

# Jesus' Trial and Crucifixion

Matthew 26:47-27:61



New Testament 5  
Part 2: Jesus' Last Week

## SUNDAY MORNING

New Testament 5 [Class Attendance Sheet](#) provided in activity sheets (NOTE: The document is interactive, allowing the teacher to type in the Class, Teacher, and the children's names.)

### SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Matthew 26:47-27:61; Mark 14:43-15:47; Luke 22:54-23:49; John 18:1-19:42

### MEMORY WORK:

YOUNGER CHILDREN: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son..." (John 3:16a).

OLDER CHILDREN: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

### SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF LESSON FOR WORDS):

A [song book](#) and [audio recordings](#) of many of the curriculum songs are available on the curriculum Web site.

- ["John 3:16"](#)
- ["Seven Sayings from the Cross"](#)
- ["Do You Know that Jesus Died?"](#)
- ["Jesus Loves Me"](#)
- ["J-E-S-U-S"](#)
- ["Jesus Betrayed and Denied"](#)

### LESSON VISUALS AND TEACHING AIDS (NOTE ANY DISCLAIMERS):

- See [AP's Pinterest page](#) for ideas on bulletin boards, visuals, crafts, etc. [DISCLAIMER: Pins may sometimes need to be adjusted to be Scriptural.]
- [Jesus' Ministry & Last Week](#) Bible fact cards (provided under "N.T. 5 Bible Facts" on curriculum Web site)
- "Summary of the Bible" from ["Kids Prep"](#) CD by Jeff Miller
- Betty Lukens' felt pieces
- Crucifixion and Resurrection A Beka picture set (DISCLAIMERS: use the cards, *not the lesson book*; note on cards CE 7.4, 7.5, and 9.1 that the holes would have been in Jesus' wrists)



## PERSONAL APPLICATION:

YOUNGER CHILDREN: Jesus died for me.

OLDER CHILDREN: God loves me so much that He allowed His only Son to die so that I could be forgiven of my sins and go to heaven to be with Him when I become a Christian.

## LESSON STARTS HERE

### INTRODUCTION: (YOUNGER CHILDREN)

Review with children many of the “good” things Jesus did while on Earth (healing, teaching, etc.). Even though Jesus did so many good things, His main purpose in coming to Earth was to die for us. Today we will talk about some sad things that happened to Jesus.

### INTRODUCTION: (OLDER CHILDREN)

Review events in Jesus’ life leading up to this lesson (could use the “[Chronological Events Activity](#)” from Lesson 9 and the “[Chronological Order Activity](#)” from this lesson to review with class).

In our lesson today, we will talk about the events that happened before the crucifixion and death of Jesus.

## POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:



**NOTE:** Use as much of the information about Jesus’ trial and death from this lesson and the Scriptures as you think is appropriate for your class. The gruesome details of the crucifixion can terrify and overwhelm many adults; our purpose is not to terrify or overwhelm the children! The main emphasis should be that He suffered a great deal, and did so willingly, because of His great love for us.

1. After Jesus finished praying in the Garden of Gethsemane, He told the 11 remaining apostles that “the hour” had come; He knew that terrible things would soon happen to Him. Jesus had hardly said those words when Judas, the disciple who decided to betray Jesus to the Jews for 30 pieces of silver, brought a large crowd to the Garden to arrest Jesus. Judas knew the place well because Jesus and the apostles often went to the Garden to pray. There were also the chief priests, officers of the Temple guard, and some of the “elders” of the Jewish people. Many in the crowd came with torches and lanterns; a number of them were armed with swords and clubs as if they were going after someone very dangerous.
2. Judas came up to Jesus and kissed Him on the cheek to show the soldiers who they were supposed to arrest. The apostles were naturally very afraid. Peter pulled out a sword, and, in a feeble attempt to defend Jesus, reached out and cut off the ear of a man named Malchus, a servant of the high priest. Jesus scolded Peter, telling him to put away his weapon. Then Jesus performed His last miracle before His death: He put the man’s ear back on! But even after they saw this miracle, right there in front of them, the soldiers still arrested Jesus and took Him away. Most of the frightened apostles ran away, leaving Jesus alone. Peter and John followed at a distance.

