



WHO'S IN CONTROL?

Life & Ministry of Jesus • U7#4 1st-3rd Grade • Feb.11, 2024

Concept

God is sovereign.

Goal

Students will learn that Caiaphas' plan was to destroy Christ, but God's plan was to bring life out of death. They will be encouraged to look to God for His purposes in all situations and trust that He is in control.

Passage

John 11:45-53

Key Verse: "Jesus was handed over... by God's set purpose and plan; and... with the help of wicked men, put... to death by nailing Him to the cross." Acts 2:23

Planning Ahead

Lesson Supplies	Craft Supplies
<p>Learning Activity #1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>1 long tunic</i> • <i>1 sword</i> <p>Learning Activity #2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>1 crown</i> • <i>Tunic from Drama #1</i> <p>Learning Activity #4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caiaphas' Plan/God's Plan printed on cardstock, 1/student • Glue sticks • Scissors; markers <p>Optional Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Adam Raccoon and the Flying Machine, Glen Keane</i> • <i>1 large balloon</i> • <i>10' piece of yarn</i> 	<p>Activity Stations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Shoelace, button, safety pin, clothespin, penny, pen, craft stick, scissors</i> • "Hidden in Plain Sight" list of items, 1/student • Chenille stems, 1/2/student • Medium or large coffee filter, 1/student • Spring clothespins, 1/student • Markers • Scissors • Glue sticks

*TEACHERS PLEASE NOTE

For clarity, the italicized areas in the Planning Ahead section indicate supplies that are in—and should be returned to—your classroom SHARED SUPPLY bag.

Background Information/Teacher Helps

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"In the council of the Sanhedrin there were two parties, the Pharisees and the Sadducees. The Pharisees were what we would call today 'fundamentalists.' They were the religionists, the party that took literally everything in the Law. They tried to carry out the commands of the Law, and boasted in their ability to live according to it. We get their point of view in these opening verses. It is they who say, as John records, 'What are we to do?' Actually, what they literally said was, 'What are we doing?' You can hear the panic in that: 'What are we doing? Things are getting out of hand. This man is performing all these signs.' Then, typically, they projected into the future: 'If we let this go on everybody is going to believe in Jesus, everyone is going to accept him as the Messiah.' They saw that as a tragedy. In their view, the Messiah would lead a political uprising and that would result in the wrath of Rome coming down upon them: 'The Romans will come and destroy both our temple and our nation.'" [1] The Pharisees chose not to consider the evidence. So anxious were they to maintain the safe and predictable religion they had made that the Pharisees denied physical evidence and prophetic reality. Their choice to trust their own legalistic view of God over the revelation of His Son resulted in their condemnation.

"Caiaphas, who belonged to the party of the Sadducees, had won this office of high priest for just one year at a time by being the highest bidder for the job. By this time the Romans determined who would be high priest. They put the office up for sale, so that whoever among the Jews could come up with enough money got the job. But he speaks here as a Sadducee who does not believe in God particularly, who does not believe in anything supernatural, who denies the miracles, the existence of angels or a life after death. He had a typical, what we would call today, secular human point of view." [2] Even when Jesus demonstrated God's sovereignty over the grave by raising Lazarus, Caiaphas would not alter his established view. He ignored the evidence and continued to deal politically with the issues regarding Jesus. His secular view was proclaimed to fellow members of the Sanhedrin who were panicked by the political difficulties and theological possibilities that Jesus presented. Caiaphas' purely secular view cut through their indecision. "You know nothing at all," he said. "It is expedient for you that one man should die for the people, and that a whole nation should not perish" (John 11:50 NASB) The Romans threatened to destroy the nation if the Sanhedrin could not control Israel. Under Caiaphas' leadership the Pharisees decided to eliminate the problem by killing Jesus.

[1] Stedman, Ray C., "What's going on," www.pbc.org/dp/stedman/john/3862.html.

[2] Stedman, Ray C., "What's going on," www.pbc.org/dp/stedman/john/3862.html.

Set Up

Place the 9 items for "Hidden in Plain Sight" around the room before students arrive. Write "Caiaphas" over one of the teacher's names on his/her name tag. See suggestions at the end of this lesson for hiding places.

