

Junior 1 Year 1 Book 3 Lesson 6

Judas Iscariot

Passages: Mt 26:14–25, 47–50; 27:1–10; Mk 14:1–2, 10–21, 43–46; Lk 22:1–6, 17–23, 45–48; Jn 13:1–4, 21–30; 18:1–9

Memory Verse

“Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.” (Proverbs 4:23)

Knowledge of God’s Will [God’s Word]	Knowledge of God [God’s Divine Nature]	Good Work [Behavior]
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Judas was called to serve but chose to follow his greed instead.2. Judas repaid good with evil, and love with hate.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. God loves a repentant heart.2. God abhors dishonesty.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Constantly search our hearts and weed out any evil or malice.2. Truly repent of our old ways.3. Guard against dishonesty and greed.

Overview

Events and Spiritual Teachings

- A. Before His Betrayal
- B. After His Betrayal

Life Application

1. Search Our Hearts
2. Truly Repent
3. Be Honest

Memory Verse

Conclusion: Constantly search our hearts and weed out the evil and malice in us so that we are able to hear God’s calling for our repentance.

Introduction

Have you ever been betrayed by a friend? (*Allow students to answer.*) Describe how it felt to be wronged by someone close to you. If you've never experienced this, how might you react? (*Allow students to share and discuss answers.*)

Today we're going to learn more about Judas, a man whose name has become synonymous with betrayal because of the severity of his actions. The name "Judas" means "without help," and "Iscariot" means "of Kerioth." Kerioth was a town in South Judea. The other disciples were all from Galilee. The southern Jews often held a sense of superiority over those from the north.

Jesus once referred to him as "a devil" (Jn 6:70–71) and "the son of perdition" (Jn 17:12). *Perdition* also means "ruin" or "destruction," and is associated with the loss of eternal life. The apostles spoke of Judas as one who "by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place" (Acts 1:25). Judas repaid good with evil, and love with hate. So, the name "Judas Iscariot" is synonymous with wickedness, evil, and betrayal. His story warns us not to be guilty of the same sin, so that we don't follow his path and reach the same result.

A. Before His Betrayal

1. Judas was one of Jesus' twelve disciples

We understand from the Bible that Jesus spent the whole night praying prior to the selection of His disciples (Lk 6:12). Whatever reason Jesus picked Judas, we can be sure that Jesus did not make a mistake. But man has the free will to choose what they want to do. In this case, Judas was given the opportunity to lead the flock of Jesus and to take on the missionary work of Jesus. However, Judas, out of his own free will, chose to take the path of greed, deception, and evil.

2. Judas was a thief

The Lord Jesus had chosen Judas to be the keeper of the common purse. However, Judas proved himself to be unworthy of the trust because he took some of the money for himself (Jn 12:6). Judas broke the eighth commandment of God, yet the Lord Jesus was merciful to him and gave him time to repent of his wrongdoings. In John 12:5, Judas objected when Mary of Bethany anointed Jesus' feet with expensive perfume and suggested that the prized perfume would be better off sold and the money given to the poor. But his words were hypocritical and self-serving; he pretended to be concerned for the welfare of the poor, but in reality, wanted the money for himself.

Later, Judas was not approached by the chief priests to betray Jesus, but instead Judas, motivated by his greed, initiated the visit to the chief priests and put himself forward as a traitor. In Matthew 26:15, Judas blatantly asked the chief priests for his wages to bring Jesus in, clearly showing his greed and desire for money.

3. Judas was a traitor

If we look closely, we can see that whenever Judas' name is mentioned, the Bible refers to him as the betrayer. Betraying Jesus was a despicable crime, yet Judas allowed himself to be used as a tool of Satan to carry out this act. He sold himself to Satan and carried out this heinous crime for thirty pieces of silver, the equivalent of the price of a slave (Ex 21:32). During the last supper, Jesus extended His final gesture of love towards Judas, but the Bible states that Satan entered

Judas and Judas rejected the love of Jesus. So Jesus told Judas, “What you do, do quickly” (Jn 13:27), and He later referred to Judas as “the son of perdition” in His prayer (Jn 17:12).