3. Jesus was first taken to Annas, a former **high priest** who obviously still had a lot of influence among the Jews. He was then taken to Caiaphas, the current high priest. “Now the chief priests, the elders, and all the council [or **Sanhedrin**, according to the Greek] sought false testimony against Jesus to put Him to death” (Matthew 26:59). His hands were tied like He was a criminal, and He was slapped by a Jewish official. He was blindfolded, insulted, and made fun of. By daybreak (sunrise the next day), the Jews thought they finally had enough information to take the next step.



**NOTE:** There were three stages of Jesus’ Jewish “trial”: one before Annas, one before the Sanhedrin with Caiaphas presiding, then another before the Sanhedrin after dawn. Only Luke records the third trial. The **high priest** was the chief religious official for the Jews, the man who was supposed to be the mediator between God and the Jews, under Mosaical Law. The **Sanhedrin** was the governing body (court) of the Jews. The 70 men of this special court could make decisions and judgments for the Jews on religious and moral matters, but, as subjects of the Roman Empire, they did not have the authority to condemn someone to death.



**RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS:** See the article “[Kangaroo Court](#)” by Kyle Butt on the Apologetics Press Web site for a discussion about the illegality of Jesus’ trial, and the article “[Does the Bible Contradict Itself Regarding the Day of the Crucifixion?](#)” by Jeff Miller on the Apologetics Press Web site for a discussion about an alleged biblical contradiction regarding when the Last Supper took place in comparison to the crucifixion.

4. The Jews sent Jesus to Pilate, the Roman governor (procurator) over Palestine, to have Him officially condemned and executed by the Roman government. After Pilate questioned Jesus, he couldn’t find enough evidence to convict Him of anything criminal, so he sent Jesus to Herod (the ruler/tetrarch of Galilee at the time), to try to “pass the buck.” Herod “hoped to see some miracle done by Him” (Luke 23:8). When Jesus would not perform a miracle or defend Himself in any way, Herod and his soldiers made fun of Him. Then Herod sent Jesus back to Pilate, dressed in a special robe. After questioning Jesus again, Pilate tried to convince the Jews that Jesus should be released. The angry mob asked him to instead release a convicted murderer, robber, and insurrectionist named Barabbas.



**RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS:** See the article “[Pilate—Lost and Found](#)” by Kyle Butt on the Apologetics Press Web site for a discussion about the historicity of Pilate.

5. Pilate ordered that Jesus be beaten (**scourged**). A scarlet robe was laid across His bloody back and a crown of thorns was pushed down on His head. Pilate brought Jesus back in front of the Jews and tried to release Him again, but they continued to scream that He be crucified.



**HISTORICAL NOTE:** Discuss scourging as is age appropriate. Bible scholar J.W. McGarvey says, concerning **scourging**: “We learn from Josephus and others that the law required that those about to be crucified should first be scourged. But Pilate hoped that scourging would suffice [Luke 23:16]. He believed that the more moderate would take pity upon Jesus when they viewed his scourged body, for scourging was so cruel a punishment that the condemned person often died under its infliction. The scourge was made of thongs loaded at the extremity with pieces of bone or metal. The condemned person was stripped and fastened to a low post, this bending the back so as to stretch the skin. Blood spurted at the first blow” [*The Fourfold Gospel: or A Harmony of the Four Gospels* (1914), p. 719].

6. Roman soldiers led the badly wounded and exhausted Jesus to a hill not far outside of Jerusalem known as Golgotha, which means “the skull” to be crucified. There Jesus was nailed to the cross (or cross bar) which He (and Simon of Cyrene) had been forced to carry. He was nailed to the cross (10 feet or less above the ground) and left to die between two criminals (convicted of **insurrection** and murder—possibly co-conspirators of Barabbas). Over Jesus’ cross, Pilate ordered that a sign be posted in three languages stating what He was being crucified for (Mark 15:26), a sign which read “Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews.” The chief priests wanted Pilate to change the sign to read, “**He said**, ‘I am the King of the Jews’” (John 19:21), but Pilate refused.