Incorporation Lg. Group

Activity stations

- **Game – "Hidden in Plain Sight" [1]**
 - **Instructions:** Give each student a list of items to find.
 - **Game introduction:** Have you ever looked for something and missed it even when it was in plain sight? We have placed some ordinary objects around the room for you to find. When you find the listed items, remember where they are and keep it a secret. When you think you have found all the items, tell a teacher to check.
- **Craft – Butterflies**
 - **Instructions:** Give each child a clothespin, one coffee filter and ½ of a chenille stem. If desired, the children can color and make designs on the coffee filter. When ready to assemble the butterfly, pinch and bunch together the center of the coffee filter and clip with the clothespin to make the wings. Bend the chenille stem in half, curl the ends and insert into the clothespin to make the antennae.

[1] More Great Games for Groups, Wayne Rice, © 1993, Youth Specialties, pp. 80-81.

Introduction Lg. Group

In the past few weeks we've learned about people who decided to follow Jesus. There was a tax collector named Matthew and a blind man. Last week we learned about Mary, who loved Jesus so much that she gave Him her most valuable possession. The more His followers got to know Him the more they loved Him and wanted to follow Him.

We've also learned about the Pharisees who didn't follow Jesus. The more the Pharisees chose to reject Jesus, the more they hated and wanted to get rid of Him.

Today we will learn about a man named Caiaphas who was the head of the Jewish religious leaders. Both Caiaphas and God planned for Jesus to die. Caiaphas' plan was to get rid of Jesus by killing Him, but God's plan was to give people eternal life through Jesus' death. And because God is in control, His purpose is always accomplished.

Who played the "Hidden in Plain Sight" game? Who thought the items were easy to find? All were in plain sight yet some were very difficult to find. Why? (They blended in or fit the background they were on.) Everything was in plain sight, but it wasn't until you looked for them that they could be found.

In much the same way Jesus was very visible during his three-year ministry.

Introduction Continued

All His miracles were very visible so people could see them. These miracles showed that Jesus had God's power to heal and even raise the dead. Because of His miracles, many believed He was the Messiah.

Transition

We're going to learn about this plan, but first, we're going to act out what it was like for the Romans, the Jews and the followers of Jesus at this time.

Learning Activity#1 Lg. Group

Drama – WHO Will Stop Him?! skit presented by teachers and class
Instructions: The teachers will form 3 groups: Pharisees, Romans and followers of Jesus. One teacher will represent the Pharisees, 1 teacher will represent the Romans, 1 teacher will represent the followers of Jesus. The Pharisee will wear a long robe and long gold chain around his/her neck. The Roman will have a shield and sword. When designated on the script, the "follower of Jesus" teacher will point to a few children at a time to join her/him as followers of Jesus. As the children get up and join the "followers of Jesus" they and those with the teacher will say, "Jesus, Jesus..." Don't allow this to continue too long. Stop as soon as the children join the "followers." At each of these times the Roman and Pharisees will "freeze."

Debrief: Now we know a little of what the Pharisees, the Romans and the followers of Jesus were thinking. The Pharisees went to the High Priest, Caiaphas, who had an evil plan. But do you know what? God had the same plan, but for a bigger and better purpose. Do you know what it means for the same plan to have different purposes? For example, we had a plan for you to make butterflies when you came to class. You probably wanted to take them home which is great! But we have exciting news—we're going to give them as gifts to people so MANY people can see them and enjoy them!

Transition

Everyone sit down and we'll learn about Caiaphas' plan with the purpose of evil and God's plan with the purpose of great good.

Learning Activity# 2 Lg. Group

Drama – "Caiaphas' Plot" John 11:45-53 skit performed by teachers & class

Instructions: The teachers will play Caiaphas and a Pharisee. Caiaphas will wear a crown; the Pharisee will wear the same tunic and gold chain from Learning Activity #1.

Lesson Lg. Group

Because he wanted to stay in power, Caiaphas made a plan to get rid of Jesus. His plan was to kill Jesus and destroy Him forever. The thing Caiaphas didn't know was that God's plan was also for Jesus to die, but NOT to be destroyed forever. Our key verse today is, "Jesus was handed over... by God's set purpose and plan; and... with the help of wicked men, put... to death by nailing Him to the cross" (Acts 2:23).

