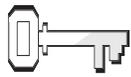


Judging Jesus

References



Matthew 26:57-27:2,
11-14; Mark 14:53-15:5;
Luke 22:54-23:12;
John 18:12-38;
The Desire of Ages,
pp. 698–715, 723-731

Memory Verse



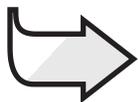
“But he was pierced for
our transgressions, . . .
and by his wounds
we are healed” (Isaiah
53:5, NIV).

Objectives



The children will:
Know that Jesus
suffered physical and
mental pain for
those He came to save.
Feel sorry for the suffering
caused by sin.
Respond by praising Jesus for sav-
ing them from sin.

The Message



I praise Jesus for
saving me.

Monthly Theme

We remember what Jesus has done for us.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

After Jesus is arrested in Gethsemane, He is brought to Annas, father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. Annas orders Jesus to be taken to Caiaphas. Jesus is questioned, insulted, mocked, and tortured before the Sanhedrin. During that time Peter denies Jesus three times, and Jesus is sentenced to death. Jesus is then sent to Pilate to have the sentence confirmed and executed. When Pilate finds no reason to carry out the death sentence, he sends Jesus to Herod. But after ridiculing and mocking Him Herod sends Jesus back to Pilate to carry out the death sentence.

This is a lesson about worship.

Our wholehearted thankfulness for all that Jesus has done for us is an act of worship. He made the supreme sacrifice for us when He died on the cross. We worship Him when we live for Him.

Teacher Enrichment

As Jesus stood on trial at the court of Caiaphas, “mercy and justice were trampled upon. Never was criminal treated in so inhuman a manner as was the Son of God” (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 710).

“When the condemnation of Jesus was pronounced by the [Sanhedrin] judges, a satanic fury took possession of the people. The roar of voices was like that of wild beasts. The crowd made a rush toward Jesus, crying, He is guilty, put Him to death! Had it not been for the Roman soldiers, Jesus would not have lived to be nailed to the cross of Calvary. He would have been torn in pieces before His judges, had not Roman authority interfered, and by force of arms restrained the violence of the mob” (ibid., p. 715).

Room Decorations

See Lesson 1.

Program Overview

Lesson Section	Minutes	Activities	Materials Needed
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled	none
1 Readiness Options	up to 10	A. <i>Silence!</i> B. <i>Trial Pick-up Sticks</i>	Bibles six tongue depressors or craft sticks for each group of children, Bibles
Any Time Prayer and Praise*	up to 10	Fellowship Songbook Mission Offering Prayer	none <i>Sing for Joy</i> <i>Children's Mission</i> simple offering device relating to field of mission emphasis none
2 Bible Lesson	up to 20	Experiencing the Story Memory Verse Bible Study	news desk, Bible-times costumes, (optional) spear, shield, helmet for Roman soldier, copies of script adhesive or cloth bandages tongue depressors or craft sticks from Readiness B, Bibles
3 Applying the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Thank-You Knots</i>	paper, pencils, pens, markers, ribbon
4 Sharing the Lesson	up to 15	<i>"Thank You, Jesus!"</i>	two short lengths of rope for each child

***Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.**

TEACHING THE LESSON

Welcome

Welcome students at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Encourage them to share any experiences from last week's lesson study. Then have them begin the Readiness Activity of your choice.



Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

You Need:

- Bibles

A. Silence!

Say: **When you face a problem, sometimes the very best thing to do is keep silent. I am going to time you for one minute. During that time do not say a word or make any sound. Let's see who is the best at being silent.**

Debriefing

Ask: **Was it easy to keep silent?** (yes, no) **Why is it sometimes wise to keep silent?** (We can hear better what is around us and what other people are saying. We can have more time to think before we talk, etc.)

In our lesson today Jesus was silent at certain times, even when He was expected to speak. For some of you, that might not be difficult, but for others it would be almost impossible. Let's find and read our memory verse in Isaiah 53:5. Read aloud. Jesus was silent while others spoke evil things about Him. He suffered many things to save us. And that brings me to today's message:



I PRAISE JESUS FOR SAVING ME.

Say that with me.