Jesus, being a divine being, the Son of God, knew the strengths and weaknesses of His disciples. Jesus knew that Peter was of little faith when he started to sink while walking on water. Jesus also knew that Peter would deny Jesus despite his insistence to the contrary, so He took the opportunity to alert Peter to what would come in the future, so that Peter could stand against it. In the same way, Jesus foretold Judas’ betrayal on the night of the last supper, as He wanted to tell Judas that what he was about to do was a terrible sin. Jesus hoped that Judas would come to his senses and repent of his evil intentions. However, Judas was bent on doing evil and remained determined to carry out his plan. Despite having followed Jesus for three years of holy ministry, Judas chose to betray Jesus for the sake of his greed, thereby failing to repay Jesus’ love towards him.

We may ask, why did Judas need to betray Jesus? Couldn’t the chief priests just arrest Jesus? The public knew of Jesus’ good works and greatly admired Him, especially after He brought Lazarus back to life. In the height of Jesus’ popularity, the chief priests did not want too many people to be aware of Jesus’ arrest for fear of a rebellion. Judas’ offer of betrayal meant that he would give them an opportunity to arrest Him when there were no crowds to witness their actions. That opportunity presented itself in the garden of Gethsemane, where Judas kissed Jesus to indicate to the chief priests that this was the man they wanted. A kiss is usually a symbol of love and affection, but it is the nature of evil to twist what is lovely and good into its worst form. In this case, Judas adulterated the symbol and used it to betray Jesus into the hands of the chief priests and Pharisees.

B. After His Betrayal

1. Judas was remorseful

When Jesus was bound and carried away to the Romans to be condemned, only then did Judas realize the weight of his actions. He took the money back to the chief priests and elders and said, “I have sinned by betraying innocent blood” (Mt 27:3–4). It was as if Judas’ conscience had suddenly returned. But they gave him a cold reply, saying “What is that to us? You see to it!” (v. 4).

This is how Satan, the deceiver, works among us. Satan clouds our minds and blinds our eyes so that we pursue acts of evil. But when Satan is over and done with us, we feel the sudden nakedness of shame, similar to what Adam and Eve felt (Gen 3:7). We can only imagine that at these points in time, Satan is gloating over the success of his evil deception, leaving us shrouded in shame. Judas felt this same shame, and he tried to return the thirty pieces of silver in a weak attempt to restore his conscience. Unfortunately, he realized that there was no more forgiveness for him; he threw the thirty pieces of silver in the temple and took his own life by hanging himself. Judas was given a chance to turn back, but he chose to be entangled in his sin (2 Pet 2:20).

The Bible records that the chief priests also knew that the thirty pieces of silver was blood money. Because of this, they did not put the money into the temple treasury but used it to buy the potter’s field where Judas hanged himself as a burial place for foreigners (Acts 1:18).

2. Judas was replaced

As a result of Judas' suicide, the number of disciples was reduced to eleven. In Acts 1:15–20, Peter quotes from the Scriptures, saying that Judas' place should be filled by another person (Ps 69:25; 109:8). Through prayer, the disciples selected Matthias to take his place. This occurrence reminds us that although we are God's workers, none of us are indispensable. If we do not uphold our responsibility, God will find someone else who is more suitable and willing to replace us. This means that each opportunity to serve Him is not a reason for us to be arrogant or to be proud of our skills or abilities. These are opportunities that God has given to us, so that we can repay the debt of love we owe to Him.

Check for Understanding

1. **Why did Judas criticize Mary of Bethany for anointing Jesus' feet with expensive perfume?** He pretended to be upset by saying that the perfume could be sold for a great amount of money, which could then be donated to the poor. But actually, he was a thief and wanted to use the potential money for his personal gain.
2. **How much did Judas receive for turning Jesus in to the chief priests?** Only thirty pieces of silver – the price of a slave.
3. **Why did the chief priests not arrest Jesus Christ themselves, instead resorting to accepting Judas' offer of betrayal?** In the height of Jesus' popularity among the public, the chief priests did not want too many people to be aware of Jesus' arrest for fear of a rebellion. Thus, they needed to know the exact time and location to discreetly arrest Him, the details of which only someone close to Him could provide.
4. **What did Judas try to do after Jesus was taken to the Romans?** Full of remorse, he tried to return the money out of guilt for his actions.
5. **Who was selected to replace Judas?** Matthias.

