The Disciples

Lesson 5: Leaving a Legacy

**Lessons in this series:** [1](http://www.teensundayschool.com/330/lesson/i-will-tell-your-name.php) [2](http://www.teensundayschool.com/331/lesson/love-in-your-obedience.php) [3](http://www.teensundayschool.com/333/lesson/what-are-you-thinking.php) [4](http://www.teensundayschool.com/339/lesson/dealing-with-doubt.php) **5**

LESSON OBJECTIVES

Goals

1. To introduce students to Judas Iscariot  
2. To help students see how they and Judas are similar  
3. To motivate students to leave a lasting legacy as a loyal follower of Christ instead of a betrayer of Him

Topics

Apostles, Deception, Disciple, Following Jesus, Trust

Scripture Memorization

Matthew 26:21

OPENING PRAYER (5 to 10 minutes)

GROUP BUILDING (15 minutes)

**Betrayals (Game)**  
Split students into groups of three or four. Ask each group to come up with famous betrayals from history—real life or fiction. Give the groups two or three minutes to come up with as many as they can. Then, get back together and let someone from each group read off the names their group came up with. If another group comes up with the same name or names as another team, that answer is voided. The group with the most unique betrayal names wins.

Following are some examples:

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|  | Brutus and Julius Caesar X-men (Xavier and Magneto) Benedict Arnold David Letterman and Jay Leno Delilah and Samson | Count of Monte Cristo King Arthur/Sir Lancelot Gandalf and Saruman (From Lord of the Rings) Jerry Jones and Jimmy Johnson David and Uriah |

GETTING STARTED (10 minutes)

**General Discussion:**• Has anyone here ever been betrayed by a friend?  
• How did it make you feel?   
• How did it hurt your relationship?  
• Have any of you here ever been the betrayer?

DIGGING IN (20 minutes)

Today we continue our study of the twelve disciples, focusing on Judas Iscariot. He’s probably the most famous betrayer in history. Some people call anyone who betrays “a Judas” and rightly so. He betrays the Christ:

**Read Matthew 10:4; Luke 6:16; John 6:71, 12:4, 18:2,5**

**Discussion Questions:**1. Why do you think “the one who betrayed Jesus” is listed each time Judas’ name is mentioned?  
2. These authors of the gospels go out of their way to label Judas (who, by the time they are writing, is dead). Is that fair? Why/why not?

We’ve studied a bunch of disciples already. All those guys have a pretty positive reputation on this side of history. But Judas is a different story. Let’s look at his life in the Scriptures.

**Read John 12:4-6**

A woman began to pour perfume on Jesus’ feet and wiped them with her hair. Judas, the keeper of the money, is not agreeable to this action and speaks up.

**Discussion Questions:**  
1. Why do you think Judas was put in charge of the money if he was not reliable in that role?  
2. How do you think Judas was thought of by his peers before he was discovered as a betrayer?  
3. How does this event speak to the process that took Judas from a disciple to a betrayer? Was it all of a sudden?   
4. What do you think caused Judas to go down that slippery slope toward betrayal?

**Read Luke 22:3-6**

**Discussion Questions:**1. What was it about Jesus of which Judas did not approve?  
2. Did Judas have a choice in what he did?  
3. Was God using Judas to fulfill Jesus’ ultimate purpose?

Again, we see a progression here. First, Judas is enticed to “borrow” some money from the disciple’s treasury. Obviously, he saw his personal desires as more important than the disciple’s mission. Then, he got frustrated with Jesus’ lack of action and decided to hand Him over to the officials.

**Read Matthew 26:20-25; Luke 22:47-53**

**Discussion Questions:**1. What does Judas do here?  
2. Why doesn’t Jesus stop him?  
3. Does Judas still have a choice? Is it too late?

MAKING IT REAL (20 minutes)

**General Discussion:**  
• Have you ever wondered how you are like Judas?  
• Do you think it’s possible that you’d ever betray Jesus?  
• In what ways in your life do you know you’ve already done that?

Many different theories have been concocted as to WHY Judas betrayed Jesus:

**Patriotic Devotion**- Judas was so loyal to his country that he felt Jesus was dragging His feet. Not only was He not leading a rebellion but He was delaying the movement that would free Palestine from the Romans.

**Impatience** - Judas could have been trying to motivate Jesus to take action. If the authorities came to arrest Him, maybe Jesus would finally lash out and do what needs to be done.

**Greed** - Judas’ motive could have been to elevate himself. Seeing that Jesus’ movement was going nowhere, he could have turned Jesus in to try and boost his own political appeal and power in the state.

**Discussion Questions:**  
1. In what ways can someone be loyal to their own ambition over and above loyalty to Christ?  
2. What are some ways that people today rebel against Jesus?  
3. Are you patient with the Lord?   
4. How do you misunderstand Jesus’ purposes?  
5. In what ways are you greedy in your life?  
6. How is trusting Jesus the opposite of betraying Him?

Each of the 12 disciples that we have studied left behind him a legacy.  For some, it is quiet obedience; others, it is notable leadership; still others, betrayal of trust. We remember each of them for the legacy they left.

Each day, you are laying the legacy that your classmates, family, and youth group will remember you by. What you do and how you act will be remembered for years to come. Someday, people will recall events from the history of your life and talk about how you responded. **The question is: what will your legacy be?**

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| Workbook Activity (5 minutes)  In your workbooks, you will find a section for our next activity. In the blank spaces provided, complete the two writing assignments as shown. (If not using workbooks, give each student a sheet of paper, and explain that they should write two different things, as shown below.)  1.  **First,** **write what you think your legacy would be if you were to die tonight**. What would people say about you?  Were you committed to Christ? Were you a cheater? Did you lie? Did you openly talk about Christ? Did you live a Christian life? Were you committed to your youth group?  2.  **Second, write what you want your legacy to be.** Be specific. If you want people to know you as a dedicated Christian, write specific ways you want to be remembered (i.e. always went to church, had a daily quiet time, used your free time to serve others, etc.). |

CLOSING PRAYER (2 minutes)

Now pair up with someone and pray for each other. When you’re done praying, you can go.