

Jesus' Trial and Crucifixion

(Mark 14; Luke 22, 23; John 18, 19)

Introduction

Often, we are punished because we do wrong things. Perhaps you were disciplined because you failed to clean your room. Maybe you were punished because you got into a fight or because you were talking when you were supposed to be listening at school? But have you ever been punished for something you did not do? How would you react if that happened to you? [Teacher, let the children discuss.]

Jesus knows all about that. He was severely punished even though He had never done anything wrong. Yet, the Bible tells us that He willingly suffered because He knew it was for our good.

Opening Prayer

Lord Jesus, as we learn about Your trial and crucifixion this morning, I pray we will understand more fully how awful our sin is and what a terrible, cruel, and horrible death You suffered for our sakes. Cause us to come to a deeper appreciation of all that You did for us. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Memory Verse

He was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed. (Isaiah 53:5 NLT)

and

Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends. (John 15:13)

Lesson

Review....

[Teacher, as you review, you can display various objects to help trigger the children's memories. For example, show a small plastic donkey and a small piece of palm branch when you talk about Palm Sunday. Or, a small piece of bread as you discuss the Last Supper.]

For the past few Sundays, we have been learning about the last week of Jesus' life. One week before His death, Jesus came riding into town on a donkey. He and His disciples had come to town to celebrate Passover. As He rode in, many people thought he was riding in like a king, so they waved palm branches at Him and laid down their clothes for His donkey to walk over and they shouted, "*Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!*"

Later that week Jesus and His disciples had the Passover meal together. During dinner the devil spoke to Judas' heart and told him that this was the night to carry out his plan to betray Jesus. But before Judas did that evil deed, Jesus asked His disciples to eat broken bread and drink wine in remembrance of Him. After supper Jesus washed the Disciples' feet to teach them that God wants us to serve others with a humble heart.

After supper, Judas left to tell the priests where Jesus was going to be in a secluded place. Then, Jesus and the disciples sang a hymn and went out to a garden on the Mount of Olives. While they were there, Judas, accompanied by a crowd of Roman soldiers carrying swords and clubs, found Jesus with His disciples and betrayed Him with a kiss.

As Jesus willingly submitted to the soldiers, Peter impetuously cut off the ear of Malus, the high priest's servant, but Jesus restored it, commanding Peter to put away his sword.

Today's Lesson...

[Teacher, we will be reading verses from Mark, Luke, and John. Put book marks into the children's Bibles before class to help them locate the various passages more quickly.]

The soldiers bound Jesus and brought Him to the Jewish high priest's house for questioning and trial.

John 18:12-13

So the soldiers, their commanding officer, and the Temple guards arrested Jesus and tied him up. (13) First they took him to Annas, since he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest at that time.

The Jewish religious leaders were in a hurry — they wanted to complete the trial and execution before sun up when the Sabbath began and the Passover celebration officially started. So, they took Jesus off to a trial in the home of the High Priest in the middle of the night.

Mark 14:53, 55

They took Jesus to the high priest's home where the leading priests, the elders, and the teachers of religious law had gathered... (55) Inside, the leading priests and the entire high council were trying to find evidence against Jesus, so they could put him to death. But they couldn't find any.

The religious leaders knew they had no grounds for charging Jesus, so they tried to build evidence against him by using false witnesses. After false witnesses testified against Jesus, they began to make fun of Jesus.

Luke 22:63-65

The guards in charge of Jesus began mocking and beating him. (64) They blindfolded him and said, "Prophesy to us! Who hit you that time?" (65) And they hurled all sorts of terrible insults at him.

They mocked Jesus and beat Him.

John 18:19-24

Inside, the high priest began asking Jesus about his followers and what he had been teaching them. (20) Jesus replied, "Everyone knows what I teach. I have preached regularly in the synagogues and the Temple, where the people gather. I have not spoken in secret. (21) Why are you

asking me this question? Ask those who heard me. They know what I said." (22) Then one of the Temple guards standing nearby slapped Jesus across the face. "Is that the way to answer the high priest?" he demanded. (23) Jesus replied, "If I said anything wrong, you must prove it. But if I'm speaking the truth, why are you beating me?" (24) Then Annas bound Jesus and sent him to Caiaphas, the high priest.

Why would Jesus allow men to accuse Him of lying and treat Him so cruelly? Jesus' suffering and cruel treatment was part of God's plan so because of His love for you, He willingly allowed them to mistreat Him.

So first they took Him to Annas' house for questioning. When they couldn't find anything to charge Him with, they sent Him to Caiaphas', his son-in-law.