Life Application

1. Search Our Hearts

We should make it a habit to constantly search our hearts for any signs of evil or malice. When we pray and meditate on the word of God through prayer and Bible reading, we should examine our hearts thoroughly. The word of God is living and acts like a double-edged sword, and by studying it, we allow it to work within us. Bible verses we read may pierce our hearts, but we have to choose whether to brush it away or to repent and act on the matter to correct our ways.

In Psalm 139:23, King David teaches us to ask God to search our hearts, because it is only when we self-reflect and ask God to help us search our hearts that we are able to weed out our impurities. It is similar to when we dress and get ready for a big event by examining ourselves in the mirror; we should also always examine ourselves to ensure we are dressed in clean robes for the banquet of God. Had Judas taken the time and effort to examine himself, he would have seen the evil and greed festering in his heart. If Judas had searched his heart thoroughly, he could have been motivated by Jesus' love to run from sin and remain loyal to his beloved teacher.

There are many things in our daily lives that we could be dishonest about, such as when we believe cheating a little is not a big deal. For example, in certain countries where honesty is based on trust, it may be easy to abuse that trust by not paying for train or bus tickets. It may even seem exhilarating to get away with avoiding the ride fare. It is even easy for us to justify it to ourselves, such as, "Is it such a

big deal that I didn't give the company a couple of dollars?" Or, "Surely the transport authority is so rich that even if I don't pay my fare, it won't make a difference!"

We often look lightly on our sins and justify our actions at the expense of others. But even though our dishonesty or lie may only be "a small amount" in our eyes, Judas may have thought the same when he began stealing from the common purse the disciples entrusted him with. It was still an act of sheer dishonesty and greed, regardless of how much he took (Prov 1:19). James 1:14–15 says that our desires, if succumbed to, will eventually lead us to death. Do not look lightly on seemingly minor wrongdoings. Always strive to be perfect, just as Christ is perfect. We can only achieve this by constantly searching our hearts.

Discussion: Have you ever done anything that made you feel guilty? Share with the class. It can be anything from something simple to something more serious.

2. Truly Repent

We can only identify our weaknesses through self-reflection, and once identified, we should be remorseful and adopt a heart of true repentance. True repentance is not simply a matter of feeling sorry about our actions but actively seeking to change our ways to avoid sinning again. It is easy to say that we feel remorse, but repentance requires changing completely from our old ways. Psalm 51 is David's prayer of repentance after committing adultery with Bathsheba, and in it, he confesses his sins to the prophet Nathan and to God. Being able to admit your mistakes is a sign of humility and shows that you are not trying to hide your sins, especially from God.

God is merciful to a repentant person, but a person who truly repents must not commit the same mistakes again. A truly repentant person must never return to his old ways, for someone who does is a "fool [who] repeats his folly" (Prov 26:11). Hebrews 6:6 tells us that when someone repeats their mistakes after obtaining forgiveness from God, "they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame."

Testimony

There was a sister whose life was being taken over by pop music. She would listen to pop music while doing chores, studying and even sometimes secretly in church. She knew it was not good to indulge so much in worldly music, so in one of the prayer sessions during a spiritual convocation, she repented of her sins and resolved not to listen to pop music anymore. Months passed and she became weak again; she succumbed to listening to pop music all over again. One night, after saying her prayer before bedtime, she felt very cold and afraid. Instead of kneeling down to pray again, she put on her earphones. But what she heard on her earphones wasn't the pop music she was expecting; she heard the shrill sound of a woman shrieking. It was so frightful that this sister threw her earphones out the window and ran downstairs crying to her parents. Her parents prayed with her and this time, she was truly resolute in her decision to never again listen to pop music as she had determined during the spiritual convocation.

- Anonymous

God clearly takes our prayers and resolutions seriously, so we must be truly repentant of our sinful ways.