You Need:

- six tongue depressors or craft sticks for each group of children
- Bibles

B. Trial Pick-up Sticks

If you have a large class, divide the children into groups of four or five. Provide a set of six tongue depressors for each group. Number each tongue depressor as below and write the names of who led out in the six trials of Jesus discussed in today's lesson. On the other side of each tongue depressor write its corresponding Bible texts.

[1] Annas (John 18:12, 13); [2] Caiaphas (Matthew 26:57-68); [3] Sanhedrin (Mark 15:1; Matthew 27:1); [4] Pilate 1 (Luke 23:1-60); [5] Herod (Luke 23:7-10); [6] Pilate 2 (Luke 23:13, 14)

Say: **We are going to call this activity "Trial Pick-up Sticks." Someone in each group will begin by holding the sticks loosely and upright in their cupped hand, then remove their hand and let the sticks fall. Try to pick up the sticks, one at a time, without moving any other stick. Your score is how many sticks you were able to pick up before another one moved. When the last person has had a turn, add up all the scores and divide by the number of people in your group. We will see which group gets the highest average score.**

When each group is finished, acknowledge the group with the highest score. Have each group set their sticks aside to be used during Bible Study.

Debriefing

What do you suppose each stick you picked up stands for? (Wait for responses.) **They each represent one of the six trials that Jesus went through in today's lesson. The people in today's Bible story seemed to "win" in their "game" by having as many people as they could find who would condemn Jesus to die. But they really lost. Having eternal life is found only by accepting Jesus, not condemning Him. Our memory verse in Isaiah 53:5 tells us that Jesus suffered so that we may have eternal life. Read the text aloud. We can show our acceptance of Jesus by saying our message together. Our message today is:**



I PRAISE JESUS FOR SAVING ME.

Say that with me.

Prayer and Praise Any Time



Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Allow time for sharing experiences from last week's lesson study and review the memory verse. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special warm greeting to all visitors.



Suggested Songs

"Alleluia" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 16)

"Jesus Loves Me/O, How He Loves You and Me" (*Sing for Joy*, nos. 27, 28)

"More About Jesus" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 38)



Mission

Use a story from *Children's Mission*.



Offering

Say: **Our offering goes to help the people in (name of place where offering will go) to learn that Jesus saved them from sin.**



Prayer

Say: **Jesus' prayer time in Gethsemane prepared Him for the terrible time He had to face. Are you worried about anything, or is someone you know worried about something? Praying about it really helps you to face what worries you.** Encourage the children to share situations to pray about, then pray for each one.

You Need:

- simple offering device relating to field of mission emphasis

Bible Lesson

You Need:

- news desk (table)
- Bible-times costumes
- (optional) spear, shield, helmet for Roman soldier
- copies of “script” with highlighted parts for each particular part

Experiencing the Story

Characters: news anchorperson (leader); reporters one, two, and three; John, Peter; Roman soldier; (optional: actors for each scene)

The leader acts as the anchorperson of a news program, sitting at a desk or table while narrating the events in today’s story, and switching to reporters stationed at various scenes. The reporters describe their scene and interview a witness there. Provide the reporters and witnesses with a copy of the script with their parts highlighted. Rehearse before doing the “broadcast.” If you have a large group, some children can be dressed up in Bible-times costumes silently acting out (miming) the scene while the reporter interviews the witness. The witnesses and scenes are:

- (1) John on the hillside watching the mob
- (2) Peter in the courtyard
- (3) Roman soldier in Pilate’s judgment hall

As you use the script, insert the actual names of those reading the various parts.

Have the characters read the story.

Anchorperson: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. We interrupt this program to bring you a special bulletin about fast-breaking events that started near the Garden of Gethsemane tonight. Our reporter, (Reporter One), has located someone to talk with near there. Come in, (name).

Reporter One: Thank you, (name of anchorperson). Around midnight a well-known public figure, Jesus of Nazareth,

was arrested near here by a noisy mob. He was rushed down the mountain to the palace of Annas, the former high priest, who is still very powerful. John, one of Jesus’ disciples, was here. John, what do you know about what happened here tonight?

John: I was with Jesus and His other disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane. We had gone there to pray. Without warning, a mob led by Judas, formerly one of our group, arrested Jesus and took Him away. I don’t know what they plan to do with Him. I do know that many of the prominent leaders hate Him and want to put Him to death.

Reporter One: John, how do you feel, and what are you going to do now?

