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Lesson plan

In defence of Judas Iscariot

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The big picture	Judas Iscariot — traitor or hero? Essential to the divine plan, but still condemned?
Learning objectives	<p>What? The purpose which Judas served.</p> <p>Why? To evaluate and analyse his actions.</p> <p>How? After studying this topic, students should be able to discuss the key role that Judas plays in Jesus' life and death.</p>
Starter activity	Discuss the following question: 'Did Judas betray Jesus of his own volition?'
Lesson activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In pairs, read and annotate the article on pp. 7–9 of the magazine and raise questions on any aspects that you do not understand. • What made Judas Iscariot different from the other disciples? • Research and discuss the actions of Peter and Thomas. Compare their actions to those of Judas and try to explain their motivations.
Plenary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are your views about Judas Iscariot? • Do you think that he should have been forgiven? • Should he have killed himself? • Why do you think Jesus chose Judas as a disciple? • Was Judas part of a plan? Explain your answer.
Homework task	Examination question on Judas Iscariot, his life and purpose.
Assessment	Using the mark scheme, students should assess their own work before the teacher provides feedback.
Differentiation	A summary sheet on the disciples, their backgrounds etc.

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