**NOTE:** Some commentaries say that condemned criminals normally carried the horizontal beam for their own cross—not the upright stake itself, which was left standing and used over and over.



**RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS:** See the article “[Antisemitism and the Crucifixion of Christ: Who Murdered Jesus?](#)” by Dave Miller on the Apologetics Press Web site for a discussion about whether the Jews and/or the Romans were responsible for Jesus’ death.



**HISTORICAL NOTE:** Discuss the crucifixion as is appropriate for the age group. There were different forms of crucifixion. “T” and “X” shapes were used, and in some cases the crucified was hung upside down. In some instances, the arms were tied to the cross, while in others, the wrists were nailed to the cross. The cross of Jesus is understood to have been of the “T” shape, and His wrists and feet were nailed to the cross, likely before the cross was dropped into the hole that would hold it over the following six hours. One nail went through both feet at the base of the cross. The torn flesh on the individual’s back (from the scourging) was left to rub against the rough, splintered wood of the cross. In spite of the loss of blood from these practices, crucifixion sometimes lasted for days before death came. Death generally occurred due to suffocation from not being able to position oneself to breathe due to fatigue, rather than from blood loss. In order to speed up the process, the legs of the crucified could be broken, causing rapid suffocation.



**Insurrection:** A rebellion, often against the government or persons in authority

7. As Jesus was suffering on the cross, four Roman soldiers were on duty (John 19:23), gambling for Jesus' clothing. (This was a common practice at executions, but it was also a fulfillment of prophecy about the Messiah—Psalm 22:18.) The soldiers, and many passersby, made fun of Jesus, challenging Him to save Himself (to come down off the cross), to prove that He really was the Son of God as He claimed. Apparently, only one of the apostles, John, was at the cross, but several women who had followed Jesus during His ministry were there, as well as His mother, Mary.
8. Some unusual things happened during the time that Jesus was on the cross:
  - three hours of darkness in the afternoon
  - an earthquake
  - tombs were opened and many saints (i.e., “holy people”) came back to life
  - the curtain of the Temple (between the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place) was suddenly ripped from top to bottom



**RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS:** See the article “[At What Hour was Jesus Crucified?](#)” by Dave Miller on the Apologetics Press Web site for a response to an alleged discrepancy regarding the time of Jesus' crucifixion.



**HISTORICAL NOTE:** Jewish time was reckoned based on sunrise and sunset. So the exact hours varied according to the actual time of sunrise, which would have changed according to the season of the year. Jesus died about 3 p.m. (in the Spring), which would have been the time of the evening offering in the Temple. It was not uncommon for death by crucifixion to last for several days, especially if the one convicted was bound by ropes instead of having both hands nailed to the cross. If both hands and feet were nailed to the cross, death could occur more quickly because of the increased difficulty breathing. The actual cause of death was usually suffocation.

9. Jesus suffered on the cross for about six hours [from the “third hour” of the daytime period, according to Jewish time (Mark 15:25), or about 9 a.m. until about 3 p.m., according to our time].
10. It was common for the soldiers to break the legs of one hanging on a cross to speed up his death. The soldiers broke the legs of the two criminals on either side of Jesus, but seeing that Jesus was already dead, they did not break His legs (another fulfillment of prophecy—cf. John 19:30-33,36; Exodus 12:46; Psalm 34:20). One of the soldiers put his spear through Jesus' side (apparently puncturing the sac around His heart).
11. Two Jewish leaders who believed in Jesus, Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus, asked Pilate for permission to take Jesus' body and prepare it for burial. The body was placed in Joseph's own tomb (burial cave).
12. Jesus **could have** saved Himself; He certainly had the power to come down from the cross. When the mob came to take Jesus while the apostles and He were in the Garden, Jesus even told Peter, “Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels?” (Matthew 26:53). Why didn't He? Because He was willing to be the final sacrifice so that all people everywhere could be forgiven of their sins—including me! No longer would men



need to offer animal sacrifices to God. He loves us enough to be the ultimate sacrifice—to pay the ultimate price—so that we can be forgiven (Romans 5:6-9).

