

Jesus Before Pilate

Matthew 27:1-2, 11-31; Mark 15:1-20; Luke 23:1-25; John 18:28-19:16



The Story

The enemies of Jesus had said that He must die. But they were not allowed to put a person to death. So on Friday morning they took Jesus to another judge, Pilate. He had the power to say that someone should die.

Pilate came out to talk to the crowd. He asked them, "Why do you bring this man to me? What bad things has he done?"

They answered, "He has caused trouble in the land. He says He is King."

Pilate went in and asked Jesus, "Are you a king?"

Jesus said, "I am."

Pilate went back to Jesus' enemies again and said, "This man has done nothing wrong. Why should he be killed?" But Jesus' enemies wanted Him to die. So they lied and told many bad things about Jesus. Jesus said nothing.

Pilate tried another way to set Jesus free. Every year at Passover time, one prisoner would be let go. Pilate asked the people to choose between Jesus and a very wicked murderer named Barabbas. The crowd shouted, "Give us Barabbas!"

Pilate said, "What shall I do with Jesus?"

They yelled, "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!"

Pilate said, "Why should He die? What wrong has He done?"

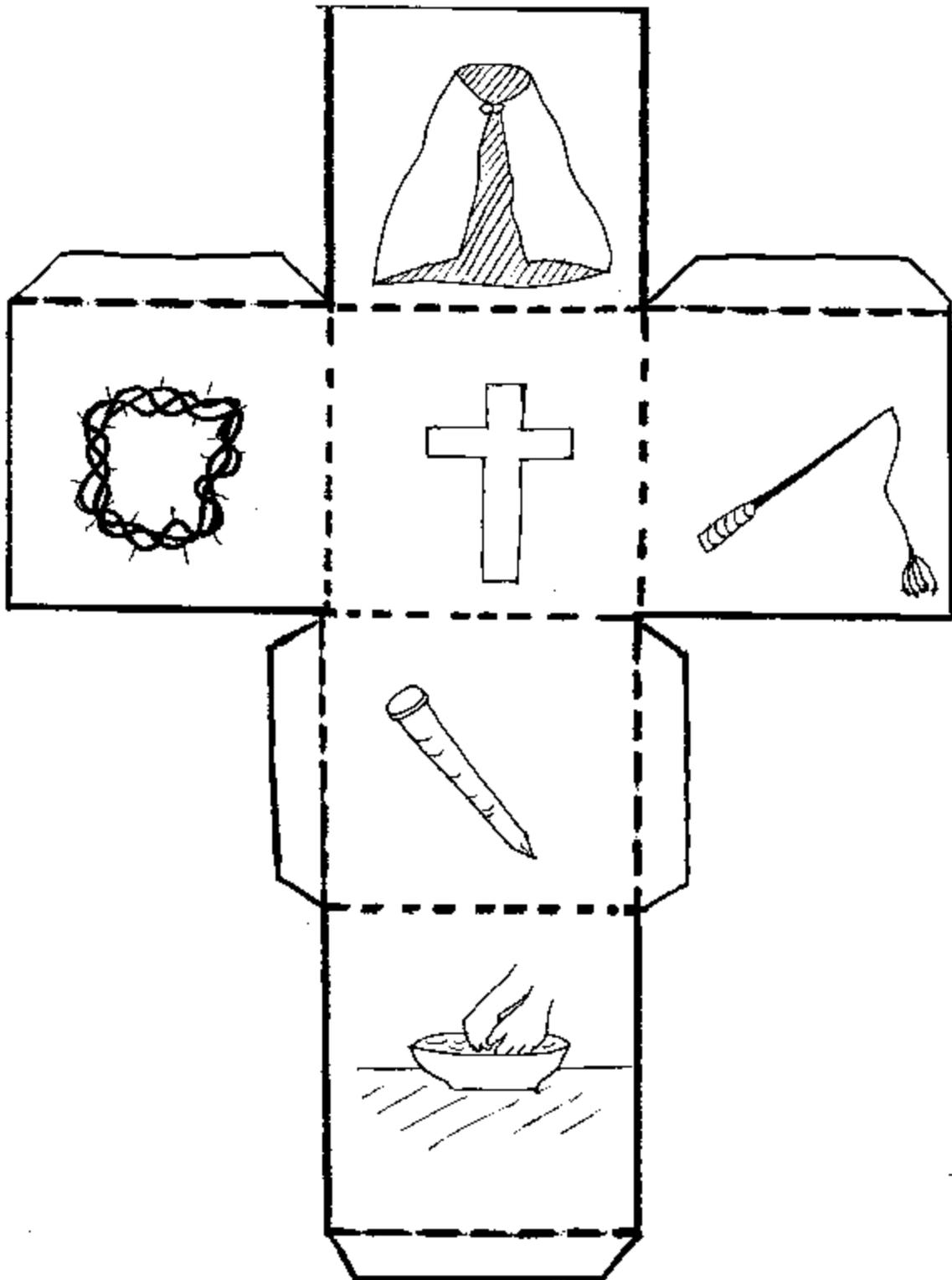
The crowd again shouted, "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!"

