begin this activity.*

Say:

**Today we will take this string and make some connections between us. First, you answer the question. Then, toss this ball of string to someone else in the circle but not the person next to you. At the same time, hold on to the string so you have a connection to the ball of string. Whoever receives the ball of string will be the next person to talk.**

**Tell some things you like about a friend. I'll begin. I like friends who like to laugh, have fun, and go garage sale shopping with me.**

Pass or toss the ball of string to someone else to share but at the same time hold on to the string. It will need to unwind as it goes to the next person. Continue to pass and unwind until everyone has had a turn.

After the string has gone all the way around, take scissors and cut through the middle of the circle so that everyone hangs on to their string yet the string is severed so that it is no longer connected to anyone else or the ball.

**Now our strings are disconnected or cut. Sometimes friendships can be broken or disconnected. It may happen when one friend turns against another friend. The word for that is betrayal.**

**Have you ever had a friend turn against you? Maybe they did something or said something mean behind your back. Or, they didn't keep something confidential that you trusted them to keep, like a secret. You may have felt hurt and it seemed like the friendship between you had been cut. Who would like to share some of the things that make you feel betrayed by a friend?**

Let kids give personal examples without mentioning names, but be sensitive. If this is too difficult, they can give general ways someone might betray a friend.

**When we go to large group today, we will see how Jesus is a faithful friend. Jesus prayed for his disciples just as he prays for us today. Even though his closest friend betrayed him, Jesus was still faithful.**

Jesus knew he would be betrayed but still loved him anyway. The same is true for you and me *\*Jesus is faithful—even when we are not.*

Collect the string to be used in the craft following large group.

## Large Group Overview: 20-30 minutes



**Purpose:** *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

**Puppet Presentation:** “Gordy’s Friend Fails Him”—Gordy feels betrayed and disappointed when a friend tricks him.

**Video:** the Gospel of John--- John 16:25-18:27

### Signs Along Believers’ Highway

**Puppet Conclusion:** “Gordy’s Friend Fails Him”—Gordy learns that Jesus remained faithful to the end and forgave his friend who betrayed him.

## Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



**Purpose:** *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

*Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.*

### Observation Questions: What happened?/ Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

Have kids refer to John 16:25-18:27 in their Bibles.

**Who was Jesus praying for in John 17:9?** *(For those God gave him, his disciples.)*

**Who else is included in this prayer according to John 17:20?** *(All believers, even us today.)*

**What does Jesus pray for the disciples and all believers in John 17:15?** *(To be protected from the evil one.)*

**What does Jesus pray for in John 17:24?** *(That all believers will be with Jesus in heaven.)*

**Which disciple betrayed Jesus to the chief priests and Pharisees?** *(John 18:2-3. Judas.)*

**Why did Jesus not put up a fight when the soldiers came to arrest him?** *(John 18:4, 11. He knew it was God's will that he die. See also John 16:32.)*

**Did Jesus seem afraid and timid of the guards and soldiers?** *(No. John 18:6. Jesus intimidated the crowd. They backed away and fell down. Jesus spoke to them and to Peter with authority.)*

**How did Jesus protect the disciples in John 18:8?** *(He told the guards that since they were looking for only Jesus of Nazareth, let the others go.)*

Read John 18:15-18, 25-27.

**Peter was one of Jesus' closest disciples. How many times did Peter deny he knew Jesus?** *(Three times.)*

**Why do you think Peter denied him?** *(He was afraid he, too, would be arrested.)*

**How do you think Jesus felt after Peter denied him and he was facing the high priest and Pharisees all alone?**

Going Deeper: (If time allows.)