### SEVEN WAYS TO REMEMBER JESUS' DEATH:

1. **ONE** man helped Jesus carry His cross (Simon of Cyrene)
2. **TWO** thieves were crucified with Jesus
3. **THREE** languages were on the sign over Jesus' head: Latin, Greek, Hebrew
4. **FOUR** soldiers gambled at the foot of the cross
5. **FIVE** wounds on His body apart from His scourging: one on each hand, one on each foot, and the cut on His side from the soldier's spear
6. **SIX** hours on the cross
7. **SEVEN** sayings from the cross [We don't know how many times Jesus actually spoke from the cross, but seven are recorded for us: three before the darkness fell and four during the last three hours of His life. He spoke to God (three times—Matthew 27:46; Luke 23:34; Luke 23:46), one of the thieves beside Him (Luke 23:43), His mother and John (John 19:26-27), to the soldiers (for drink; John 19:28), and to the world at large (John 19:30).]



**RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS:** See the article “[The Predicted Messiah](#)” by Kyle Butt on the Apologetics Press Web site for a discussion about the fulfilled predictions about Jesus from the Old Testament, and “[Questions and Answers: The Passion of the Christ—Biblically Accurate?](#)” by Dave Miller on the Apologetics Press Web site for a discussion about the accuracy of that film.

### PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—**BEFORE** CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

- Click here for complete [Activity Book](#) and [Answer Key](#).

#### Ages 2-5:

- “[Jesus' Trial and Crucifixion Coloring Sheet](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- Bible Verse Toss: Go over today's Bible verse several times. Have the children stand or sit in a circle. Say the first word or two of the verse and then toss a foam ball or beanbag to one of the children, asking him to say the next word of the verse. Play continues with each child throwing or rolling the ball to another child who should say the next word in the verse. (If children have trouble saying one word at a time, toss the ball to a child and have him/her say the whole verse before tossing the ball to you. Teacher should toss the ball or beanbag to each child until all have said the verse.)
- Make a crown of thorns using limbs from a rose bush. Show the crown to the children and explain that the Romans put a crown of thorns on Jesus' head (Matthew 27:29). Show the children long nails (you can get nails about six inches long at the local hardware store; or purchase a railroad spike) and explain that the Romans nailed Jesus to the cross with nails about this long (John 20:25).
- Use craft sticks and glue to make a cross for the children to take home. Write John 3:16 on the cross.
- Print and copy the words “Jesus died for me!” on a half sheet of cardstock (one per child). Take a picture of each child (ahead of time). Have them glue their picture and a cross cutout

to their paper. Glue a looped piece of yarn/ribbon to the back to use as a hanger for children to hang on their doorknobs at home.

### **1st-2nd Graders:**

- Bible Verse Toss: Go over today's Bible verse children several times. Have the children stand or sit in a circle. Say the first word or two of the verse and then toss a foam ball or beanbag to one of the children, asking him to say the next word of the verse. Play continues with each child throwing or rolling the ball to another child who should say the next word in the verse.
- Bible Fact Toss: Follow the instructions above with the following changes: Give a word or name from this and/or previous lessons. Toss the ball to a student who will then identify the word or person. If he can't identify the word/person, he tosses the ball to another student.
- Make a crown of thorns using limbs from a rose bush. Show the crown to the children and explain that the Romans put a crown of thorns on Jesus' head (Matthew 27:29). Show the children long nails (you can get nails about six inches long at the local hardware store; or purchase a railroad spike) and explain that the Romans nailed Jesus to the cross with nails about this long (John 20:25).
- Use craft sticks and glue to make a cross for children to take home. Have them write John 3:16 on their crosses.
- Cross Collage: Give each child a sheet of black construction paper. Cut green construction paper into an oval shape for each child. Let each child glue their ovals to the center of the black paper. Cut a 7x5" cross for each child or let them cut one out. Have each child cut or tear small pieces of construction paper that can be glued in the oval, around the cross to create a stained glass effect.
- "Important People of the Crucifixion" activity: Create a matching activity using people from the crucifixion. [Examples: The one who betrayed Jesus (Judas); the man who carried the cross for Jesus (Simon); the man who cut off the ear of the servant of the high priest (Peter); crucified on either side of Jesus (thieves); the high priest (Caiaphas), etc.] Can also list the scripture references to go along with the clues. (Can be used as a "Memory" type game also.) ("[Important People of the Crucifixion Activity](#)" provided in activity sheets)
- Write events from this story on strips of cardstock (make several sets). Have the children work in groups/pairs to put the events in chronological order. ("[Chronological Order Activity](#)" provided in activity sheets)

