

## 1. THE KISS

*Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed Him.  
Matthew 26:49*

Midnight.

Stillness, as silent as a shadow.

In the garden, a man prayed.

Alone.

His name was Jesus.

He had given sight to the blind, life to crippled legs and even raised the dead. He was a man of miracles, praying for one more miracle – that the terror of what was to come could somehow be avoided – knowing in his heart that it could not.

The lonely hoot of an owl pierced the darkness.

High above, silent witness to what would happen this night - the moon.

Full.

Of hope.

Watched and waited.

Within moments a band of temple soldiers stormed into the garden, carrying lanterns and torches, swords and spears in their hands, murder and malice in their hearts. The one who led them was not a soldier but it was he who carried the Kiss of Betrayal on his lips.

Jesus turned to them and asked, "Who are you looking for?"

They answered, "Jesus of Nazareth."

Jesus said, "I am He."

They fell back, struck with the fear that always accompanies the unknown. This was the one they had only heard of. The one who had the power to raise the dead. Who would dare to stand against Him?

Again Jesus asked, "Who are you looking for?"

Again they answered, "Jesus of Nazareth."

Again Jesus said, "I am He."

Again they fell back. Was this man, who looked like an ordinary man, really the one who claimed to be the Son of God? Who among them would dare to stand against Him?

It was at that moment that the one who **would** dare, stepped forward.

His name was Judas Iscariot, one of the original twelve disciples. For thirty pieces of silver, he had promised the enemies of Jesus that he would deliver Him into their hands.

When they had asked, “How will we know which is the one called Jesus?” Judas had answered, “The one whom I greet with a kiss will be He.”

And now they stood, face-to-face.  
Jesus said softly, “Friend, do what you came to do.”  
Judas kissed the Son of God.  
It was done.  
A man of love - betrayed by a kiss.  
The soldiers seized Jesus and led Him away.

The garden was empty.  
The disciples were gone.  
The soldiers were gone.  
Judas was gone.  
Jesus was gone.

The air was thick with treachery.  
Stillness, as silent as a shadow.  
The lonely hoot of an owl pierced the darkness.  
High above, silent witness to what had happened this night - the moon.  
Full.  
Of sorrow.  
Hung its head and cried.

**Written By: William McDonald/Lexington, KY**  
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## **RELATED QUIZZES**

### **VOCABULARY**

1. Crippled: lame; can't walk
2. Pierced: to pass into or through
3. Witness: to see
4. Stormed: entered angrily
5. Malice: meanness; desire to harm
6. Betrayal: to help the enemy
7. Accompanies: comes with
8. Original: the first; the earliest
9. Seized: grabbed
10. Treachery: disloyalty; trickery

1. Jesus had healed the \_\_\_\_\_ legs of a man who could not walk.

Pierce  
Crippled  
Witness

2. The hoot of an owl is so sharp it can \_\_\_\_\_ the dark of night.

Seize  
Original  
Pierce

3. To \_\_\_\_\_ something means to see it happen.

Witness  
Storm  
Malice

4. There were twelve \_\_\_\_\_ disciples.

Witness  
Accompanies  
Original

5. Judas Iscariot was guilty of \_\_\_\_\_

Treachery  
Betrayal  
Malice

### **TRUE/FALSE**

1. Before the soldiers arrived, it was very quiet and peaceful in the garden.

True

2. Jesus and a lot of His friends were praying together in the garden. False.

Jesus prayed alone.

3. Jesus was famous for doing miracles. True.

4. Jesus was angry with Judas for betraying Him. False. Jesus spoke softly to Judas.

5. The owl flew out of the garden after the soldiers took Jesus away. False.

The owl was still hooting in the garden after everyone left.

## READING COMPREHENSION

### WHAT IS THE MAIN IDEA OF THE STORY?

- A. Jesus, praying for one more miracle.
- B. The soldiers who came to arrest Jesus were afraid of Him.
- C. Judas Iscariot would betray Jesus by kissing Him.

### WHAT BELONGS IN THE MIDDLE?

- 1. Jesus was praying in the garden.
- 2. ?
- 3. Jesus was betrayed with a kiss.

- A. The soldiers and Judas Iscariot stormed into the garden.
- B. The soldiers arrested Jesus and took him away.
- C. An owl hooted in the night.
- D. The moon was watching everything.

### CAUSE AND EFFECT

1. Judas led the guards to arrest Jesus because he \_\_\_\_\_

- A. Wanted to get there first and warn Jesus.
- B. Was the only one who knew what Jesus looked like.
- C. Wanted to see his friends, the disciples, again.

2. When Jesus told the soldiers that He was who they were looking for \_\_\_\_\_

- A. They grabbed Him and threw Him to the ground.
- B. They ordered Judas to arrest Jesus.
- C. They fell back in fear because they had heard that Jesus was the Son of God.

### INFERENCES

Jesus was praying for another miracle because He \_\_\_\_\_

- A. Wanted to show everyone that He was very powerful.
- B. Didn't want to go through what would happen to Him if he were arrested.
- C. Was testing God to see if He would help His son.

### FACTS AND DETAILS

1. Jesus was arrested in the garden around \_\_\_\_\_
  - A. Breakfast time
  - B. Lunch time
  - C. Dinner time
  - D. Midnight
  
2. One of the miracles Jesus performed was \_\_\_\_\_
  - A. Turned a rock into a frog
  - B. Turned an owl into a robin
  - C. Raised someone from the dead
  - D. Turned the soldiers' spears into snowballs
  
3. The soldiers came to arrest Jesus carrying \_\_\_\_\_
  - A. Spears and lanterns
  - B. Crossbows and shields
  - C. Slingshots and rocks
  - D. BB guns
  
4. Judas betrayed Jesus by \_\_\_\_\_
  - A. Pointing at Him and saying "He's the one!"
  - B. Touching Him on the shoulder
  - C. Kissing Him
  - D. Placing a flower at His feet

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

The eerie sound of the owl's "hoot" was used as a way to express loneliness: "I am like a vulture of the wilderness, like an owl of the waste places; I lie awake, I am like a lonely bird on the housetop." (Psalm 102:6-7)