

STORY

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

TEACHER PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father, when I hear again just how much Your Son suffered for me, I am ashamed of how little love I return to You and to my neighbor. Though I can never offer anything to You as payment for what You have done to save me, I desire now to show my love to You and to my neighbor by teaching Your little lambs the truths of this Bible lesson. Guide me, I pray, by Your Holy Spirit that the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart might be acceptable in Your sight, and that these precious souls might be led aright through me. I ask this in Jesus' saving name. Amen.

VOCABULARY

Governor - the Roman administrator in a conquered country, also called a praetor. The Roman government, in an attempt to pacify the people in a conquered land, most often allowed the original government structure to stand, but only as a relatively powerless figurehead. Thus Israel was allowed its own kings, councils and judges. The real power, however, rested with the Roman government, represented by the consuls and regional governors or praetors. The governor's function was most judicial.

Sedition - inciting others to resist or overthrow established authority. This was one of the crimes of which Barabbas was accused.

Praetorium - the official residence of the Roman Governor or Praetor.

OUTER AIM

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

INNER AIM

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

BACKGROUND

(*Rupprecht Bible History References Vol. 2, pp.376-384*)

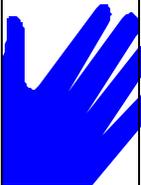
Jesus had been condemned to death by the Jewish Sanhedrin (Supreme Court) and was sent to the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate, to carry out the sentence. The Jewish courts could sentence someone to death, but under Roman law they could not carry out such a sentence. Thus the Jews had to do business with the hated Roman government. Their hatred of Jesus was so great they would stoop to any level to see Him executed.

v. 1-2, 11-14

- ▶ Jesus appeared before Pilate from 6-9 a.m. on Friday morning.
- ▶ Jesus respectfully answered Pilate's questions when it was necessary, but he refused to defend himself against the charges of the Jews.
- ▶ This demonstrates again that Jesus went to his death willingly to save mankind.
- ▶ Pilate was obviously not used to such calm silence on the part of an accused man.
- ▶ He marveled that Jesus did not defend himself. How differently the believer and the unbeliever view physical death.

v. 15-18

- ▶ In what was no doubt another attempt at keeping a conquered people pacified, the Roman governor in Jerusalem released a prisoner at the request of the people during the Feast of Unleavened Bread.
- ▶ Seeking to release Jesus, whom he believed to be innocent, Pilate probably chose the worst criminal in his prison as the only alternative to Jesus. The people picked him anyway.



v. 19-23

- ▶ Pilate's wife sent word to him that she had been warned in a dream about Jesus. Note the opposing forces at work here. Pilate's wife and his own conscience were opposed by the people and his own desire to appease them. God gave Pilate every opportunity to do the right thing. He chose expediency.
- ▶ Pilate probably asked his questions to the people so many times in the hope that they might change their minds, or at least to attempt some sort of compromise. So also Pilate offered to whip Jesus and then release Him. What strange justice Pilate sought to impose on the man he had declared to be righteous!
- ▶ The gospel of Luke records another feeble attempt by Pilate to avoid making the right decision. When he heard that Jesus might fall under Herod's jurisdiction (since He was a Galilean), he sent Jesus to Herod, the governor of Galilee who was also in Jerusalem at that time. This was the same Herod who had ordered John the Baptist beheaded.
- ▶ Herod was pleased to see Jesus, he wanted to see some miracle done by Jesus, but he was also pleased because he saw this as a statement by Pilate affirming Herod's rulership over all things pertaining to Galilee. Remember that Jesus, though born in Judea, had moved with His parents to Nazareth in Galilee shortly after Jesus was born.
- ▶ Herod returned Jesus to Pilate when Jesus refused to perform for him, but not before he had treated Jesus shamefully. From this point on Pilate and Herod, who had been enemies, became friends. No matter how bitterly unbelievers disagree, they unite in their opposition to Jesus.