### **3rd-4th Graders:**

- Bible Verse Toss: Go over today's Bible verse children several times. Have the children stand or sit in a circle. Say the first word or two of the verse and then toss a foam ball or beanbag to one of the children, asking him to say the next word of the verse. Play continues with each child throwing or rolling the ball to another child who should say the next word in the verse.
- Bible Fact Toss: Follow the instructions above with the following changes: Give a word or name from this and/or previous lessons. Toss the ball to a student who will then identify the word or person. If he can't identify the word/person, he tosses the ball to another student.
- Cross Collage: Give each child a sheet of black construction paper. Cut green construction paper into an oval shape for each child. Let each child glue their ovals to the center of the black paper. Cut a 7x5" cross for each child or let them cut one out. Have each child cut or tear small pieces of construction paper that can be glued in the oval, around the cross to create a stained glass effect.
- "Important People of the Crucifixion" activity: Create a matching activity using people from the crucifixion. [Examples: The one who betrayed Jesus (Judas); the man who carried the cross for Jesus (Simon); the man who cut off the ear of the servant of the high priest (Peter); crucified on either side of Jesus (thieves); the high priest (Caiaphas), etc.] Can also list the scripture references

to go along with the clues. (Can be used as a “Memory” type game also.) (“[Important People of the Crucifixion Activity](#)” provided in activity sheets)

- Write events from this story on strips of cardstock (make several sets). Have the children work in groups/pairs to put the events in chronological order. (“[Chronological Order Activity](#)” provided in activity sheets)
- Have the children read:
  - *Jesus Is Risen*, Contemporary Bible Series, Scandinavia Publishing House (DISCLAIMERS: p. 15—change “wine” to “fruit of the vine”; p. 43—change “power” to “your kingdom” and change “wine” to “vinegar” in both places it occurs; p. 53—note that the holes would have been in Jesus’ wrists)
  - *The Night Peter Cried*, by Larry Burgdorf, Arch books (DISCLAIMER: p. 15—change “has forgive you” to “will forgive you, too!”)
  - *The Day Jesus Died*, by Bryan Davis, Arch books (DISCLAIMER: skip the note to parents; change “wine” to “vinegar” on p. 11)
  - *The Centurion at the Cross*, by Eric Bohnet, Arch books (DISCLAIMERS: change “Good Friday and Easter Sunday” to “Jesus’ Crucifixion” on title page and skip the note to parents; throughout the story, distinguish for the kids what we know from the Bible and what may or may not have happened)
  - Digger Doug article from the [March, 2001](#) issue of Discovery Magazine; “Power in the Blood” article from the [October, 2001](#) issue; [September, 2004](#) issue; “The Lamb with No Broken Bone” article from the [March, 2007](#) issue

## SONGS:

### “JOHN 3:16”

Author: Jeff Miller

(Tune: See “[Hidden in My Heart 2](#)” CD)

### “SEVEN SAYINGS FROM THE CROSS” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown\*

(Tune: “She’ll Be Coming Around the Mountain”)

[Write each of the sayings on separate crosses,  
and put each on the board as the song is sung.]

