



# THE STORY OF LENT

## LESSON PLANS

Copyright © 2015 by Wesleyan Publishing House  
Published by Wesleyan Publishing House  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46250

These lesson plans are to be used in conjunction with the Speed Sketch Bible Stories series—*The Story of Lent* (Indianapolis: Wesleyan Publishing House, 2014).

All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc. Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. [www.zondervan.com](http://www.zondervan.com). The "NIV" and "New International Version" are trademarks registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica, Inc.

All rights reserved. Permission is granted to reproduce the contents of this publication for ministry or educational purposes. No portion of this publication may be reproduced for profit without prior written permission of the publisher.

# CONTENTS



Introduction	4
1. Nicodemus	5
2. Triumphal Entry	6
3. Cleansing the Temple (Bonus)	7
4. The Last Supper	8
5. Gethsemane	9
6. Judas Betrays Jesus (Bonus)	10
7. Crucifixion	11
8. Resurrection	12

# INTRODUCTION



Wesleyan Publishing House is happy to provide Speed Sketch Bible Stories customers with these free lesson plans and resources, which offer options and ideas for how to build a children's lesson around a Speed Sketch Bible Stories video. The "Review and Memory Time" options provided at the bottom of each lesson page refers to the additional Review Options PDF resource also available at [www.speedsketchbible.com](http://www.speedsketchbible.com). Some of the options provided in the Review Options resource suggest the use of an additional product available for purchase: BibleStoryCards, which is available for purchase at [www.wphresources.com/biblestorycards](http://www.wphresources.com/biblestorycards).

Blessings to you in your ministry,  
The WPH Staff

# NICODEMUS



**Story Reference:** John 3:1–21

**Memory Verse:** John 3:16—"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

## STORYTELLING TIME

### To the Storyteller

Nicodemus was a man who had questions for Jesus and had the courage to go and ask him those questions. Sometimes it is easy to think we have all the answers. Even small children feel they have the market cornered on knowledge. Nicodemus was a very knowledgeable man, but still recognized he had more to learn, especially about God. Children need to recognize that they never stop learning, and that the foundation for learning about God is being "born again."



### Storytelling Methods

Show Speed Sketch Bible Stories video.

**Memory Object:** Flashlight

**Giveaway:** A small flashlight

**Story/Object Association:** To show that Nicodemus went at nighttime to see Jesus

### Review Questions

1. Who were the Pharisees? (**A group of men who knew the Old Testament Scriptures and taught them to other people.**)
2. Who did the Pharisees believe Jesus was? (**A teacher, but not the Son of God**)
3. Why did Nicodemus go to see Jesus? (**He wanted to talk with Jesus and decide for himself whether or not he wanted to believe what Jesus was teaching.**)
4. When did Nicodemus go to see Jesus? (**During the night**)
5. What did Jesus explain to Nicodemus? (**That it takes more than knowing the Old Testament Scriptures to be able to go to heaven. A person has to ask God for forgiveness of their sins, and then accept God into their life.**)

**Life Application Question:** How can we be born again? (**By asking God for forgiveness of our sins, and accepting God into our life.**)

### Prayer Focus

The sinner's prayer

## REVIEW AND MEMORY TIME

### Review Options

- Give Me a Clue #2
- Bible Basketball #6
- Bible Charades #14
- Newspaper Search #17

### Memory Verse Options

- Clothespin Review #5
- Memory Verse Puppet #19
- Balloon Pop Race #21

### Memory Object Options

- Bible Biography #1
- Name That Object #4

# TRIUMPHAL ENTRY



**Story Reference:** Matthew 21:1–11

**Memory Verse:** Matthew 21:9—"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

## STORYTELLING TIME

### To the Storyteller

Most people like festivals or celebrations, especially if they are the guest of honor. Celebrations uplift and encourage those who are being honored. That's why children and adults enjoy their own birthday parties. Part of the celebration experience includes being praised by others. When Jesus rode into Jerusalem, he became the guest of honor and was praised. Jesus is like us in that he enjoys praise, and praise is an important part of our relationship with him.



### Storytelling Methods

Show Speed Sketch Bible Stories video.