v. 24-25

- ▶ Pilate knew that condemning an innocent man is wrong, yet he refused to render the correct verdict. Though he did what he knew to be wrong, like all unbelievers he did not want to feel guilt over his actions, or to suffer the consequences.
- ▶ Yet how foolish is Pilate's notion that by washing his hands before the people he would somehow absolve himself of this great evil.
- ▶ What ominous words the Jews utter here when they shouted: "His blood be on us and on our children!" Jesus knew the horrible consequences of such words, so also in great love He later prayed, "Father forgive them, for they do not know what they do."
- ▶ John records how the Jews were even ready to claim the hated Caesar as their king rather than Jesus: "The chief priests answered, 'We have no king but Caesar!'"(John 19:15) How desperate were these men and how great their hatred of Jesus to so prostrate themselves before the pagan Romans.

v. 26-31

- ▶ The true nature of Pilate and his men is revealed in these verses. These were barbaric men who enjoyed inflicting pain upon others.
- ▶ Though Pilate knew that Jesus was innocent, he did not simply condemn Him; he also gave his permission to his men to torture and mock Jesus before the actual crucifixion. Roman scourging was a supremely inhumane form of punishment. They did not use simple cords of leather in their whip. They imbedded sharp pieces of bone and metal into the cords to lay open the flesh of the one who was whipped. Backs were frequently laid open to the bone. Even strong men often died from this cruelty.
- ▶ The robe and the crown of thorns served as a mockery of Jesus' claim that He was a king. The thorns of the crown were likely pushed into Jesus' flesh when they put it on His head. They were certainly driven into His flesh when the soldiers struck him with the reed. This is how they treated the Son of God and Savior of the world.

STUDENT 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. Please help me now to tell everyone I know what You have done for all of us. Amen.

PRESENTATION

Once again it is recommended that the teacher use the combined account prepared for you in presenting this lesson. No single gospel account includes every important point.

PASSION WEEK BOX (p. 3)

Use these pictures to review what happens to Jesus during Passion Week. Have students color these pictures. Cut out along dark outer lines and fold on dotted lines to make a box. Glue tabs behind pictures. These may be hung up with fish line.

APPLICATIONS

1. Why did Pilate condemn Jesus to death? (Answer: He wanted to please the crowd) Think of some ways we might be tempted to deny Jesus and go along with the crowd.
2. Jesus was falsely accused even though He was perfect. We are sinners and deserve punishment. We are to learn from Jesus to accept persecution and lies from the unbelieving world patiently, without trying to retaliate or take vengeance.
3. Impress on your students the need to do the right thing in God's eyes, without looking first to the possible consequences of doing that right thing. Pilate got himself into trouble because he knew the right thing but failed to carry it out because he feared the consequences.

PASSAGES

These passages can be assigned as memory work or simply discussed in class as to how they fit the lesson.

Lower

Acts 5:29 - We ought to obey God rather than men.

1 John 4:19 - We love Him because He first loved us.

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

Middle any of the above and...

Matthew 6:24 - No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

Acts 8:33 - In His humiliation His justice was taken away, and who will declare His generation? For His life is taken from the earth.

1 Peter 2:21 - For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps.

Upper any of the above and...

Isaiah 53:5 - But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.

1 Peter 2:23 - (Jesus), when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously.

Hebrews 5:8-9 - Though (Jesus) was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him.

HYMN CHOICES

"Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" (TLH #360:1,4 & 6)

"Chief of Sinners Though I Be" (TLH #342:1-2, 5)

"Jesus, Refuge of the Weary" (TLH #145:1,3)

Jesus Before Pilate

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

The Story

Parents: Review this lesson with your child.

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

Passage

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

Hymn - TLH #342 v. 1

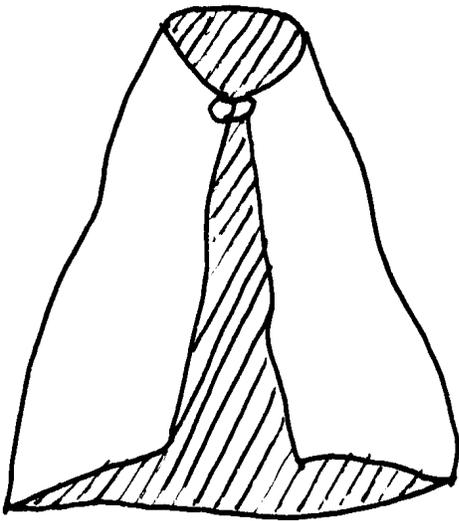
Chief of sinners though I be,
Jesus shed His blood for me;
Died that I might live on high,
Lived that I might never die.
As the branch is to the vine,
I am His, and He is mine.

