

# Session 6

## Judas

Children realise that Jesus has forgiven us, so we must also forgive each other.

**Scripture:** Matthew 26:14–16, 20–23, 25–28

**Supplies:**

- Arrange the week before with everybody to bring small change (coins)
- Play dough
- Coloured paper, glue, pens and crayons
- Copies of the handouts



### Welcome

- Use the disciple cards again but hide the Judas card beforehand. Let the group have a look at the cards and guess which disciple is missing. They must work together as a group within 3 minutes to look for the missing card to see if they guessed correctly.
- Put all the coins in 2 bowls of water. Divide the group into 2 teams (more if you have a very big group). Each team gets 2 knitting needles or sticks to collect coins out of the bowls. The teams then count their coins in its Rand value. The team that collected the most money (Rand value) wins. The money is donated to the outreach project (this year's project or the group's own project).
- Team members must pass the coins on to each other only using knitting needles or skewers.
- Prepare beforehand 2 fishing rods with a magnet on the end of the line to represent a hook. Attach paper clips to the mouths of small paper fish. Team members must then fish the coins out of a container.
- See how far your coins can roll or how long your coins can spin.

Today we are going to listen to a story of a disciple who did something sad. We will also hear how Jesus forgives us when we make mistakes.



### Worship

**Settle down ritual:** Think about something you did or said in the last few days that hurt another person or made them feel sad. Then, pray by yourself and talk to Jesus about it.

Tell the group you are going to share a piece of bread with each other. When you pass the bread to the next person say: "Jesus forgives you!" (Or do this at the end of the session.)



### Word

Matthew 26:14–16, 20–23, 25–28 (Good news translation)

*(First explain that “to betray” means to break a promise to someone or to do something unfair to him/her. Use a piece of bread and a glass of grape juice to help tell the story.)*

“One of the twelve disciples – the one named Judas Iscariot – went to the chief priests and asked: ‘What will you give me if I betray Jesus to you?’ They counted out thirty silver coins and gave them to him. From then on Judas was looking for a good chance to hand Jesus over to them.

When it was evening, Jesus and the twelve disciples sat down to eat. During the meal Jesus said: ‘I tell you, one of you will betray me.’ The disciples were very upset and began to ask him, one after the other: ‘Surely, Lord, you don’t mean me?’ Jesus answered: ‘One who dips his bread in the dish with me will betray me.’

Judas, the traitor, spoke up. ‘Surely, Teacher, you don’t mean me?’ he asked. Jesus answered: ‘So you say.’

While they were eating, Jesus took a piece of bread, gave a prayer of thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples.

‘Take and eat it,’ he said. ‘This is my body.’ Then he took a cup, gave thanks to God, and gave it to them. ‘Drink it, all of you,’ he said. ‘This is my blood, which seals God’s covenant, my blood poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.’”

#### **For older children:**

*(Briefly explain the symbolism of the bread and the wine using a piece of bread and a glass of juice.)*

- Jesus suffered with a beaten body on the cross. (bread)
- His blood flowed. (juice/wine)
- The bread and wine remind us of how Jesus paid for our sins.
- Jesus forgives us, no matter what we do wrong.
- Jesus accepts us, even if we have made many mistakes and have a bad reputation. That is why we must forgive others and ourselves.
- Jesus gave us communion as symbol of his love and forgiveness.

*(NB: Suicide is a sensitive subject, but as we read the story further, we see that Judas eventually hung himself. It might not be appropriate for your group to continue Judas’ story. However, if your group is mature enough and you have used good discretion whether they will be able to understand it, you can continue the story in Matthew 27:1–5.)*

“Early in the morning all the chief priests and the elders made their plans against Jesus to put him to death. They put him in chains, led him off, and handed him over to Pilate, the Roman governor.

When Judas, the traitor, learned that Jesus had been condemned, he repented and took back the thirty silver coins to the chief priests and the elders. ‘I have sinned by betraying an innocent man to death!’ he said. ‘What do we care about that?’ they answered. ‘That is your business!’

Judas threw the coins down in the temple and left; then he went off and hanged himself.”

Children reflect on the story:

1. I wonder why Judas wanted to betray Jesus.
2. I wonder how Judas felt when he realised that Jesus knew about his plans to betray Him.
3. I wonder how you would have wanted the story to end.
4. I wonder if you have ever felt bad about something you have done.



#### **Working and Playing**

- Connect the dots: bread and wine glass.