**Memory Object:** Palm tree branch

**Giveaway:** A fern leaf (real or plastic)

**Story/Object Association:** The branches the people waved when Jesus rode into Jerusalem

### Review Questions

1. Where did Jesus stop outside Jerusalem? (**At the Mount of Olives**)
2. Why did he tell two disciples to go into the village? (**He wanted them to find the donkey and colt that were tied to a post and bring them to him.**)
3. What did Jesus do with the donkey and the colt? (**He rode them into Jerusalem.**)
4. What did the people do with the palm branches? (**They waved the branches in the air and shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"**)
5. How did the people treat Jesus? (**Like a king**)

**Life Application Question:** How do we praise Jesus today? (**Through music, singing, prayer, reading the Bible—allow for a variety of answers.**)

### Prayer Focus

Praise to God for His Son.

## REVIEW AND MEMORY TIME

### Review Options

- Name Scramble #7
- What Am I? #10
- Bible Baseball #12
- Story Diorama #22

### Memory Verse Options

- Pass the Hat #9
- Catch a Verse #12
- Memory Verse Square #17

### Memory Object Options

- Bible Biography #1
- Object Sequence #5

# CLEANSING THE TEMPLE (BONUS)



**Story Reference:** Matthew 21:12–13

**Memory Verse:** Matthew 21:13—"It is written,' he said to them, 'My house will be called a house of prayer.'"

## STORYTELLING TIME

### To the Storyteller

It seems at every turn there is a declaration of our society becoming more and more permissive. This may be true, but it does not mean that there should not be certain guidelines to govern behavior. It is a temptation for a child to become restless and act up during those quiet times in church. This will be a challenging teaching time as you bring your children to a heightened awareness of being respectful in church. But this is no time to be fainthearted—help them to surprise their parents the next time they're in church together.



### Storytelling Methods

Show Speed Sketch Bible Stories video.

**Memory Object:** Roll of foreign coins

**Giveaway:** A coin (money) wrapper

**Story/Object Association:** The money changers that were in the temple

### Review Questions

1. Where did Jesus go when he got to Jerusalem? (**To the temple**)
2. What were some men doing in the temple? (**Selling animals and exchanging money**)
3. Why was Jesus angry? (**These men were cheating the people and making a lot of money.**)
4. What did Jesus do with the tables? (**He turned them upside down.**)
5. What did Jesus say to the men? (**"My house will be called a house of prayer,' but you are making it a 'den of robbers.'"**)

**Life Application Question:** How can we be respectful in church? (**By sitting quietly, listening to the pastor—allow for a variety of answers.**)

### Prayer Focus

Praise to God for your church.

## REVIEW AND MEMORY TIME

### Review Options

- Card Collection #20
- Bible Time Capsule #21
- Change the Bible Story #28
- Temple Model #30

### Memory Verse Options

- Memory Verse Book #1
- Memory Balloon-a-Thon #11
- Memory Verse Golf #18

### Memory Object Options

- Object Bag #3
- Memory Object Bookmark #9

# THE LAST SUPPER



**Story Reference:** Matthew 26:17–30

**Memory Verse:** 1 Corinthians 11:26—"For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."

## STORYTELLING TIME

### To the Storyteller

Meals can be a fun experience for children, especially if they eat somewhere like McDonald's. Jesus' last meal was not fun. He was preparing for his impending death. The meal was cloaked in betrayal, denial, and deceit. Yet Jesus completed the Passover Feast, and in so doing provided a symbol to help us remember that fateful night. Communion is a sacrament which can be used to teach children about Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. It is our reminder of Jesus' sacrifice.



### Storytelling Methods

Show Speed Sketch Bible Stories video.

### Memory Object: Goblet

**Giveaway:** A piece of bread/biscuit

**Story/Object Association:** The bread and wine Jesus gave to the disciples

### Review Questions

1. What holiday were the Jews celebrating? (**Passover**)
2. What did Jesus say one of his disciples would do? (**Betray him**)
3. Who was the disciple that would betray Jesus? (**Judas**)
4. How did they know who would betray Jesus? (**Jesus said that the man who dipped his bread into the bowl at the same time Jesus did would betray him.**)
5. What did the bread and the wine represent? (**Jesus' body and blood**)

**Life Application Question:** What is the meaning of Communion? (**To remind us that Jesus died on the cross for our sins**)

### Prayer Focus

Praise to God for Jesus' being obedient in his mission.