Prayer

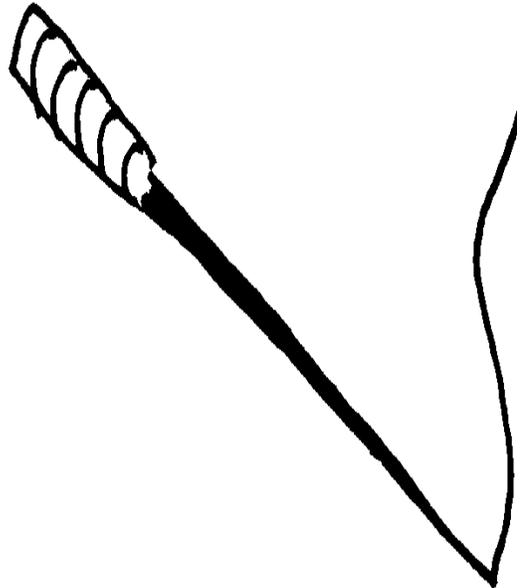
Dear Jesus, I'm sorry that my sins caused You so much pain. Thank You for willingly suffering all that You did to pay for those sins, especially Your crucifixion on the cross. Amen.



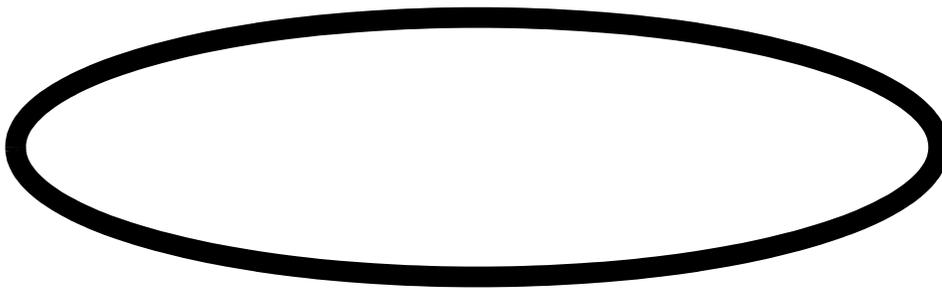
Classroom Activity - Finish the pictures according to the directions given.



Color the robe purple.