Good News

We know why Caiaphas planned to kill Jesus, but why did God plan for Jesus to die on the cross? (Allow some time for response.) Jesus died on the cross to pay for the sins of all the people in the world so that we can be God's children and live forever with Him. Jesus died on the cross to save you from your sins and He will forgive you if you ask Him. At the moment you ask Him, you will become His child and will be certain that you will be with God forever in heaven after you die. Caiaphas thought his plan was so smart. He thought he could get rid of Jesus, but Jesus' death on the cross was God's plan all along. Caiaphas' plan was for Jesus to die and be destroyed; God's plan was for Jesus to die so we can have life with Him. If you have never asked Jesus to forgive you, you can do that when we pray.

When Jesus died on the cross, the disciples thought all was lost. Their best friend and teacher had died and was gone. It sure didn't seem to them that anything good could come out of His death. They thought that all hope was gone. But instead of all hope gone, everyone in the world can have great hope. Because Jesus died on the cross and was punished for our sins, we can be God's children. Jesus didn't stay dead, did He? No, He was resurrected. Does anyone know what "resurrected" means? Let's all say the word, "resurrected." It means to bring back to life. Because God resurrected Jesus and He is alive we know that His death paid for our sins. Remember the key verse, "Jesus was handed over... by God's set purpose and plan; and... with the help of wicked men, put... to death by nailing Him to the cross" (Acts 2:23). God's plan and purpose was for Jesus to die to pay for our sins so we can live forever with Him.

Let's pretend, for example, that your birthday is coming up and you have been thinking about the kind of party you want to have. You have thought a lot and have decided what would be a really cool party. What you don't know is that your parents have also been planning for your birthday. They have a great surprise for you but they don't want you to know what it is. So when you tell them what you want to do for your birthday, they tell you that they have something else planned that will be much better.

- What will you do? Will you have a fit, whine or pout because you want it your way?
- Will you trust that your parents can and will plan something that is much better than you can imagine?
- Will you be willing to wait until your birthday to see what they have planned or will you try to manipulate to find out what it is?
- In much the same way we have to decide to believe that God knows what is best and is able to do what is much better than we can imagine. Can you think of a time when you had to trust God to be with you and help you, but didn't know how He would? What did you learn about God?

Learning Activity#3 Continued

- Do you believe and trust Him now more than you did before? (Teachers should come up with an appropriate personal example to help the students understand.)

Mission Prayer: Talk about and pray for Oasis Giving campaign.

Let's pray and thank God that His plan is for everyone to have life. Let's ask Him to help us trust that He is always in control even when it looks like everything is against Him and us.

Craft - "Caiaphas' Plan/God's Plan"

Instructions: Give each student one piece of printed cardstock. The top section is Caiaphas' Purpose (John 11:50) and God's Purpose (Roman 5:8-10) with the key verse across the bottom. The bottom section is the cross and life/death pull lever and tab to tape or glue to the end of the lever. Cut the sheet along the "cut line" that separates the top from the bottom. Fold the top half with key verse along the dotted line. Cut out the two rectangles and cut the four marked slits. Open it flat. Cut out lever and follow the instructions under the lever on the bottom section.

Finish crafts

Game – Balloon Volleyball

Instructions: Play volleyball with a large balloon, a table separating two teams, or take it outside and play over a rope or yarn laid on the ground.

Story – *Adam Raccoon and the Flying Machine*, Glen Keane

Instructions: Read the story and then discuss the danger of doing what feels right as opposed to what God says. It's important to know what the Bible says so we can live as God created us to live and so we aren't fooled by others to think the wrong way.

	Hidden in Plain Sight – Teacher's List
<p style="text-align: center;">Item</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Shoelace 2. Button 3. Safety pin 4. Clothespin 5. Penny 6. Pen 7. Craft stick 8. Scissors 9. Caiaphas name tag 	<p style="text-align: center;">Suggested location to hide</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. wrap shoelace around a table/chair leg 2. tape to the center of a doorknob 3. tape to metal part of a chair 4. clip onto coat hooks 5. tape over a screw in chalk board or other 6. tape along a door hinge 7. tape along chalk board or coat rack 8. tape somewhere on wall map or display 9. teacher wears it

Learning Activity#4 Lg. Group

Optional Activities

DRAMA #1 WHO Will Stop Him?! Skit presented by teachers and class.