John: I am frightened. Maybe Jesus’ disciples will be arrested too. But I plan to follow Jesus and find out what will happen to Him. I am on my way to do that now.

Reporter One: Thank you, John. Now, back to you, (Anchorperson).

Anchorperson: Thank you, (Reporter One). Reports indicate that the mob and Jesus are now at Caiaphas’s, the high priest’s, palace. This Jewish leader has made it clear that he does not approve of the Galilean teacher, Jesus. Now let’s go to (Reporter Two) at Caiaphas’s palace.

Reporter Two: Thank you, (Anchorperson). There is lots of noise and confusion here in Caiaphas’s palace. Caiaphas is questioning Jesus about His disciples and His teachings. An official just slapped Jesus in the face. He is being treated cruelly. I can’t get close enough to see more. Back to you, (Anchorperson).

Anchorperson: Thank you, (Reporter Two). Let’s go now to the courtyard of Caiaphas’s palace where (Reporter Three) is standing by. (Reporter Three), what is happening there in the courtyard?

Reporter Three: Well, (Anchorperson), there seems to be a commotion here around a man named Simon Peter, who is warming himself by the fire. I am told that this is the third time that he has been asked if he is Jesus' disciple. It is obvious that he doesn't want to have anything to do with the prisoner. Wait, I see Peter coming this way. *[Reporter Three moves near Peter.]* Peter, what has been happening? Why are you so upset?

Peter: I was afraid that I'd be treated like Jesus if I admitted that I was His disciple. But I feel so ashamed now. I denied Jesus three times! He told me I would do this before the rooster crows. Did you just hear it—the rooster? I've just rejected the best friend I ever had! *[Peter walks away with his head in his hands.]*

Reporter Three: As you can see, Peter is very upset. Now back to you, (Anchorperson).

Anchorperson: Thank you, (Reporter Three). Now, let's return to Caiaphas's throne room for an update from (Reporter Two).

Reporter Two: High priest Caiaphas has just leaped from his throne and screamed, ripping his beautiful robes from top to bottom. As you know, this is against Jewish law. He could be put to death. But nobody is noticing Caiaphas. Everyone is watching the crowd. The people are shouting "Death to Jesus! Take Him to Pilate! Put Him to death!" (Anchorperson), back to you.

Anchorperson: Thank you, (Reporter Two). We have just received a bulletin that the Roman soldiers and Jewish leaders are leading Jesus to Roman governor Pilate to get approval for Jesus' death sentence. We will follow this story and keep you updated. This is (Anchorperson), for JBC—Jerusalem Broadcasting Company—News. We return you now to the regular programming.

(Time elapses.)

Anchorperson: Now, an update on

the Jesus of Nazareth story. After questioning Him, Pilate decided that Jesus is not guilty of any of the charges against Him. Pilate sent Jesus to King Herod, and Herod has just sent Jesus back to Pilate. Let's go to (Reporter Four) at Pilate's judgment hall.

Reporter Four: (Anchorperson), Pilate is not happy that Herod has sent Jesus back to him. Here is Julius, a Roman soldier who has helped with crowd control. Officer Julius, how do you see the events of this morning?

Roman Soldier Julius: This crowd is worse than wild animals. Pilate does not want to put Jesus to death. No one can prove Jesus is guilty. The stories against Him don't agree. Jesus' fate rests in Pilate's hands right now. We will have to wait and see what he decides to do.

Reporter Four: Thank you, Officer Julius. Now back to you, (Anchorperson).

Anchorperson: Thank you, (Reporter Four). What will happen to Jesus? Stay tuned to JBC for further updates.

Debriefing

Ask: **What time of day did the soldiers take Jesus to the palace of Annas?** (after midnight) **Which two disciples followed Him?** (John and Peter) **What did Peter do?** (He denied Jesus three times.) **What did the crowd shout?** (Crucify Him! Kill Him!) **Where did Pilate send Jesus?** (to King Herod) **What did the soldiers do to Jesus?** (They beat Him, treated Him cruelly, etc.) **Why did Jesus suffer all of this?** (To save us, to give us an opportunity to have eternal life and to live with Him in heaven.) **Let's thank Jesus by saying our message.**



I PRAISE JESUS FOR SAVING ME.