#### **Older children:**

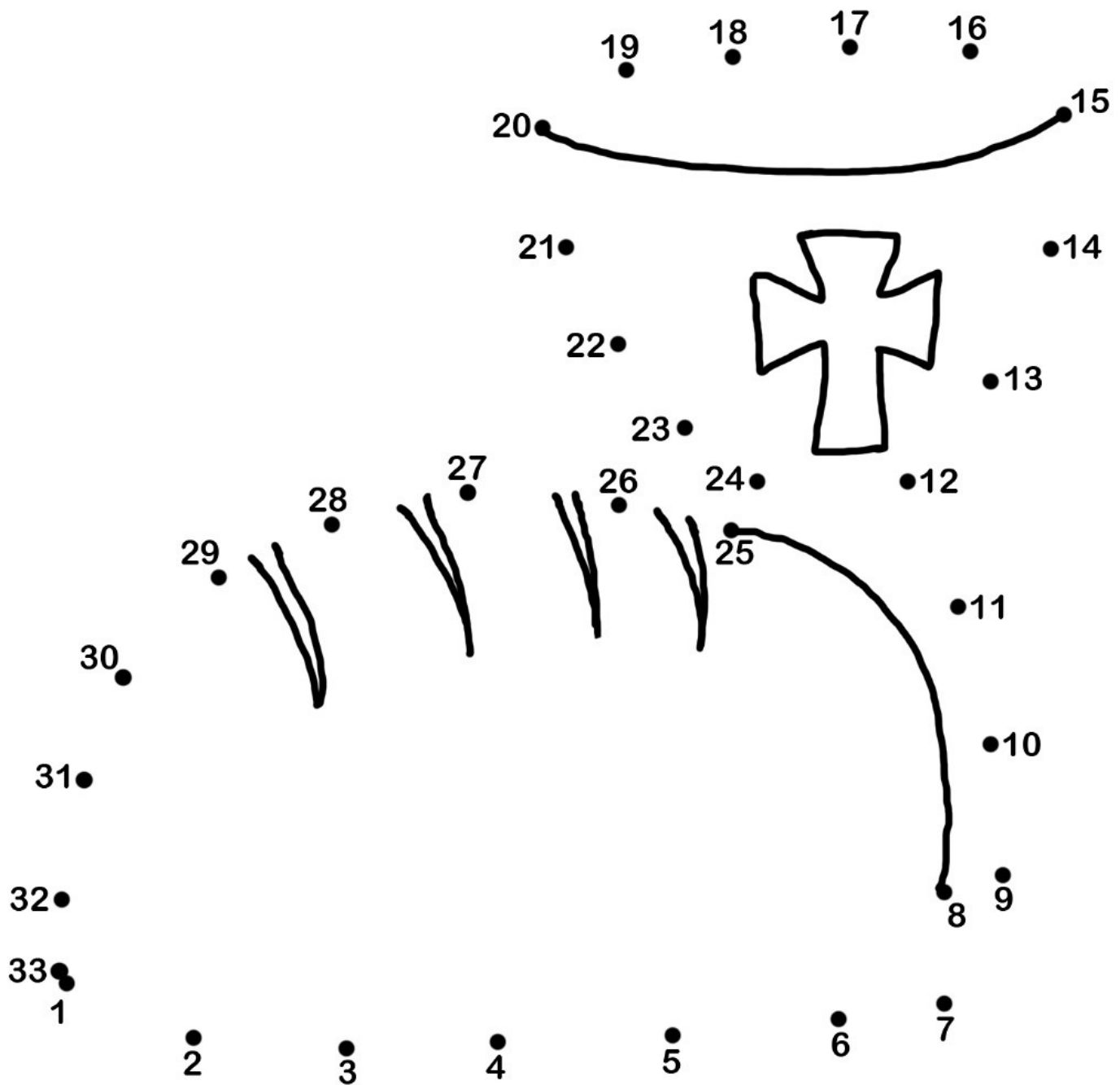
- They can eat together and share food with each other. Say these words to each other: “Jesus has forgiven you and you are his child.”

- Paste the cross on which it says "paid in full" with coins/brown paper/tree bark or colour the cross or trace coins on the cross and donate the money.
- Bring extra coins for children who did not bring any.



**Close with the benediction:**

Jesus loves you very much.  
 He has invited you.  
 You are very welcome at his table.  
 He forgives you. He heals your heart.  
 His Spirit lives in you.



paid in full