Pharisee: What are we going to do?! Did you hear what that Jesus fellow did? He raised a guy named Lazarus from the dead!

Follower of Jesus: Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. I want to follow Jesus.

Point to 4 or 5 children

Come follow Jesus with me. Jesus, Jesus...

Pharisee: Wait a minute, I must be crazy. No one can bring someone back from the dead. Lazarus must have been sleeping. Sleeping so soundly they couldn't wake him up.

Follower of Jesus: Jesus loves everyone. I want to follow Jesus.

Point to 4 or 5 children

Come follow Jesus with me. Jesus, Jesus...

Pharisee: NO! They say he died and was actually buried. He was in the tomb for 3 days. Jesus called in to the tomb and told Lazarus to come out. They say he walked out completely wrapped with his grave clothes.

Follower of Jesus: Jesus is God. I want to follow Jesus.

Point to 4 or 5 children

Come follow Jesus with me. Jesus, Jesus...

Pharisee: WOW! What are we going to do? If this is really true and people hear about this more and more of them will want to follow Jesus and there will be nothing but trouble for us.

Follower of Jesus: Jesus forgives. I want to follow Jesus.

Point to 4 or 5 children

Come follow Jesus with me. Jesus, Jesus...

Pharisee: That's right. Jesus will get the people to rebel against the Romans and we will all lose our positions of importance and power. Life may not be perfect for us now, but the Romans don't bother us too much. At least we have power over our fellow Jews. If we can't keep control of the people, the Romans will not trust us to rule and we'll be O U T-out! Let's go talk with the High Priest, Caiaphas. He'll know what to do.

Exit Pharisee and Enter Roman

Follower of Jesus: Jesus is the Messiah. I want to follow Jesus.

Point to 4 or 5 children

Come follow Jesus with me. Jesus, Jesus...

Roman: I wonder what that Jesus is up to? He seems to be attracting more and more attention to Himself. He heals the blind so they can see, and the lame so they can walk. And I'm sure I heard that just this afternoon he raised a man from the dead. That's impossible, just impossible! And yet, I did hear it from a fellow who was there.

Follower of Jesus: Jesus is my friend. I want to follow Jesus.

Point to 4 or 5 children

Come follow Jesus with me. Jesus, Jesus...

Roman: Where will this all end? I must keep my eyes and ears open. He may lead those rebellious Jews in some sort of revolt against us. I wonder what the Pharisees will do about it. We have them under control and I think they have power over the Jews. It doesn't appear that they like this guy. Maybe they will take care of the problem. We'll see!

Follower of Jesus: Jesus is the Lord. I want to follow Jesus.

Point to all remaining children

Come follow Jesus with me. Jesus, Jesus...

DRAMA #2

"Caiaphas' Plot" – John 11:45-53 skit presented by teachers & class

Caiaphas is seated as central figure. Enter Pharisee.

Pharisee: (to Caiaphas)—What are we going to do! Jesus is performing miracles. If we don't do something, everyone will believe in Jesus and they'll try to make Him the king! If there's a riot the Romans will blame us! You know how they hate having anyone else in charge. We'll lose our positions, the Temple, and the Jewish nation will be destroyed.

Caiaphas: You idiots! You don't know anything! Don't you know that it would be better for one man to die than for the whole nation to go down in flames?

Pharisee: What do you mean?

Caiaphas: Do I have to spell everything out for you? We'll arrest Jesus and kill Him for claiming to be God's Son. Claiming to be God's son is against our Law. Once He is dead, the Romans will get off our backs and leave us alone. They won't have any reason to think someone else is taking over. We'll still have our positions of power and authority.

Pharisee: Say, that's not a bad idea. What should we do first?

Caiaphas: Put out a warrant for Jesus' arrest, of course. Geez, I'm surrounded by brainless people!

Pharisee: Oh. Uh . . . ok. Consider it done.

Exit Pharisee and Caiaphas