You Need:

- adhesive or cloth bandages

Memory Verse

Ahead of time, write one word of the memory verse on each bandage (reference counts as a word). **“But he was pierced for our transgressions, . . . and by his wounds we are healed” (Isaiah 53:5, NIV).**

Distribute the bandages. Say: **Jesus was beaten and badly hurt when He went on trial for us. Our memory verse today tells how Jesus would be hurt. It was a prophecy written over 700 years before this actually happened to Jesus.**

Help the children stick the adhesive bandages to the board or table in the correct order. Remove them and have children arrange them again.

Or write the whole memory verse on a cloth bandage. Roll it up. When memory verse time comes, have the children read the memory verse as you unroll the bandage. Repeat until the children know the verse.

You Need:

- tongue depressors or craft sticks (see Readiness B)
- Bibles

Bible Study

Distribute one set of tongue depressors as described in Readiness B, one tongue depressor for each of six children. Starting with tongue depressor number one, have each child look up and read

the Bible verse indicated on their tongue depressor. When done, the children will have read a biblical account of the six trials of Jesus.

Debriefing

Ask: **Why do you think Jesus’ enemies put Him through so many trials?** (Nobody could prove anything against Him; they had to keep trying to prove He should be put to death; Roman approval was needed for death sentences; Pilate and Herod didn’t want to condemn Jesus to die, etc.)

Were any of those six trials fair?

Allow discussion time.

Sin causes people to be unkind to others. Jesus loves us so much that He was willing to suffer so one day we can be together with Him. Have you thanked Jesus for letting Himself be tortured because He loves you so much? Let’s thank Him right now as we say our message together:



I PRAISE JESUS FOR SAVING ME.

Offer a brief prayer of thanks before beginning the next activity.

3

Applying the Lesson

Thank-You Knots

Allow response time as you say: **The mob tied ropes with tight knots around Jesus' hands. They wanted to kill Him. Do you want to thank Jesus for going through so much suffering for you? Let's write Jesus a thank-You note.**

Help the children write their thank-You notes. Distribute a piece of ribbon to

each child. Then say: **Roll up your note and tie it with a knot in the ribbon.**

Debriefing

Ask: **When you see the knot on your thank-You note, what will you remember this week?** (Jesus' hands were tied with ropes and knots for me.) **Say today's message with me.**



I PRAISE JESUS FOR SAVING ME.

You Need:

- paper
- pencils, pens, markers
- ribbon

4

Sharing the Lesson

"Thank You, Jesus!"

Give the children two short pieces of rope to remind them about Jesus' suffering. Have them tie knots in the ropes.

Say: **These ropes will help us remember how much Jesus suffered for us. Keep one rope for yourself and give the other to someone else this week. Tell them that you are thankful to Jesus for suffering for you. Each time you look at your rope, thank Jesus for His wonderful love.**

Debriefing

Say: **Jesus gave you the gift of**

Himself. Try to thank Him every day as you look at your rope.

If you tell someone else what Jesus did for you, that will make Him very happy. Give the second rope to someone so they can say "Thank You!" too. Tell them what Jesus did for you and for them. Then say a "Thank You!" prayer to Jesus with them.

Now, let's turn our message into a thank-You prayer. Let's pray it together:



I PRAISE JESUS FOR SAVING ME.

Closing

For closing prayer, sing "Thank You, Jesus" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 101).

You Need:

- two short lengths of rope for each child

Judging Jesus

References

Matthew 26:57-27:2, 11-14; Mark 14:53-15:5; Luke 22:54-23:12; John 18:12-38;
The Desire of Ages, pp. 698-715, 723-731

Memory Verse

“But he was pierced for our transgressions, . . . and by his wounds we are healed” (Isaiah 53:5, NIV).

The Message

I praise Jesus for saving me.

When Jesus was arrested in the garden of Gethsemane, all the disciples ran away. The mob followed the soldiers down the hill. They made an evil parade with torches lighting the way.

John watched as the parade moved across the brook. *What am I doing?* John asked himself. *I should follow the mob to find out what will happen to Jesus.* He and Peter followed the mob toward the home of Annas, then toward the palace of Caiaphas, the high priest.

When they arrived at Caiaphas’s palace, the priests let John in because they knew him. John turned and saw Peter walking near the gate. Peter was hiding in the dark outside. He did not want people to see him there. John went back to the woman at the gate. “Please let my friend in,” he said. And she did.