There are seven sayings of Jesus from the cross: (2X)  
He said, “Forgive them for they know not what they do.”  
There are seven sayings of Jesus from the cross.

There are seven sayings of Jesus from the cross: (2X)  
He said, “Today you shall be with Me in Paradise!”  
There are seven sayings of Jesus from the cross.

There are seven sayings of Jesus from the cross: (2X)  
“Woman, behold your Son,” and, “John, behold your mother.”  
There are seven sayings of Jesus from the cross.

There are seven sayings of Jesus from the cross: (2X)  
He said, “My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me?”  
There are seven sayings of Jesus from the cross.



There are seven sayings of Jesus from the cross: (2X)  
He said, "I thirst. I thirst," And they gave Him vinegar.  
There are seven sayings of Jesus from the cross.

There are seven sayings of Jesus from the cross: (2X)  
"It is finished; it is finished." Yes, He knew His work was finished.  
There are seven sayings of Jesus from the cross.

There are seven sayings of Jesus from the cross: (2X)  
He said, "Father, into Your hands I commend My spirit."  
There are seven sayings of Jesus from the cross.

**"DO YOU KNOW THAT JESUS DIED?" ([Click to Hear](#))**

Author: Unknown\*

(Tune: "Do, A Deer, A Female Deer"—from *The Sound of Music*)

Do you know that Jesus died,  
Raised again in three short days?  
Me, the one He died to save,  
For the sins that I have made.  
So I love Him more and more.  
Love I never knew before.  
T: the shape of Jesus' cross,  
On it Jesus' life was lost!

**"JESUS LOVES ME" ([Click to Hear](#))**

(Author: Anna B. Warner)

Jesus loves me this I know.  
For the Bible tells me so.  
Little ones to Him belong.  
They are weak but He is strong.

CHORUS:

Yes Jesus loves me.  
Yes Jesus loves me.  
Yes Jesus loves me.  
The Bible tells me so.

Jesus love me when I'm good.  
When I do the things I should.  
Jesus loves me when I'm bad,  
Though it make Him very sad.

(CHORUS)

**“J-E-S-U-S” ([Click to Hear](#))**

(Tune: “B-I-N-G-O”)

There was a man Who died for me  
And Jesus was His name, oh,  
J-E-S-U-S, J-E-S-U-S, J-E-S-U-S  
And Jesus was His name.

**“JESUS BETRAYED AND DENIED” ([Click to Hear](#))**

Author: Lora Laycook

(Tune: “Nothing But the Blood of Jesus”)

[One group asks the questions, and another answers]

VERSE 1:

Our Lord was by whom betrayed?  
Who will give us the right answer?  
Judas betrayed our Lord and King.  
We will give you the right answer.

CHORUS:

O, help us Lord we pray,  
That we may ne'er betray;  
As Judas did for pay,  
Jesus, our dear Lord and Savior.

VERSE 2:

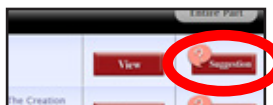
Our Lord was by whom denied?  
Who will give us the right answer?  
Peter denied our Lord and King.  
We will give you the right answer.

2<sup>nd</sup> CHORUS:

O, help us Lord we cry,  
That we may ne'er deny,  
The Son of God most high,  
Jesus, our dear Lord and Savior.

\*Author Unknown: Please contact us through the feedback button for this lesson if you are aware of any copyright information for this song.

\*\*\* IF YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS PERTAINING TO THIS LESSON, PLEASE CLICK THE  
“SUGGESTION” BUTTON BESIDE THE BUTTON FOR THIS LESSON ON THE  
CURRICULUM WEB SITE.



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New Testament 5  
Part 2: Jesus' Last Week

## WEDNESDAY EVENING

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### SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Matthew 26:47-27:61; Mark 14:43-15:47; Luke 22:54-23:49; John 18:1-19:42

### MEMORY WORK:

YOUNGER CHILDREN: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son..." (John 3:16a).