## REVIEW AND MEMORY TIME

### Review Options

- Card Scramble #1
- Guess My Name #11
- Shaving Cream Review #18
- Bible Story Bag #27

### Memory Verse Options

- Clothespin Review #5
- Guess a Letter #13
- Memory Verse Mobile #22

### Memory Object Options

- Object Match #2
- Object Poster #7



# GETHSEMANE



**Story Reference:** Matthew 26:36–46

**Memory Verse:** Matthew 26:42—"He went away a second time and prayed, 'My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done.'"

## STORYTELLING TIME

### To the Storyteller

Prayer is the slender nerve that connects us to the muscle of God. When Jesus was in the garden of Gethsemane, he concentrated on praying to God. Jesus was facing a difficult time in his life and wanted to spend time with his Father through prayer. The disciples were not so inclined. Sometimes children pray (talk) to God and feel they are doing it in vain because they cannot see him. God did answer Jesus' prayer in accordance with his perfect will. It is important for children to see the contrast between the perseverance of Jesus' prayer and the indifferent attitude of the disciples.



### Storytelling Methods

Show Speed Sketch Bible Stories video.

**Memory Object:** A picture or statue of praying hands

**Giveaway:** A simple prayer journal or a missionary picture card

**Story/Object Association:** Jesus praying at the garden of Gethsemane

### Review Questions

1. Why did Jesus go to the garden? **(To pray to his heavenly Father)**
2. What was the name of the garden? **(The garden of Gethsemane)**
3. What three men went with Jesus when he prayed? **(Peter, James son of Zebedee, and John)**
4. What did they do while Jesus prayed? **(They slept.)**
5. What did Jesus tell God when he prayed? **(That he really didn't want to die, but if he needed to, he would obey)**

**Life Application Question:** Why should we pray? **(Jesus wants us to tell him about our problems and praise him for all of the things that he has done.)**

### Prayer Focus

Knowing the will of God

## REVIEW AND MEMORY TIME

### Review Options

- Card Scramble #1
- Bible Baseball #12
- Newspaper Search #17
- Bible Story Map #24

### Memory Verse Options

- Memory Verse Mix #2
- Memory Verse Match #7
- Chalkboard Verse #10

### Memory Object Options

- Bible Biography #1
- Object Bag #3

# JUDAS BETRAYS JESUS (BONUS)



**Story Reference:** Mark 14:43–50

**Memory Verse:** John 15:5—"If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

## STORYTELLING TIME

### To the Storyteller

Betrayal is very common in today's society, but, even centuries ago, thirty pieces of silver was all Judas needed to betray the best friend he would ever have. On many television shows, children see betrayal in friendships and even marriages, and the reason for the betrayal is personal gain. As Christians, the one thing that we must have is loyalty to God and one another. We need to be able to depend on Christian friends for support; in turn, we need to be a support to other believers.



### Storytelling Methods

Show Speed Sketch Bible Stories video.

**Memory Object:** Hershey's kiss

**Giveaway:** A Hershey's kiss

**Story/Object Association:** When Judas kissed Jesus to betray him

### Review Questions

1. Why didn't the priests like Jesus? (**They thought it was a sin that Jesus called himself the Son of God.**)
2. What did Judas receive for betraying Jesus? (**Thirty silver coins**)
3. Where was Jesus when the men found him? (**In the garden of Gethsemane**)
4. Why did Judas kiss Jesus? (**To show the men whom they were to arrest**)
5. What did Peter do with his sword? Why? (**He cut off the ear of one of the men. He was angry that they were taking away Jesus.**)

**Life Application Question:** How can we keep from being like Judas? (**When Satan tries to tempt you, like he tempted Judas, don't give in to the temptation. Pray that Jesus will help you to be strong—allow for a variety of answers.**)

### Prayer Focus

Loyalty to God and fellow Christians

## REVIEW AND MEMORY TIME

### Review Options

- Bible Tic-Tac-Toe #4
- Character Quotes #8
- Who Am I? #16
- Story Review Cards #23

