



Judas Makes A Bad Choice

By Deborah Wassenberg

Introduction:

Judas, despite all his opportunities, was not a true believer in Jesus. In his heart, he loved money. He loved it more than Jesus and betrayed Him for it. This lesson teaches children that what is in their heart is important. They can't keep it hidden because their heart will determine the choices they make.

Bible Lesson: Judas Betrays Jesus

Bible References: Matthew 26:14-25; 27:1-5; John 13:1-2;

Visuals You Will Need:

1. Judas with Jesus and the other disciples
2. Judas and money
3. Mary anointing Jesus' feet with perfume
4. Judas angry
5. Judas and the chief priests
6. Jesus and Judas
7. Jesus gives the bread to Judas at the Last Supper
8. Judas betrays Jesus with a kiss
9. Judas trying to return the money
10. Heart with question mark

Words:

1. Judas was one of Jesus' twelve disciples.
He followed and lived with Jesus for three years.
He saw the miracles, heard the teachings, and even shared meals with Jesus.
But Judas made a terrible choice.
2. Judas loved money.
It was more important to him than anything or anyone else.
He was the treasurer for the Disciples and used his position to steal money.
The other Disciples had no idea that Judas was a thief.
They trusted him.
But what is hidden in someone's heart will eventually show itself for everyone to see.

That's why it's important to guard your heart and protect it from wrong thoughts.

Jesus said, 'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.' (*Matthew 5:8*)

3. Jesus was with His disciples enjoying dinner at Bethany in the home of Lazarus, Mary and Martha.

(*John 12:1-8*)

Mary took a very precious alabaster box of expensive perfume and anointed the feet of Jesus with it.

Then she wiped His feet with her hair.

The house was filled with the fragrance of the expensive perfume.

Mary believed that Jesus was God's Son, the Messiah, sent to save her.

He had raised her brother from the dead!

Her heart was filled with love and gratitude.

Jesus was worth everything to Mary.

4. But Judas was outraged.

What a waste to spill that expensive perfume on Jesus and the floor!

Judas demanded, 'Why was this perfume not sold for money and the proceeds given to the poor?'

The Bible tells us that Judas said this not because he cared about the poor but because he could have sold the perfume and stolen the money for himself.

Jesus didn't mean much to Judas.

5. Judas went straight to the chief priests who had been plotting to kill Jesus.

Judas asked, 'What will you give me to betray Jesus into your hands?'

The chief priests set out thirty silver coins for him,

From that time on, Judas began looking for an opportunity to betray Jesus.

6. Jesus knew from the very beginning what Judas was like and what he would do.

Judas was not a believer.

Earlier, Jesus had told His Disciples, 'Didn't I choose you, the twelve, and yet one of you is the devil?'

He was talking about Judas, who was to betray Him.

(*John 6:70-71*)

It had been prophesied in the Old Testament.

(*Psalms 41:9; Zechariah 11:12-13*)

7. It was almost time for the Passover Feast.

Jesus and His Disciples were having an evening meal.

The Bible says that the devil had already persuaded Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, to turn against Jesus.

Jesus said, 'I tell you the truth, one of you will betray Me.'

The Disciples all looked at each other, because they did not know whom Jesus was talking about.

John asked, 'Lord, who is it?'

Jesus answered, 'I will dip this bread into the dish.'

The man I give it to is the man who will turn against me.'
 So Jesus took a piece of bread, dipped it, and gave it to Judas Iscariot.
 As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered him.
 Jesus said to him, 'The thing that you will do - do it quickly.'
 No one at the table understood why Jesus said this to Judas.
 Since Judas was the one who kept the money box, some of the Disciples
 thought Jesus was telling him to buy what was needed for the feast or to give
 something to the poor.
 Judas took the bread Jesus gave him and immediately went out into the night.

8. Later, in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus said, 'Look, the hour is approaching, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us go. Look! My betrayer is approaching!' Judas came accompanied by a large crowd with swords and clubs, who came from the chief priests and elders of the people. Judas had told them he would give them a sign. 'Whomever I kiss, He is the One; arrest Him.' And immediately Judas went up to Jesus and said, 'Greetings, Rabbi!' and kissed Him. But Jesus said to him, 'Friend, do what you have come for.' Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested Him.
9. Then, when Judas saw that Jesus had been condemned to die, he felt remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders. 'I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.' But they said, 'What is that to us?' Judas threw the pieces of silver into the temple sanctuary and left. He went away and killed himself. The chief priests took the pieces of silver and said, 'It is not lawful to put them in the temple treasury, since it is money paid for blood.' After consulting with one another, they used the money to buy the 'Potter's Field' as a burial place for strangers. It was the place where Judas' body was found.
10. What is in your heart?
 You won't be able to hide what is in your heart forever.
 It will eventually be seen.
 But God sees it now because nothing is hidden from Him. (*Hebrews 4:13*)
 He wants to fill your heart with love.
 His love will be seen and felt by everyone around you!

Ministry to the Children:

Jesus gives everyone a chance to choose Him. Judas chose money and betrayal. Mary chose love and giving. Will you choose Jesus today? Will you ask Him into your heart? Jesus knew He was coming into the world to die for the sins of everyone. Choosing Jesus means believing in Him, thanking Him for dying on the Cross for you, and believing that God raised Him from the dead. Say sorry to Jesus and ask Him to forgive you for your sins. Receiving Him into your life means He will give you a new heart! Jesus living in your heart will help you choose what is right.

Memory Verse: Proverbs 4:23

Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.

Smell Guessing Game

You will need:

- Envelopes
- Tissues, cotton balls or make-up remover pads for scents
- Herbs
- Flowers
- Household products, e.g. toothpaste

What to do:

- Use the cotton balls or pads for smells that are in liquid or paste form, and place each one inside a separate envelope
- Place a small amount of each herb in an envelope
- Place a small amount of each flower in an envelope
- Set up smelling stations, one per word of the Memory Verse, with a volunteer at each station
- Children visit each smelling station to identify the smell in the envelope
- When each child identifies the scent in an envelope correctly, the volunteer tells them a word of the Memory Verse, or children can write it down
- When everyone has collected all the words, the children assemble the verse in the correct order and recite it aloud together

Game: Guard Ball

- 10 open plastic bottles filled with coloured water are placed in a playing area.
- 2-3 guards must guard the water bottles.
- The other members of the group try to shoot the bottles over with 1-2 balls.
- The guards try to stand the water bottles up again as quickly as possible, otherwise they will lose too much water.
- Which guard will manage to have the most water in their bottle after a 2-minute game?

Craft: Decorate the Perfume Bottle

You'll find perfume bottle and cologne bottle designs on pages 5 and 6.

You Will Need:

- A picture of a perfume bottle per child
- Glue
- Scissors

- Collage items: tissue paper shapes, diamantes, jewels

Allow children to decorate a bottle to make a unique design for their brand of perfume. Don't forget to give it a name!

You could use plastic jars or bottles and decorate those using permanent markers or acrylic paint pens.