She kept watching Peter as he moved to the fire in the courtyard. Finally she asked him, “Aren’t you one of Jesus’ disciples?”

“Oh! . . . no,” said Peter as he turned to warm himself.

Just then Jesus was led onto the big porch beside the courtyard. John pushed as close as he could get. There were bruises on Jesus’ face. He walked slowly, painfully, as if His whole body ached.



Caiaphas began to ask Jesus what He believed, even though he already knew.

Jesus said, “I have always talked openly. Your people know Me.” Jesus was in pain. Yet He stood firm, like a king.

At the gate the servant girl said, “This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth.” And Peter strongly denied it..

There was more questioning back near the fire. “Aren’t you one of His disciples?” Again Peter strongly denied knowing Jesus. Then a rooster crowed. Peter had denied knowing Jesus three times! Peter looked up and saw Jesus looking at him. There was no anger in the look. Just love. Then Peter rushed out the gate of the courtyard.

The trial went on. Caiaphas asked Jesus another question. Jesus calmly said, “You have said it right, I am the Son of God.”

Caiaphas leaped up from his golden throne. “That’s it!” he screamed. “Jesus says He is like God!” He was so angry that he ripped his beautiful priestly robe from top to bottom.

Some who saw it thought, *This is against the law. The high priest is to die if he tears his robe. They will kill Caiaphas!*

But the mob didn’t notice Caiaphas. They were too busy shouting, “Death, death to Jesus! Take Him to Pilate! Put Him to death!” People were pushing at Jesus, poking and hitting Him. Soldiers ran in and grabbed Jesus, pulling Him away. Roman soldiers formed a circle around Him and hurried Him toward Pilate’s palace.

Within a few hours Jesus would go to Pilate, to Herod, and back to Pilate. Jesus would be beaten and mocked through it all. What suffering! He willingly suffered that you and I may know God’s love.

Daily Activities

Sabbath

- If possible, take a Sabbath walk with your family. Look for animals or birds that act scared and run away when you go near. Make a list or draw pictures of them. Write here how many animals are on your list. Why do these animals run away from us?
- Sit together and read your Bible lesson.
- Read and discuss Isaiah 53:5. Who is this prophecy about?
- Thank Jesus for dying for you and your family.

Sunday

- During family worship read and discuss the story of Jesus' arrest in John 18:1-11. Which two of Jesus' disciples were named? _____ and _____. Draw a picture of each of them. Put a sword in one's hand and a money bag in the other's hand. What problems did these two disciples have? Where is the nearest police station and courthouse?
- Teach your memory verse to your family.
- Sing "I Am So Glad" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 30) before prayer.

Monday

- Read and discuss Luke 22:54-62 for family worship.
- How many times did Peter deny Jesus? _____ What reminded Peter that He denied Jesus? _____ Was Peter sorry? Peter went outside and _____.
- Make a sound like a rooster. Thank God for birds and animals.
- Say your memory verse without help.

Tuesday

- Read and discuss Luke 22:63-65 for family

worship.

- Put on a blindfold. Ask family members to gently poke you. Try to guess who did it. How does this compare with how Jesus was treated? Thank Him now for suffering for you.
- Say your memory verse. Tell your family what it means to you.

Wednesday

- With your family, read and discuss Luke 22:66-71. Where is Jesus today? (verse 69)
- Write your memory verse on adhesive bandages, two or three words on each bandage. Mix them up and then arrange them in order. Tell a friend what it means.
- Before prayer, sing "More About Jesus" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 38). Ask Jesus to help you learn more about Him.

Thursday

- Read and discuss Luke 23:1-7 together with your family.
- Have a family court. Accuse a family member of something they did not really do. Choose someone to be the judge, lawyer, witness, and the "guilty" one. Have the judge rule that the accused is guilty. How is your court like the court in this week's Bible story? How is it different? Pray for people who are accused wrongly.
- Arrange your memory verse bandages.

Friday

- Read and discuss Luke 23:8-12 during family worship.
- Act out Jesus' journey with your family. (Don't really beat "Jesus.") Will you ever suffer as Jesus did? Why?
- Say your memory verse and sing "Thank You, Jesus" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 101).