**Who do you think John 17:12 and John 18:8-9 refer to?** *(Judas.)*

**How were the words of Caiaphas, the chief priest, fulfilled in John 18:14?** *(He said it was better that one man die for the people. Jesus, the Savior, died for the sins of all people.)*

## **Application Questions: What does this mean to me?**

**Have you ever denied Jesus or said you didn't know him like Peter did?**

**If you are ever faced with persecution or death because you are a believer in Jesus, do you think you will be able to confess that you believe in him?**

**Who do you know or have ever heard about that faced persecution, but confessed Jesus instead of denying him? What was the result? What is the eternal consequence?**

**How does it make you feel to know that even before you were born, Jesus prayed that you would be protected from Satan and that you would be with him in heaven?**

**The key verse today from Hebrews 10:23 says, *“We must continue to hold firmly to our declaration of faith. The one who made the promise is faithful.”***

**Yet, even though we make mistakes and are unfaithful at times, like Peter, Jesus is always faithful to us.**

**Application Activity:**

*Supplies: yarn or ball of string from Small Group Warm-Up, 5” x 4” piece of plastic canvas – one per child, Lanyard cord in two colors, 6 pony beads in colors to match your lanyard, Scissors (Appendix A for instructions)*

For the craft today, let kids use the string/yarn from Small Group Warm-Up and weave designs onto the plastic canvas cross. Have them thread the string/yarn through the canvas and tie a knot on the end. Say:

**You can make any pattern you want on your cross. You could fill in the whole cross or you could fill in only the edges. This is your chance to be creative. While you are doing this, we will talk about how Jesus is a faithful friend.**

While kids work, continue with:

**In large group, we heard Jesus pray for his disciples and the prayer was meant for you and me, too, even though he said the prayer so many years ago. Even though his closest friends betrayed him, Jesus was still faithful.**

**Our sins keep us away from God. But Jesus says that he won’t condemn us if we turn to him. Jesus could have judged Peter guilty of betraying him, but instead he gave him the chance to repent and be saved. Because Jesus loves us so much, he was willing to go to the cross so that we are freed from the consequences of sin even though Jesus knew we might not always be faithful in return.**

**This cross will remind us that even though we are not always faithful and make mistakes or wrong choices, we can turn to Jesus and ask for his forgiveness.**

**Because of some wrong choices we have made or will make, we may feel disconnected at times and cut off from him. You can always go to the cross, confess your sin, ask for forgiveness and be in relationship with him again. Jesus will be faithful and draw you close to him again and again. Remember, *\*Jesus is faithful—even when we are not.***

Closing Prayer:

Let kids take turns confessing times they were not faithful to God and sinned. After all have had a chance to confess, pause for time of quiet reflection, especially for those who may be embarrassed to pray out loud. Then close by thanking God that he sent Jesus to take the punishment of our sins for us. Thank him that we face no condemnation because of Jesus, even when we are not faithful. Thank him that we can always trust he will be faithful to us.

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# **Large Group Presentation: 20-30 minutes**

## **Signs on Believers' Highway Series**

*The book of John points to miracles as signs and proof that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. The imagery of road construction signs will be used to exemplify the signs that Jesus performed as told in the book of John. The road worked on is referred to as "Believers' Highway" to show we are all on a journey in our faith.*

*The presenter is dressed in an orange construction vest, hat and work boots and holds a different road sign each week that is fitting with the Bible event. Another important prop is the simulated car set-up with two or four chairs facing the audience and a cardboard car front (See lesson 34). Shepherds and children are both involved as observers on the highway. They are called up to drive the car and answer questions, give feedback and interact with or about the event.*

*This series uses "The Gospel of John" DVD series as a visual to show the events of the Bible.*

*Supplies: construction worker outfit, sign on stick (see appendix), two or four chairs, cardboard car front, string or yarn taped on Gordy's hand*

## **Gordy's Friend Fails Him** Puppet Presentation

The presenter enters wearing an orange construction vest, hat and work boots.

**Presenter: Shall we see if Gordy is here?**

*Kids call Gordy....Gordy. Gordy. Gordy.*

Gordy enters with a short bit of yarn in his hand. He is looking for someone in the audience.

Gordy: Excuse me. Could you step aside? I'm looking for someone out there in the audience.

**Presenter: Who?**

Gordy: Sceeter Swanson.

**Presenter: What's going on? And why are you carrying that yarn?**



Gordy: In Small Group, we talked about when a friend lets you down. And then we cut the yarn. That just reminded me of Sceeter Swanson.

