Guilty or Not Guilty?
John 18

Introduction
• Have you ever watched a police show where someone got arrested?
• What kind of people get arrested?
  o People who break the law by doing bad things get arrested.
  o Name some kinds of people who get arrested.
    ▪ Robbers, fighters, murderers, drug dealers, people who damage other people’s things
• Would it surprise you to learn that Jesus was arrested? Why does or doesn’t this surprise you?
• We want you to become an Awesome Adventure detective and search for evidence in the following Bible verse clues to discover whether Jesus was guilty or not guilty of doing something wrong.

The Arrest
• Okay, Awesome Adventure detective, search first for evidence from the following Bible verse clues about Jesus’ arrest. To make it easier, you may want to put bookmarks in Matthew 26, Luke 22, and John 18.
  o Luke 22:39-46: What was Jesus doing just before he was arrested?
    ____________________________
  o Matthew 26:47: Who were the people who gathered to arrest Jesus?
    ____________________________________________
  o Luke 22:47: Who was the leader of the people who came to arrest Jesus?
    ________________________________
  o Matthew 26:47-50: How did he show the people who Jesus was, the one who they were supposed to arrest? ____________________________
  o How would this make you feel if you were Jesus?
    __________________________________________
  o John 18:10: Who tried to defend Jesus from being arrested and what did he do?
    __________________________________________
  o Luke 22:51; Matthew 26:52-54: How did Jesus react to this attempt to defend him? ________________________________
• Why was Jesus arrested?
  o The answer can be found in Matthew 26:56 and Mark 14:49,
**The First Trial**

- When people are arrested, there is a trial to see if they are guilty or not guilty.
  - Evidence is shown to the judge who will determine if there is enough to prove a person guilty.
  - If there isn’t enough evidence, the judge says that the person is not guilty and they are set free.

- Awesome Adventure detective, search for evidence from the following Bible verse clues to see if Jesus was guilty or not guilty:
  - Read John 18:19-24
    - Who questioned Jesus? _______________________
    - According to Jesus, did he have secrets and did he try to hide things from people? _______________________
    - How do we know this? _______________________
    - Did Annas, the high priest who questioned Jesus, find anything wrong with what Jesus had done? _______________________

**The Witness**

- To prove that someone is guilty or not guilty, witnesses of what happened are called on to tell what they know.
  - Simon Peter was one of Jesus’ followers from the very beginning of his ministry.
  - He was willing to fight to defend Jesus, and we know this because he was the one who cut off the ear of the man at Jesus’ arrest.
  - Peter should make a good witness for Jesus.

- Awesome Adventure detective, read Matthew 26:69-73 and look for evidence about what kind of witness Peter was for Jesus:
  - Who was the first person to question Peter? _________________
  - How did Peter answer her? _______________________
  - Who was the second person to question Peter? _________________
  - How did Peter answer her? _______________________
  - Who were the third people to question Peter? _________________
  - How did Peter answer them? _______________________

- To think about:
  - Why do you think Peter answered this way, not just once, but three times?
  - What happened after Peter answered the third time? _______________________
  - What does this show about Jesus and who he is?
  - Why is this important to know about Jesus?
  - How did Peter react after his third answer?
How are we sometimes like Peter?
(Good news: Peter later on became a very strong witness for Jesus).

The Second Trial
- Jesus had more than one trial to see if he was guilty or not guilty.
- Awesome Adventure detective, search for evidence from these Bible verse clues:
  - Read John 18:28-40
  - John 18:28-30; Matthew 26:59-60: Had the Jewish leaders found Jesus guilty of anything wrong? _______________________
  - John 18:31-32: Even though Jesus was not guilty, what did the Jewish leaders want to happen to him? ______________________
  - John 18:33-37: Who is Jesus? ________________________
  - John 18:38: Is Jesus guilty or not guilty? ______________
  - John 18:39-40; Luke 23:19: When given the choice to set free either Jesus, who was not guilty, or Barabbas, who was guilty of rebellion and murder, who did they choose? ______________________

Case Closed
- Now that you have the evidence from the Bible verse clues:
  - Was Jesus guilty and did he deserve to be arrested and put through two trials or was he not guilty?
  - What did you learn about Jesus from your detective work?
  - What kind of witnesses for Jesus should we be?
- Close this case by turning to and reading Ephesians 6:19-20.
  - Pray that God will give you the courage and the words to be a faithful witness for Jesus.
- Congratulations, Awesome Adventure detective! You've solved your first case!