Pilate had his soldiers whip Jesus until His back was all bloody. They dressed Him in a purple robe and put a crown of thorns on His head. They made fun of Him by bowing and calling Him King. The soldiers slapped Jesus, hit Him on the head, and spit on Him. Then Pilate took Him back to the people. He hoped they would feel sorry for Jesus. But the crowd shouted over and over, "Crucify Him!"

Pilate could see that the people were getting angry! He washed his hands in front of them and said, "I do not want to be blamed for killing this man, who has done nothing wrong. You take Him and do what you want." Jesus was led away to be crucified.

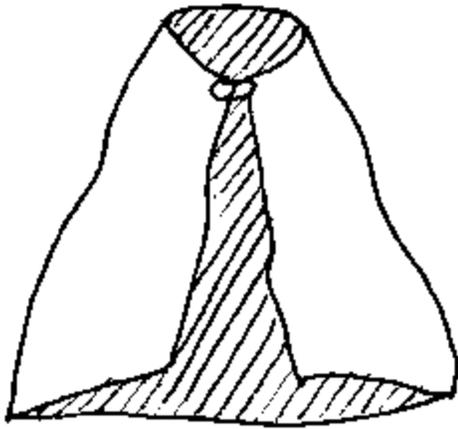
Jesus was tried by the Roman governor and, though found to be innocent, was condemned.

Activity One - Color the pictures. Cut out along dark outer lines and fold on dotted lines to make a box. Glue tabs behind pictures. Use this block to review the story by telling about the picture that rolls on top. Take turns with the rest of the class.



Jesus willingly suffered under Pontius Pilate on His way to the cross.

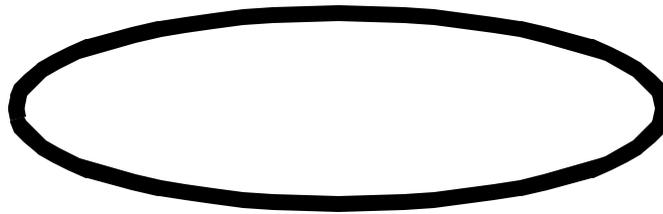
Activity Two - Finish the pictures according to the directions given.



Color the robe purple.



Finish the whip by adding more leather straps and sharp stones to the straps.



Finish the crown of thorns by adding sharp thorns to the crown.

Passage

"Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." 1 John 4:11

Hymn - TLH #342 v. 1

Chief of sinners though I be,
Jesus shed His blood for me;
Died that I might live on high,
Lived that I might never die.
As the branch is to the vine,
I am His, and He is mine.

Prayer

Dear Jesus, I'm sorry that my sins caused You so much pain. Thank You for willingly suffering all that You did to pay for those sins, especially Your crucifixion on the cross. Help me to tell everyone what You have done for all people. Amen.