**Presenter: What happened?**

Gordy: Yesterday, Skeeter spent the night and Skeeter was really bored, so he said we should grab my mom's laundry basket and surf down the basement stairs! I even told him (use a robot sounding voice), "No, Sceeter, we might get in trouble!"

**Presenter: Gordy, that's dangerous! Never...**

Gordy: (Interrupts) Anyway... right before we started down the stairs, Sceeter jumped out of the basket and I began to surf down those stairs all by myself!

**Presenter: But, Gordy, you could have gotten hurt!**

Gordy: So could have my mom. When, I was almost at the bottom, my mom came around the corner and SMACK! I ran right into her and knocked her down.

**Presenter: (Shakes head.) Gordy, Gordy, Gordy. When are you going to learn?**

Gordy: And worst of all, I looked back up to the top of the stairs and there was Sceeter sitting quietly in the kitchen pretending to study his math home work! He really let me down.

**Presenter: So you are hanging on to that yarn from Small Group to remind you that Sceeter let you down?**

Gordy: Well, actually when I find him, I was thinking of tying him in a laundry basket and...

**Presenter: (Interrupts.) Gordy, hold it. You think he let you down? Think again! You were the one who let your mom down. Watch today's video. It's word for word from the Bible and tells how Jesus' closest friend denied him.**

Gordy: I bet Jesus was as mad as I was!

**Presenter: Gordy, Jesus knew that he had to go to the cross alone. It was one of the signs along the highway that proved he was the Savior. Remember, Gordy: *\*Jesus is faithful—even when we are not.***

## Video

Show *The Gospel of John* DVD, produced by Visual Bible International, 2003. Show the clip covering John 16:25-18:27. Begin just after Jesus says, "Until now you have not asked for anything in my name: ask and you will receive so that your happiness may be complete," and end it just after narrator says, "Again Peter said 'No,' and at once a rooster crowed." The length of the clip is approximately 11 minutes and 40 seconds.

## Signs Along Believers' Highway

John 16:25-18:27

The presenter holds the sign that says, "*Though Jesus was betrayed, on the cross our lives he bought.*" The back of the sign says, "*Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_ (faithful) even when we are \_\_\_\_\_ (not).*" He will be careful to only show the front for now until the back is needed for a game.

**Presenter:** I need two kids and one adult to come up, get in the car and get ready to drive.

Have them come up onstage and arrange them so that kids are in front driving and the shepherd is in the back.

**On "Believers' Highway," kids can drive just as well as adults because we are all growing in our spiritual journey learning to trust Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God. So buckle your seat belts, and let's go for a ride!**

**I've got a rhyme on my sign. On the front of the sign it says, "Though Jesus was betrayed on the cross, our lives he bought," and the back says, "Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_ (faithful) even when we are \_\_\_\_\_ (not)." It rhymes with the front of the sign.**

**Let's ask our people in the car a couple questions.**

- 1. Who was Jesus praying for the night before he was arrested?**  
*(Any of the following answers can be accepted: himself, his disciples, future followers.)*
- 2. What was the name of the friend who betrayed Jesus?** *(Judas.)*
- 3. What did Peter do to protect Jesus from the soldiers?** *(Drew his sword and cut off a servant's ear.)*

4. **Jesus was willing to be arrested. Why do you think Jesus let this happen?** (*He knew it was God's plan for him to die on the cross.*)

The person who answers this next question first, gets a shot at answering the rhyme on the sign. Let's see who can answer this question first.

5. **How many times did Peter deny Jesus?** (*Three times.*)

Ask for the answers to the riddle on the sign. If the blanks of the rhyme are not answered correctly, take answers from the audience.

## **Gordy's Friend Fails Him**

### **Puppet Conclusion**

**Presenter:** Gordy, did you see how Jesus was faithful, even when Judas and Peter weren't?

Gordy: I guess....

**Presenter:** Well, have you always been faithful?

Gordy: (Gulp.) Well, not exactly. I think you're right about that laundry basket thing. I was also wrong.