OLDER CHILDREN: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

### SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF SUNDAY'S LESSON FOR WORDS):

A [song book](#) and [audio recordings](#) of many of the curriculum songs are available on the curriculum Web site.

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- [Jesus' Ministry & Last Week](#) Bible fact cards (provided under "N.T. 5 Bible Facts" on curriculum Web site)
- "Summary of the Bible" from ["Kids Prep"](#) CD by Jeff Miller
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## PERSONAL APPLICATION:

YOUNGER CHILDREN: Jesus died for me.

OLDER CHILDREN: God loves me so much that He allowed His only Son to die so that I could be forgiven of my sins and go to heaven to be with Him when I become a Christian.

## INTRODUCTION:

Review [N.T. 5 Bible Fact Flash Cards](#) (provided under “N.T. 5 Bible Facts” on curriculum Web site)

## POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

Review Sunday’s lesson (see [N.T. 5 Review Questions](#) for example questions)

Tonight’s lesson could be centered on Judas’ decision to betray Jesus and Peter’s betrayal. They each did something terrible, but each had very different reactions or responses to their sins. Discuss the kind of response that God expects from us when we make mistakes.

## SPECIAL NOTES ABOUT JESUS’ LAST HOURS:

*(The Daily Bible, pp. 1467,1470)*

“Following Jesus’ arrest, John records that Jesus is first taken before Annas, who had been high priest from A.D. 6-15, before being deposed by the Roman procurator Valerius Gratus. It appears that Annas continued to exercise great influence among the Jews, and so it is no surprise that Jesus is brought before him for questioning. Jesus is sent next to Annas’ son-in-law, Caiaphas, who has served as high priest since A.D. 18. Caiaphas presides over the Sanhedrin (also known as the Council), which is the Jewish Supreme Court, composed of 71 elders drawn from among the chief priests and scribes. Some of the members of the Sanhedrin apparently join Caiaphas at his house in the late hours of the night in order to interrogate Jesus regarding his claims of messiahship. Then, as day breaks..., the entire council is called together in order to vote official condemnation....”

“The significance of what is about to happen [i.e., the Roman trial] can only be understood in the context of the political relationship between the Jews and their Roman rulers. The Jews have condemned Jesus to death on the basis of their own religious laws against blasphemy, in response to Jesus’ claim to be the Son of God. But the Sanhedrin has no power to execute condemned prisoners without approval of the Roman government. Yet clearly such a pagan government will not regard a charge of blasphemy with the same degree of seriousness, as do the Jews. Therefore more appropriate charges will have to be laid before the governor. Being politically astute, the Jewish leaders will accuse Jesus of sedition in allegedly urging refusal to pay taxes and in claiming to be the King of the Jews.”

“The man to hear these charges is the Roman procurator and governor, Pontius Pilate, who rules over Judea, Idumea, and Samaria. Pilate began his rule about the time John the Baptist began his ministry. Although his primary responsibility is that of financial administration and collection of taxes for the Roman Empire, Pilate is also burdened with the responsibility of approving and carrying out the execution of anyone sentenced to death by the people’s own government—in this case the Sanhedrin. Pilate has a reputation for unprincipled capriciousness, and the manner in which he handles Jesus’ case gives no reason to doubt the truth of that reputation.

Apparently convinced of Jesus' innocence, Pilate initially takes every available step to avoid personal responsibility. He sends Jesus to Herod Antipas (beheader of John the Baptist), but Herod wants no part of it either. Pilate then tries to release Jesus, but the mob insists that the notorious insurrectionist by the name of Barabbas be released instead. When even scourging of Jesus fails to placate the crowd, Pilate finally washes his hands of the matter and orders that Jesus be put to death.”

**PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS** (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—**BEFORE** CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

See Sunday morning's lesson.

Activities from [September, 2004](#) issue of *Discovery Magazine*

\*\*\* IF YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS PERTAINING TO THIS LESSON, PLEASE CLICK THE “SUGGESTION” BUTTON BESIDE THE BUTTON FOR THIS LESSON ON THE CURRICULUM WEB SITE.