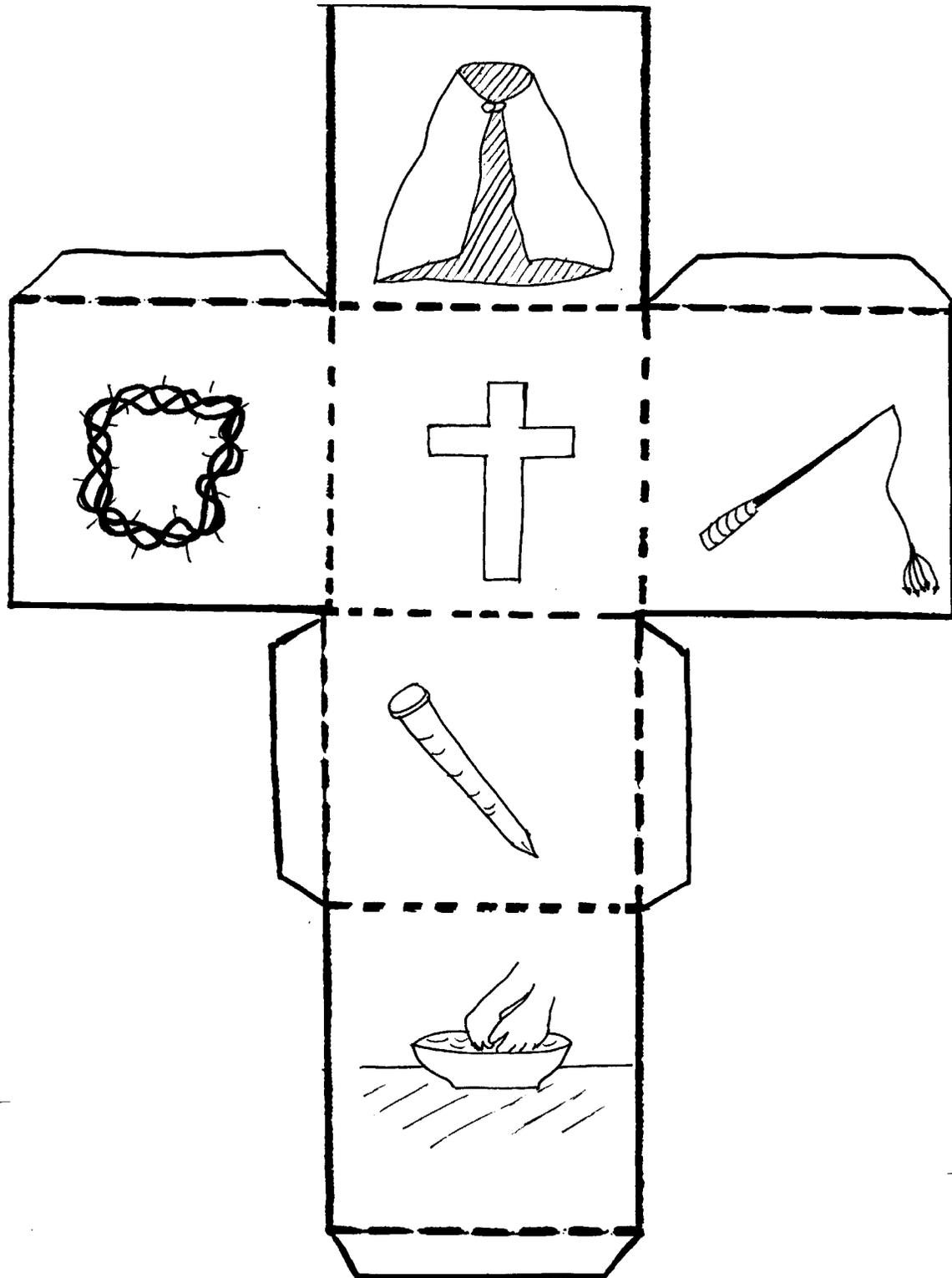


Finish the whip by adding more leather straps and sharp stones to the straps.



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

Classroom Art Activity - Have the children color the pictures. Cut out the box for them and fold it into a cube. You can play a game where the cube is tossed and the child tells about the picture on top.





