

**Big Idea:** Jesus is committed.

**Primary Scripture:** John 18-19

**Supporting Scripture:** John 10:30; John 14:9b; John 17:5; John 3:16-17; Philippians 2:8-11

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### **CAPTURE (Why should students pay attention to and care about your message?)**

- Video:
  - **Pepsi Harrier Jet Commercial (0:30)**
  - <https://youtu.be/3OMV7HUKTik>
- Story of John Leonard
  - Tried to redeem 7,000,000 Pepsi Points for a Harrier Jet
  - Judge's ruling:
    - "no reasonable person could have believed the company seriously intended to convey a jet worth roughly \$37.4 million as a prize."
  - Winning in court depends on making an overwhelmingly convincing case where facts are presented clearly.

### **SCRIPTURE (What does God's Word say?)**

- John is going to give us evidence for why Jesus is still the Messiah, even though He was crucified.

*<sup>2</sup> Judas, the betrayer, knew this place, because Jesus had often gone there with his disciples. <sup>3</sup> The leading priests and Pharisees had given Judas a contingent of Roman soldiers and Temple guards to accompany him. Now with blazing torches, lanterns, and weapons, they arrived at the olive grove. <sup>4a</sup> Jesus fully realized all that was going to happen to him, so he stepped forward to meet them. (John 18:2-4a – NLT)*

- Jesus could have resisted, but He didn't:

[show slide]

*<sup>4b</sup> "Who are you looking for?" he asked. <sup>5</sup> "Jesus the Nazarene," they replied. "I am he," Jesus said. (Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them.) (John 18:4b-5 – NLT)*

- Centuries before, God identified Himself to Moses by calling Himself “I AM.” For the religious leaders who were present that night, they would have immediately recognized Jesus’ language connecting Himself to I AM, and in doing so, clearly claiming to be God.

**<sup>6</sup> As Jesus said “I AM he,” they all drew back and fell to the ground! (John 18:6 – NLT)**

- Again, John is showing Jesus’ power.

**<sup>7a</sup> Once more he asked them, “Who are you looking for?” And again they replied, “Jesus the Nazarene.” <sup>8</sup> “I told you that I am he,” Jesus said. “And since I am the one you want, let these others go.” <sup>9</sup> He did this to fulfill his own statement: “I did not lose a single one of those you have given me.” (John 18:7-9 – NLT)**

- Peter steps in to try to defend Jesus:

**<sup>10</sup> Then Simon Peter drew a sword and slashed off the right ear of Malchus, the high priest’s slave. <sup>11</sup> But Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword back into its sheath. Shall I not drink from the cup of suffering the Father has given me?” <sup>12</sup> So the soldiers, their commanding officer, and the Temple guards arrested Jesus and tied him up. (John 18:10-12 – NLT)**

- Jesus is being arrested, but it is quite clear that He is also very much still in charge of the situation.
- Jesus is turned over to Pontius Pilate for sentencing, but Pilate (unsuccessfully) tries to let Him go.
- Pilate becomes frustrated that Jesus won’t answer his questions.

**<sup>10</sup> “Why don’t you talk to me?” Pilate demanded. “Don’t you realize that I have the power to release you or crucify you?” (John 19:10 – NLT)**

- And yet again, even though He’s the one on trial, Jesus seems to still be the One in charge:

**<sup>11a</sup> Then Jesus said, “You would have no power over me at all unless it were given to you from above.” (John 19:11a – NLT)**

- Let's jump to Jesus' final moments on the cross:

<sup>28</sup> Jesus knew that his mission was now finished, and to fulfill Scripture he said, "I am thirsty." <sup>29</sup> A jar of sour wine was sitting there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put it on a hyssop branch, and held it up to his lips. <sup>30</sup> When Jesus had tasted it, he said, "It is finished!" Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. **(John 19:28-30 – NLT)**

- "It is finished!" sure makes it sound like Jesus knew exactly what He was doing, doesn't it?

### **INSIGHTS (What might this Scripture mean?)**

#### **1. Jesus understands exactly who He is.**

- Jesus made multiple claims of His own deity:

<sup>30</sup> The Father and I are one. **(John 10:30 – NLT)**

<sup>9b</sup> Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father! **(John 14:9b – NLT)**

<sup>5</sup> Now, Father, bring me into the glory we shared before the world began. **(John 17:5 – NLT)**

#### **2. Jesus was obedient to His mission.**

- John is making it exceptionally clear: Jesus *chose* to be arrested. Jesus *chose* to be crucified. Jesus *chose* to die. But why?
- Jesus Himself explains why in a verse from the Gospel of John that most of you have probably heard many times before:

<sup>16</sup> "For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him. **(John 3:16-17 – NLT)**

- The Apostle Paul describes Jesus' choice in this way:

*<sup>8</sup> he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross. <sup>9</sup> Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names, <sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:8-11 – NLT)*

### **ACTION (How could we live this out?)**

#### **1. Give thanks.**

- This week, as you pray, instead of asking God for something, begin with thanking Him for something, such as:
  - Your family
  - Your friends
  - The things in your life that make you laugh
  - The things in nature that God created

#### **2. Participate in God's mission to the world.**

- Jesus' death and resurrection opened a new phase to God's work in our world, where He invites us to participate.
  - Choose to pray for friends who don't know Jesus.
  - Choose to invite friends who don't know Jesus to our services and events.
  - Choose to tell your faith story to your friends about how you came to believe in Jesus and what He has done in your life.
  - Choose to share with others what you are learning about Jesus.
  - Choose to serve others (we talked about this last week). Find a need someone has and meet the need in Jesus' name.