Discussion: Have you said sorry for doing something, then done it again later? What were your feelings when you repeated your action?

3. Be Honest

We have been taught from a young age in RE classes that telling lies is breaking the ninth of the Ten Commandments. However, it is easy to take this commandment lightly; we see so many people around us breaking it, so we assume God will excuse us if we break it too. Even little children tell lies. We may think, if everybody is breaking the law, maybe the law has to be amended. That is definitely not so with God's commandments! We are prone to repeating this sin, as it is one of the easiest commandments to break. But God put His commandments in place for us to obey. We must remind ourselves that lying is not acceptable and make a conscious effort to refrain from lying, for a small seed of sin, once fully grown, will bring forth death (Jas 1:14–15). Never underestimate the sin of lying because one lie always leads to more.

All lies are rooted in dishonesty, deception, and, very often, greed. When it comes to money, some people may think that outsmarting others with their dishonest tricks is just another business tactic. But Proverbs 11:1 tells us that God abhors dishonest scales, and a just weight is His delight. God wants us to be honest Christians, so even as business owners, we have to treat others fairly and honestly. The rest of the world may practice dishonest methods, but as Christians, we have been sanctified and set apart. We should always trust in the love of God and do what is right. To the world, it is impractical to be so righteous, but doing the right thing is what God wants of us. If we do the right thing, we can be assured that God will reward us accordingly for the good we choose to do.

Judas' dishonesty began with his greed over money. He did not control his weaknesses and allowed them to corrupt his entire spirit like an infectious disease. Without restraint, greed and dishonesty can easily spread like wildfire within us. So, no matter what justifications we may give for telling a lie, there is no excuse for it, for God abhors dishonesty, and Satan is the father of deception (Jn 8:44).

Discussion: Have you been dishonest to someone recently? What was the reason? (*Allow students to answer. Examples may be: to protect themselves, embarrassment, greed, anger, shame, etc.*) How can you adjust your thoughts or your lifestyle to curb similar reasons for dishonesty in the future?

Memory Verse

"Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life." (Proverbs 4:23)

Meanings

1. We must guard our heart above all things because our hearts motivate our every action and decision.
2. Guarding our heart means consciously keeping our intentions and emotions in check. We should make it our way of life to constantly search our hearts, which requires vigilance and diligence.
3. "For out of it spring the issues of life" – "it" means the heart. Our every move and action stems from the intentions and desires of our heart. It is the source of all that we do. If our heart isn't in the right place, our actions won't be either.

Conclusion

The lessons we draw from the life of Judas warn us of the consequences of sin. The main lesson we can learn from Judas is never to place our personal interests above Christ. In the face of Jesus' growing popularity, John the Baptist told his offended disciples, "He must increase, but I must decrease" (Jn

3:30). We cannot allow our personal interests to outweigh the interests of Christ. Unfortunately for Judas, he never came to that realization, and as a result, he sadly lost not only his life, but also his place in God's kingdom.

We always need to search our heart diligently for any signs of evil or dishonesty and guard it so that we can be a good and righteous person. In doing so, we can be confident that when our Lord Jesus comes again, we will be able to meet Him with a clean and pure conscience, ready to take our place in His kingdom.

Lesson 6 Homework Assignment Answer Key

1. Explain the meaning of the memory verse. Why must we guard our hearts?
Guarding our hearts means consciously keeping our intentions and emotions in check. We must guard our hearts because our every move and action stems from the intentions and desires of our hearts. It is the source of all that we do. If our heart isn't in the right place, our actions won't be either.
2. How much did Judas receive for betraying Jesus?
Thirty pieces of silver, the price of a slave.
3. What kind of desire led Judas to betray Jesus? How did this desire first show itself?
His greed and desire for money. It first manifested itself when he began taking money from the common box entrusted to him.
4. How do we search and guard our hearts?
By praying and meditating on the word of God, and by constantly examining our hearts with diligence and vigilance against any evil or malice. Do not look lightly on seemingly minor wrongdoings. Always strive to be perfect, just as Christ is perfect.
5. Explain how one of your own desires can eventually lead you into sin.
Personal answers.
6. How can you avoid the above situation?
Personal answers.