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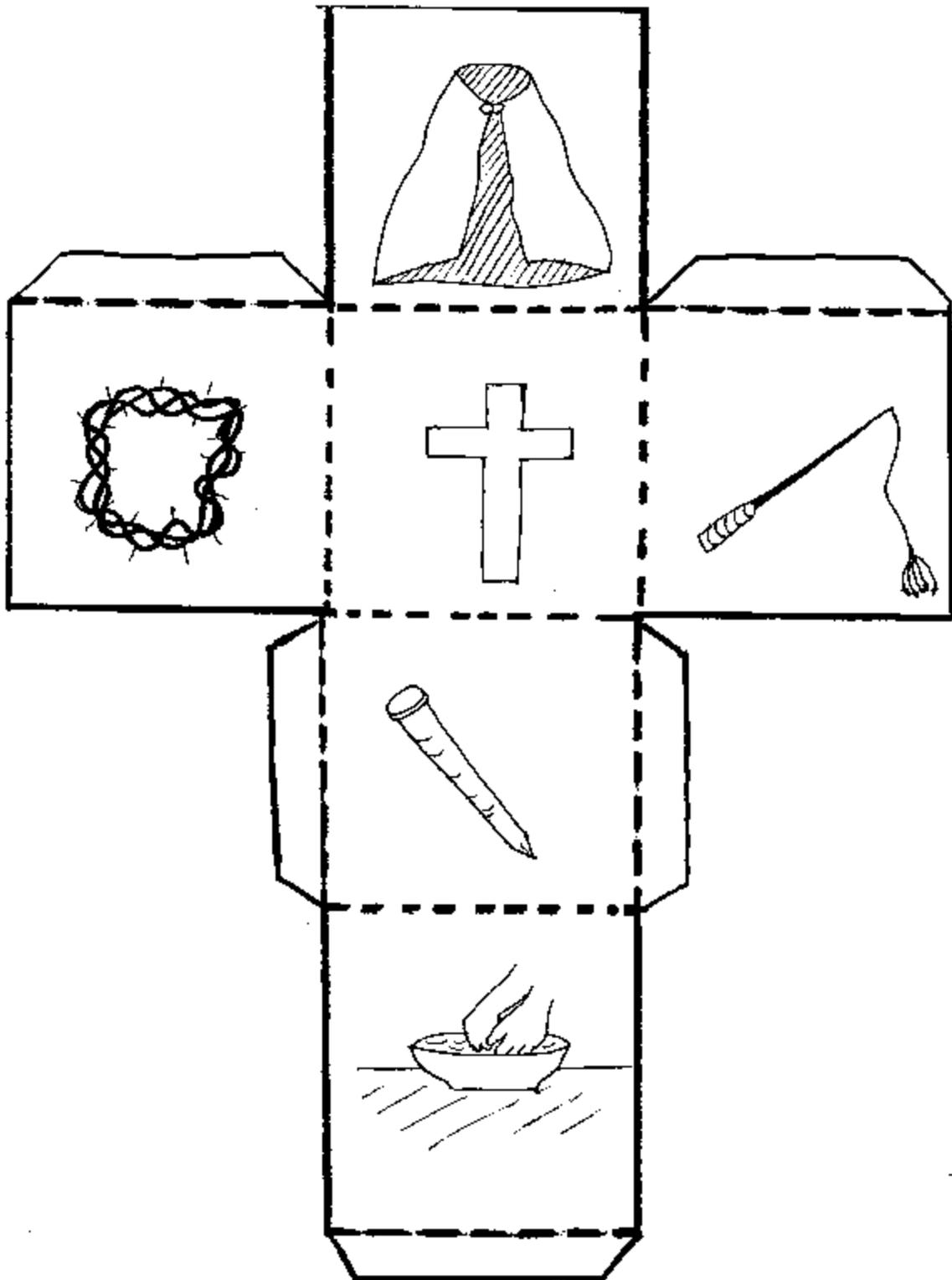
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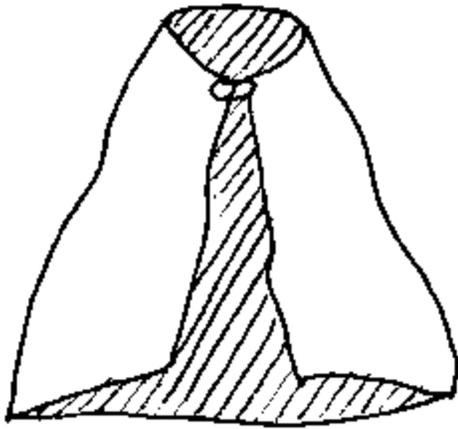
Jesus was tried by the Roman governor and, though found to be innocent, was condemned.

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.

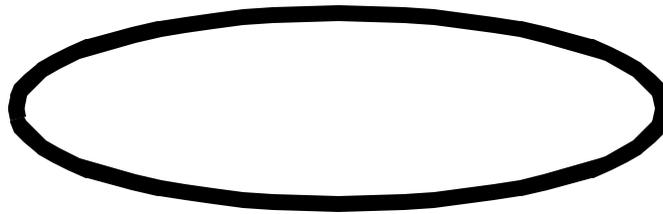
Activity Two - Finish the pictures according to the directions given.