**Presenter:** Exactly. That's why God's love for you is so amazing. He sent Jesus, who would be faithful, all the way to the cross so that all our sins could be forgiven. Jesus forgave Peter even when Peter said he didn't know Jesus.

Gordy: (Looking downcast.) ...But still, Skeeter let me down.

**Presenter:** Yes, Gordy. Sometimes friends do let you down. Though in this case, Skeeter did the right thing. Instead of being mad at him, why don't you try to be like a faithful friend... just like Jesus.

Gordy: Wow. I think I don't need this yarn anymore. I won't tie up Skeeter.

**Presenter:** Good, Gordy. You might even need that for small group. I hear you will be doing something cool with your yarn that reminds you that *\*Jesus is faithful—even when we are not.* Would you like to pray, Gordy?

Gordy: Sure. Dear Jesus, I think it is really cool how you are faithful even if you have friends like us that sometimes aren't so faithful. Jesus, please forgive me for those times. Help me be more faithful, just like you. In your name we pray, Amen.

## Plastic Canvas Cross Bookmark

### What you will need:

- 5" x 4" piece of plastic canvas
- Lanyard cording in two colors
- 6 pony beads in colors to match your lanyard
- Scissors



### How to make it:

1. Cut a cross from your plastic canvas, approximately 4.5" x 3". Make sure you have an even number of holes on each arm of the cross. The top of the cross should be 6 holes wide and the arms of the cross should be 6 holes high.
2. Starting on the far left at the top of the cross, leaving approximately 3" of cording at the top, weave one color from the top all the way down in a straight line to the bottom.
3. When you reach the bottom, loop your lanyard cord back through the last hole and one over then work your way halfway back up. When you get one row below the middle of the cross, weave the lanyard in a diagonal going up and over one to the right.
4. Next go up one hole and then diagonally up the other way by going up and to the left.
5. Continue the crisscross pattern up through the middle and one row above the middle of the cross. This should give you 5 rows of diagonals.
6. From here, continue going up, through you should now be one column over. Rather than in the second column you should be in the third.
7. When you reach the top of the cross, trim the end to about 3" in length. This should match the length of the cord that you started with.
8. Move to the fourth column at the top, again leaving about 3" of cording at the top. Weave your way down 2 rows, and then continue the diagonal pattern to match the one you just created on the left. You will weave two rows down straight then take your diagonal down to the right, down to the left, and repeat this for a total of five diagonal boxes.
9. Now continue the straight weave, you should now be in the 5th column, down to the bottom.
10. When you reach the bottom, loop your lanyard cord back through the last hole and one over then work your way all the way back up to the top, leaving 3" cording at the top.
11. Now take your alternating color and leave 3" at top, start weaving from column #2. Straight weave two boxes, then crisscross the diagonals 5 boxes down, then continue the color down the third column.
12. When you reach the bottom, loop your lanyard cord back through the last hole and one over then work your way halfway back up. When you reach the diagonals again, crisscross the diagonals with the alternating color going up 5 boxes.
13. Continue the straight weave up to the top and leave 3" of cording at the top.
14. To do the arms of the cross, use the same color you started the cross with and weave from the left top row straight across to the middle of the cross.
15. Stretch the cord straight across the back of the cross where the center of the cross has already been woven and then continue again on the right side of the cross.
16. When you reach the right side, loop the lanyard cord like you did at the bottom of the cross and weave straight back to the left, again crossing the center in the back and continuing from the middle the left.
17. Loop the end again at the left and repeat this process until you finish your weaving at the bottom left arm.
18. Tie the ends of lanyard on the left arm together in a tight knot and trim the ends.
19. At the top of the cross you should have 6- 3" lengths of cording. Hold three to the left and three to the right and thread those two sections with three beads each.
20. Tie the ends of the cord in a knot at the top of the beads.

**Though Jesus was  
betrayed, on the  
cross our lives he  
bought.**

**Jesus is (*faithful*)  
even when we  
are (*not*).**