### Memory Verse Options

- Memory Balloon-a-Thon #11
- Catch a Verse #12
- Memory Verse Puppet #19

### Memory Object Options

- Musical Objects #6
- Object Poster #7

# CRUCIFIXION



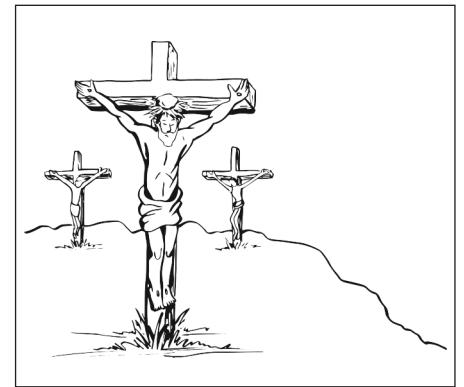
**Story Reference:** Matthew 27:1–66

**Memory Verse:** Ephesians 2:13—"But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ."

## STORYTELLING TIME

### To the Storyteller

The crucifixion of Jesus Christ is one of the most important stories of the New Testament that you will tell. Make this story powerful. Your children need to understand that because of Christ's unconditional love for each of us, he *willingly* suffered a painful death on the cross to take the punishment for our sins. Because of his death, atonement has been made, and all we have to do is ask in order to be forgiven of our sins.



### Storytelling Methods

Show Speed Sketch Bible Stories video.

**Memory Object:** Cross pin or necklace

**Giveaway:** A cross

**Story/Object Association:** Jesus' crucifixion

### Review Questions

1. What lies did the priests tell about Jesus? (**They said that Jesus had committed terrible crimes.**)
2. How did the Jews want Jesus to be killed? (**They wanted him to be crucified.**)
3. What things did the soldiers do to Jesus? (**They hit him with a whip, pushed a crown of thorns onto his head, and spit on him.**)
4. What hill was Jesus crucified on? (**Golgotha**)
5. What happened the moment Jesus died? (**There was a terrible earthquake.**)

**Life Application Question:** Why did Jesus die? (**He died so that every person could be forgiven of his or her sins and be able to go heaven.**)

### Prayer Focus

Thankfulness to Christ because he died for our sins

## REVIEW AND MEMORY TIME

### Review Options

- Bible Pictionary #9
- Shaving Cream Review #18
- Story Diorama #22
- Bible Story Map #24

### Memory Verse Options

- Memory Verse Match #7
- Memory Choir #15
- Memory Verse Sticks #20

### Memory Object Options

- Name That Object #4
- Memory Object Bookmark #9

# RESURRECTION



**Story Reference:** John 20:1–18

**Memory Verse:** Philippians 3:10—"I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death."

## STORYTELLING TIME

### To the Storyteller

The appearance of the angel to Mary was an unusual event. In the Old Testament, God used angels occasionally to convey a particular message to his people. The angel Gabriel brought Mary a remarkable message, probably the most important message that an angel could deliver. Children need to recognize that this was one of the three most important events in the New Testament. The other two include the birth of Christ and his death and resurrection.



### Storytelling Methods

Show Speed Sketch Bible Stories video.

**Memory Object:** A Tombstone Pizza box

**Giveaway:** A piece of Tombstone Pizza

**Story/Object Association:** The stone that rolled away from in front of the tomb

### Review Questions

1. Who buried Jesus' body in the tomb? **(A man named Joseph)**
2. Who went to Jesus' tomb three days later? **(Mary Magdalene and some other women)**
3. What did the angels say to the women? **(That Jesus wasn't there—he was alive!)**
4. Who were the disciples that ran to the tomb? **(Peter and John)**
5. What did Jesus tell the disciples before he died? **(That he would rise from the dead)**

**Life Application Question:** What does the resurrection promise us? **(Eternal life with Jesus)**

### Prayer Focus

Thankfulness for God's power

## REVIEW AND MEMORY TIME

### Review Options

- Overhead Game #3
- Bible Basketball #6
- Beach Ball Review #15
- Bible Story Bag #27

### Memory Verse Options

- Clothespin Review #5
- Pass the Hat #9
- Guess a Letter #13

### Memory Object Options

- Object Match #2
- Musical Objects #6