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

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Died that I might live on high,
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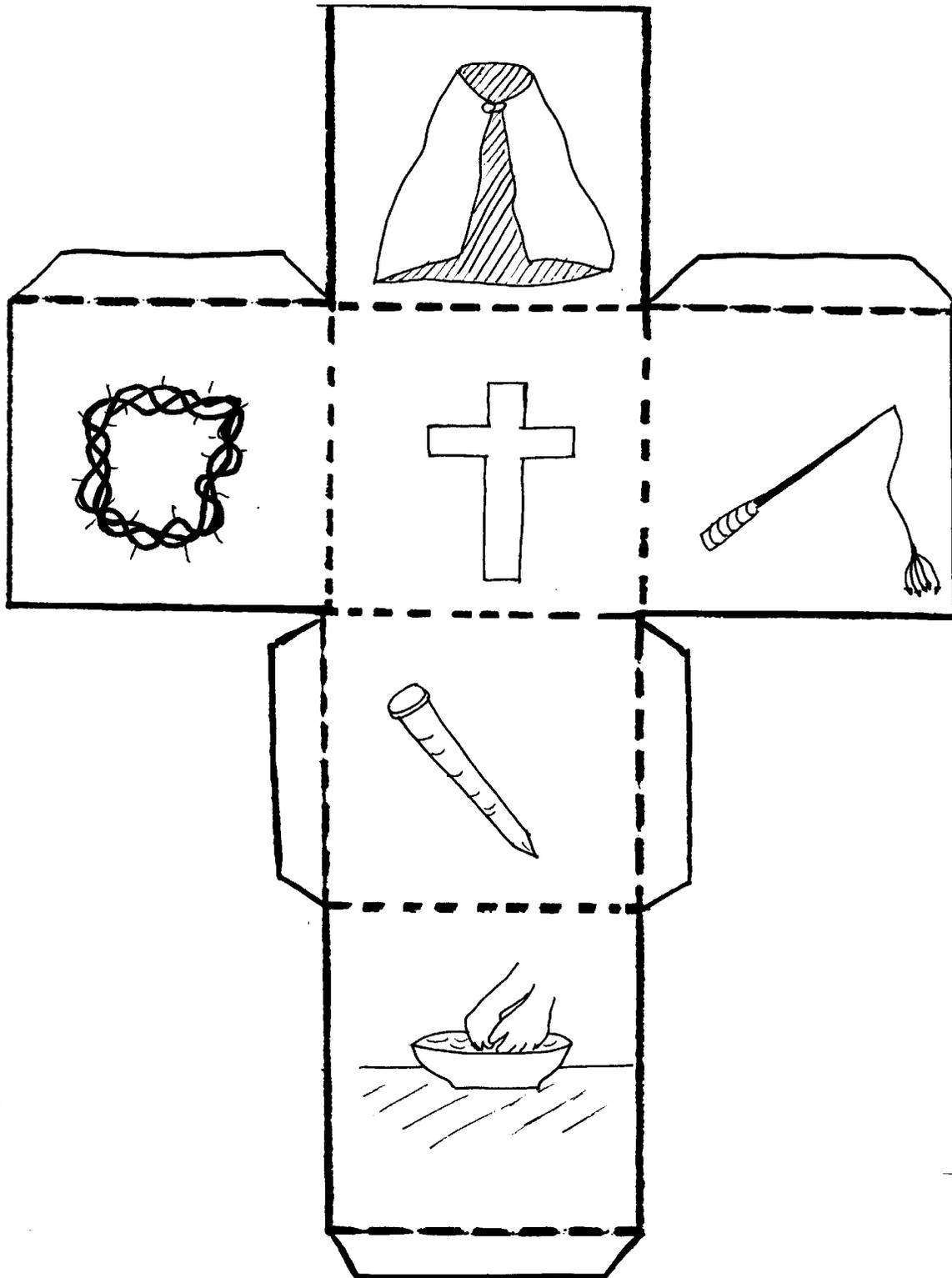
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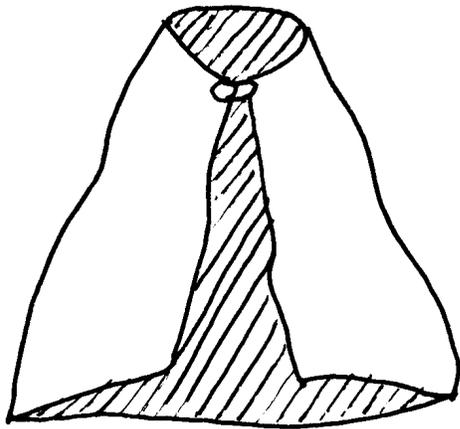
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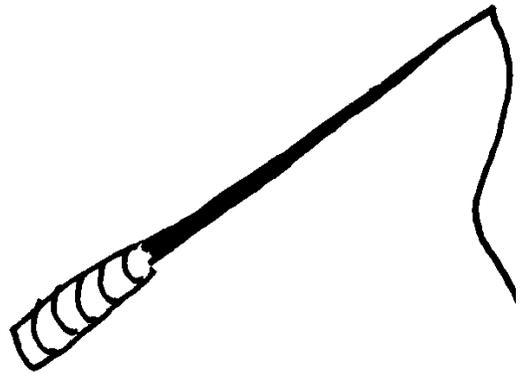