Next, the soldiers brought Jesus to Pilate, the Roman governor of Judea (the region where Jerusalem is located). [Teacher, show the children a map of Israel.]

John 18:29-31

So Pilate, the governor, went out to them and asked, "What is your charge against this man?" (30) "We wouldn't have handed him over to you if he weren't a criminal!" they retorted. (31) "Then take him away and judge him by your own law," Pilate told them. "Only the Romans are permitted to execute someone," the Jewish leaders replied.

Governor Pilate could find no fault in Jesus and he didn't want to handle this case. So when he found out that Jesus had lived and worked up in Galilee, he sent Him to Herod, the Roman ruler of the Galilee region, who happened to be in Jerusalem for Passover.

Luke 23:6-11

"Oh, is he a Galilean?" Pilate asked. (7) When they said that he was, Pilate sent him to Herod Antipas, because Galilee was under Herod's jurisdiction, and Herod happened to be in Jerusalem at the time. (8) Herod was delighted at the opportunity to see Jesus, because he had heard about him and had been hoping for a long time to see him perform a miracle. (9) He asked Jesus question after question, but Jesus refused

to answer. (10) Meanwhile, the leading priests and the teachers of religious law stood there shouting their accusations. (11) Then Herod and his soldiers began mocking and ridiculing Jesus. Finally, they put a royal robe on him and sent him back to Pilate.

Pilate sent Jesus to Herod, but Herod sent Jesus back to Pilate.

Luke 23:13-16

Then Pilate called together the leading priests and other religious leaders, along with the people, (14) and he announced his verdict. "You brought this man to me, accusing him of leading a revolt. I have examined him thoroughly on this point in your presence and find him innocent. (15) Herod came to the same conclusion and sent him back to us. Nothing this man has done calls for the death penalty. (16) So I will have him flogged, and then I will release him."

Pilate could find no fault in Jesus; Jesus had done nothing that called for the death penalty. So Pilate said he would have Jesus whipped and then he would release Him.

John 19:1-3

Then Pilate had Jesus flogged with a lead-tipped whip. (2) The soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they put a purple robe on him. (3) "Hail! King of the Jews!" they mocked, as they slapped him across the face.

Even though Pilate knew that Jesus was innocent, to satisfy the Jews, Pilate had Jesus whipped, a purple robe placed on His shoulders and a crown of thorns smashed on His head.

The whipping was done using strips of leather embedded with pieces of metal and bone. The whipping alone could have killed Him. The purple robe, suggesting royalty, and the crown of thorns were used to mock Christ's declaration of kingship.

Still the Jews demanded His death.

Luke 23:21-25

But they kept shouting, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" (22) For the third time he demanded, "Why? What crime has he committed? I have found no reason to sentence him to death. So I will have him flogged, and then I will release him." (23) But the mob shouted louder and louder, demanding that Jesus be crucified, and their voices prevailed. (24) So Pilate sentenced Jesus to die as they demanded. (25) As they had requested, he released Barabbas, the man in prison for insurrection and murder. But he turned Jesus over to them to do as they wished.

Pilate wanted to release Jesus, but the crowd loudly demanded his death. Pilate was afraid the crowd would cause a riot and that he might lose his job. So, he didn't stand up for what he knew was right.

Sometimes it's hard to stand up for what you know is right. Have you ever been in a situation when your friends wanted you to do something you knew is not pleasing to the Lord? [Teacher, let the children respond.]

Had Pilate been a man of real courage, he would have released Jesus no matter what the crowds said. But he feared the crowd.

How sad that the people didn't know Who they were condemning to death. Jesus was God, the Son. He had no sin — His thoughts, words, and actions always pleased God, the Father. How unlike you and me. We are born wanting our own sinful way (Ecclesiastes 7:20).

Think of times when you have not pleased God. Maybe you have lied to your teacher at school. Perhaps you have selfishly refused to share something with your brother or sister. The Bible says that our sin deserves punishment. But Jesus didn't deserve to be punished.

Jesus was crucified along with two criminals.

John 19:17-19

Carrying the cross by himself, he went to the place called Place of the Skull (in Hebrew, Golgotha). (18) There they nailed him to the cross. Two others were crucified with him, one on either side, with Jesus between

them. (19) And Pilate posted a sign on the cross that read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews."

Because Jesus is God's perfect Son, He had no hatred for the crowd even as they cried out for His death. If only they would have realized who He really was.

