

An Arresting Development

Bible Story

Jesus Arrested

Scripture

Matthew 26:47-56

The Scene: a garden at nighttime

The Simple Setup: The stage needs no furnishings. Peter will carry a cardboard tube to represent a sword.

For Extra Impact: Give the members of the crowd flashlights to hold as if they were torches. Dim room lights, and let the flashlights light the stage.

The Characters

narrator: a warm-voiced reader

Jesus: a guy

Judas: a guy or girl who can act sinister

Peter: a guy or girl, and Peter has a temper

Crowd: children pretending to be an angry mob

The Skit

After you've assigned the roles of Jesus, Judas, and Peter, ask the rest of the children to play the part of the Crowd.

Jesus and Peter stand at stage right. The crowd is off stage left. The Narrator may read from offstage or on the corner of the stage.

narrator: Kids, we're here in the middle of the night with Jesus and several of his disciples. It's been a STRANGE night. Earlier this evening, Jesus had dinner with his disciples and spent time teaching them. It was almost as if Jesus thought he wouldn't have much MORE time with them. And Judas left the room before Jesus was DONE teaching. I don't think he's up to any good. Wait, there's Judas now, coming into this quiet garden with a big Crowd.



Start the "Jesus Arrested" track on *The Humongous Book of Bible Skits for Children's Ministry CD* (track 43). Set your CD player on "repeat" so the track repeats.

Judas: Now remember the SIGNAL. The one I KISS ON THE CHEEK is the man you want.

narrator: I KNEW it! That Judas is a SNAKE. He's going to turn Jesus over to that ANGRY crowd. Look, Judas is walking over to Jesus and giving him a kiss on the cheek.

Judas: Greetings, Teacher!

Jesus: Friend, do the job that you came to do.

narrator: Jesus is God's Son, so he KNEW that Judas was going to double-cross him. Nothing surprises Jesus, but Jesus STILL let it HAPPEN. Listen to that angry Crowd. Do you HEAR them? They're MUTTERING threats and saying MEAN things. They want to take Jesus back to the SANHEDRIN, Jewish leaders who are going to put Jesus on TRIAL. The Sanhedrin are mad because Jesus does MIRACLES and because Jesus says he's GOD'S SON. Now look! The Crowd is rushing in! They're GRABBING Jesus! They're going to take Jesus AWAY!

Peter: NEVER! You'll NEVER take Jesus from us!

narrator: Peter loves Jesus, and he doesn't want anyone to HURT Jesus. So

Jesus: Peter is drawing a sword. He's taking a swing at one of the men in the Crowd.

Peter: Take THAT!

narrator: Peter cut off the EAR of the man! The man is yelling in pain! The man is falling to the ground, holding the side of his head!

Peter: THAT will teach you! Now, who ELSE wants to fight?

narrator: Jesus is jumping between Peter and the Crowd. Jesus is POINTING at Peter.

Jesus: Peter, put away your sword! Don't you know that everyone who tries to solve their problems with a sword ends up being KILLED by a sword? I could call on my heavenly Father, and he'd help me! I could ask God and he'd send HUNDREDS of angels to rescue me! But if I DID that, then how would the Scriptures about me come true? Let the crowds to their work.

narrator: Then Jesus did something AMAZING. He touched the spot on the servant's head where he used to have an ear...and his EAR GREW BACK. The CROWD stepped back. They couldn't believe their eyes. Jesus looked at the Crowd and said...

Jesus:

Why are you coming to get me in the middle of the night? LOOK at all the swords and clubs you're carrying. Do you think I'm armed and dangerous? Do you think I'm going to start a fight? You could have come after me during the day when I was in the Temple courts teaching. You could have captured me THEN—but you didn't. And do you want to know WHY?

narrator:

The Crowd didn't know what to say. Jesus kept talking.

Jesus:

Your taking me at night is foretold in the Scriptures. It's a prophecy that's coming true RIGHT BEFORE OUR EYES.

narrator:

Jesus was calm, but his DISCIPLES weren't. Peter and the rest of Jesus' friends ran AWAY. See them go? Jesus was left with the angry CROWD. The CROWD led Jesus out of the peaceful garden. The Crowd led Jesus to where the Sanhedrin were waiting.



To Talk About

- ◆ **Why do you think Jesus didn't ask God to send an army of angels to rescue him? How would our lives be different if Jesus escaped from the crowd?**
- ◆ **Jesus told Peter not to solve his problems with violence. What kinds of bad things can happen to kids who use violence to solve their problems?**
- ◆ **What do you think the servant thought about Jesus after Jesus healed him? Do you think he still wanted to arrest Jesus? Why or why not? What has Jesus done for you? How do you want to respond to him?**

Topical Tie-Ins: Jesus' Love, Violence, Love