

# Lent & Easter Feb. 26 - Mar. 19, Apr. 2 - 9 9:30-10:30 am

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Big Idea	Intelligence	Center	Room
February 26 <b>Jesus Did the Right Thing Even When It Was Hard</b> Matthew 4:1-11	Art Smart	Lenten Centerpiece	Art Room
March 5 <b>Jesus is not Accepted in His Hometown.</b> Matthew 13:53-58	Body Smart	Build a Synagogue	Active Room
March 12 <b>Jesus is not Accepted by the People Incharge</b> Matthew 12:38-42	People Smart	“Prove Yourself” Charades	Toy Room
March 19 <b>Jesus is not Accepted by God’s People</b> John 7:25-31	Logic Smart	“What Were They Saying about Jesus” Secret Code	Common Room
March 26 <b>Spring Break</b>	No Learning Centers		
April 2 <b>Jesus is not the King People Expect</b> Matthew 21:1-11	Music Smart	Learn the song <i>Holy, Holy, Holy Lord</i>	Worship Center
April 6 <b>Jesus is on Trial</b> John 18:33-40	All are welcome	Maundy Thursday Service	Worship Center
April 7 <b>Jesus Dies</b>	Self-Smart	Good Friday Service	At home
April 9 <b>Jesus is Alive Again</b> John 20:1-9	Nature Smart	Easter Egg Hunt	The Whole Building

**Story Time - 10:15 am - Theater Room**

## What the adults need to know:

This passage is found in a section of John's Gospel that deals with numerous rejections of, and oppositions to, Jesus. Jesus' authority is regularly questioned. The confrontation recorded in this passage is part of a larger passage that begins in v.14 and ends at v. 44, although we can treat the smaller portion here because it contains a couple of distinct topics.

First, we see the recurring questions of Jesus' identity. In the previous passage, Jesus claims the authority to heal on the Sabbath (vv. 23-24). This brings the crowd to ask how it is that Jesus can keep talking like this, knowing that there was a plot to kill him. "Why don't they just get it?" they ask.

This raises an idea in the minds of some of the crowd: maybe authorities have concluded that Jesus is in fact the Messiah! That's why they don't kill him. But even if the authorities have accepted Jesus, these members of the crowd will not, because (as they say) Jesus' identity is known, whereas no one will know where the messiah comes from. (There was apparently disagreement among the Jews of the time about whether the Old Testament revealed the origin of the messiah).

But Jesus does not enter the debate about the earthly origins of the messiah. He shifts the focus, claiming that his true origin is from God. His opponents here felt that if they could peg him as a Nazarene, they could disqualify his messianic claims; Jesus simply responds that he is indeed from Nazareth ("you know me:), but more importantly, he is sent by the Father ("You do not know him," v. 28).

If Jesus' goal is to win friends, this is not the way to go about it. This claim to be intimate with God the Father, along with the suggestions that his opponents do not know God because they do not recognize the Son, sends the people into a frenzy again. Some put their faith in him, but by and large the crowd wants him dead. But Jesus' time for this has not come, and so they are not able to carry out their plan.

A central point of John's Gospel can be grasped here. Even though Jesus suffered hostile opposition, his end was not the result of a failed plan. It was, so to speak, a "planned failure." His purpose was to die at the right time: God's time.

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## Dinner Table Wonderings:

- I wonder why Jesus taught at the festival, even though he knew it was unsafe?
- Is there something I care about enough that I would put myself in danger, like Jesus did?

## What this kids need to know:

In this story, Jesus has been teaching at a feast in the temple. (A feast is a religious holiday). This was in Jerusalem, the biggest and most important city in Judea. There were a lot of people there - a huge crowd - and many of them did not at all like what Jesus had to say. He was claiming to be sent by God. He said that, since God sent him, he knew God better than anyone. He also told the crowd that they were not able to understand the things he was telling them.

This was not the first time Jesus talked like this. By now, the people know that the religious leaders wanted to kill him for saying such things! They were surprised that Jesus had enough nerve to show up at this holiday, in such a huge crowd, talking the way he did.

So here is Jesus, in Jerusalem, with a big feast going on, and everyone is after him.

Can you imagine being somewhere in public - a big movie theater, or a stadium, or a shopping mall - and realizing that everyone there is so angry with you that they want to hurt you? The only people on your side are a few of your friends. Of course, that won't happen to you. But it did happen to Jesus.

But even the large crowd could not hurt him. Jesus kept right on teaching, even though people were growing angrier and angrier. Some of the people tried to grab Jesus to make him stop talking. But they were not able to do anything to him. Why? Because it wasn't yet the right time for Jesus to die. That time had been planned by God and would come later. Because God's plan was not yet complete, the crowd was powerless against Jesus.