Luke 23:34

Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing." And the soldiers gambled for his clothes by throwing dice.

Although the soldiers nailed Jesus to the cross and mocked Him as the blood flowed from His hands and feet, Jesus still loved them and had compassion on them. As Jesus looked down from the cross upon them, He asked His Father to forgive them.

At this point, Jesus said He was thirsty, so they soaked a sponge in some wine and held it up to his lips with a stick.

John 19:30

When Jesus had tasted it, he said, "It is finished!" Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Jesus knew that His mission here on earth was finished and the Scriptures were now fulfilled, so He cried out, "*It is finished!*" and died on the cross, taking the punishment for all sin forever.

Christ's payment for sin applies to everyone. John 3:16 says, that God, the Father, gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life. His suffering on the cross paid for all sin; yet, not everyone will automatically go to Heaven.

You must repent and believe that Jesus' death on the cross satisfied God's wrath against your sin. To *repent* is to stop sinning and to turn away from your sins. To *believe* in Jesus means to trust in what Jesus did on the cross to save you from the punishment of for your sin.

When you come to the understanding that you are a sinner and in need of forgiveness, come to God in prayer and to tell Him that you know you are a sinner and believe that what Jesus did on the cross paid the punishment you deserve. Then, ask Him to come and fill your life with His Holy Spirit to help you live your life in a way that pleases Him.

John 5:24

"I tell you the truth, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life.

Have you ever told God that you want forgiveness of your sins and eternal life? If not, you can do so right now.

Closing Prayer

Father, I am a sinner, deserving of eternal punishment and separation from You. But thank You that you made a way for me to come to heaven when I die. Thank You, Jesus, for what You did for me on the cross. What suffering was Yours to have all the evil in the world put on You — You, who knew no sin! Thank You, that Your forgiveness is available for all. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

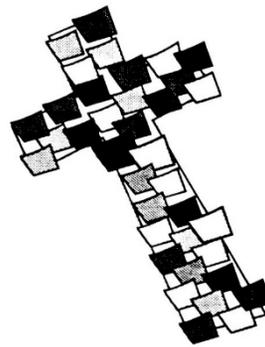
Learning Activities

Lesson Review Activity

You can review the story by placing the following items into a bag. As you take out each object, explain the story, or ask the children to tell you what the object means:

- Bread — last supper
- Coin — Judas betrayed Jesus for money
- Rope — Jesus' hands were tied

- Purple cloth — Jesus was mocked in a purple robe
- Thorns — Jesus wore a crown of thorns
- Cross — Jesus died on a cross
- Nails — nails pierced his hands and feet
- Sponge — they gave him vinegar on a sponge
- Spear (wooden skewer/toothpick) — they pierced his side
- White cloth — His burial linen
- Stone — the stone that sealed Jesus' tomb



Craft Corner

Mosaic Cross

Using a paint brush, have the children “glue” multi-colored tissue-paper squares on a construction paper cross with starch.

Game Center

Use the following review questions in a game of your choice:

1. Where was Jesus when the soldiers came and arrested him? (Garden of Gethsemane)
2. Who betrayed Jesus with a kiss? (Judas)
3. When Jesus was arrested, did He try to get away? (No)
4. When Jesus was arrested, who ran away? (All the disciples)
5. Who denied he knew Jesus three times? (Peter)
6. What did they do to Jesus to make fun of him? (They blindfolded, beat, spit on Him, put a purple robe on Him.)
7. Why would Jesus allow men to accuse Him of lying and treat Him so cruelly? (Because He loves us so much!)
8. What was the name of the governor that found no fault in Jesus? (Pilate)
9. Did Jesus defend Himself before Pilate? (No.)
10. What did the crowd do when Pilate wanted to release Jesus? (They demanded Jesus be put to death.)
11. What prisoner was released instead of Jesus? (Barabbas)
12. Why did Pilate sentence Jesus to die if he thought that He was innocent? (He was more concerned about his own reputation.)
13. What did the soldiers put on Jesus' head? (Crown of thorns)
14. What did they whip Jesus with? (A strap of leather embedded with pieces of metal and bone.)
15. Who helped carry Jesus' cross? (Simeon)
16. Where was Jesus crucified? (Golgotha, Place of the Skull)
17. Who was crucified with Jesus? (Two robbers.)
18. What did Jesus cry out from the cross right before He died? (“*It is finished!*”)
19. What does it mean to “*believe in Jesus*”? (That you trust in what Jesus did for you on the cross.)
20. Have you ever been punished for something you did not do?