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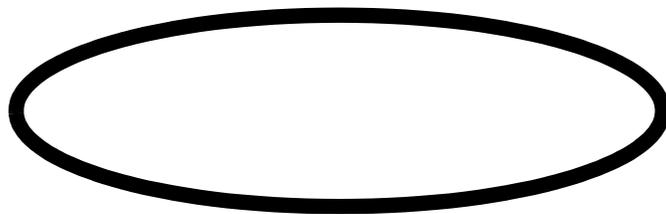
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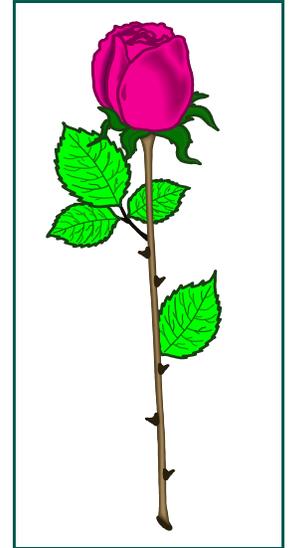
Matthew 27:1-2, 11-31; Mark 15:1-20; Luke 23:1-25; John 18:28-19:16

Have you ever tried to pick a rose?

How did it feel?

Imagine a whole wreath of thorns, pressed down hard on your head.

Was that the worst part of Jesus' suffering?



Prayer

Dear Father in Heaven, we can't imagine the pain our Savior willingly suffered for our sakes. Although He didn't commit a single sin, He was beaten, mocked, spit on, and finally crucified, all for us. He did this out of pure love for us, not because we earned it. As we learn more about His Passion, lead us to be willing also – willing to tell others about what Jesus did for them. Amen.

The Story - A Harmony of the Gospels

When morning came, the chief priests and elders of the people planned together how they would kill Jesus. They bound Him and took Him to the governor, Pontius Pilate. They would not go into the palace, because that would make them unclean for the Passover.

Pilate went outside to them. "What do you accuse this Man of?" he asked. They answered, "If He were not an evildoer, we would not have brought Him here." Pilate said, "You take Him and judge Him

according to your law." But the Jews said, "It is against the law for us to put Him to death." Jesus had predicted His own death and it was about to come true.

Pilate went back into the palace and asked Jesus, "Are You the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered him, "Are you speaking for yourself, or did others tell you about Me?" Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own people have brought You here. What have You done?" Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this



world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here." Pilate then said, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You are right that I am a King. That is the reason I was born, and why I have come into this world, that I should tell the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice." Pilate said, "What is truth?" He went back outside and told the Jews, "I find no fault in Him at all."

The chief priests and elders questioned Jesus, but He answered nothing. Pilate said to Him, "Don't You hear how many things they are saying about You?" Still Jesus did not answer, and Pilate was amazed. The crowd began to accuse Him, saying, "This Man stirs up the people and tells us not to pay taxes to Caesar, saying that He Himself is Christ, a King! He teaches throughout all Judea, from Galilee to this place."

When Pilate heard of Galilee, he asked if Jesus were a Galilean. As soon as he found out He was, he sent Jesus to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time. Herod was very glad to see Jesus, because he had heard many things about Him, and thought he could see some miracle done by Jesus. Herod asked Jesus many questions, but Jesus did not answer him. Then Herod and his men mocked Jesus, put a beautiful robe on Him and sent Him back to Pilate. That day Herod and Pilate

became friends; previously they had been enemies.

Pilate spoke to the crowd again. "You have brought this Man to me as one who misleads the people. Both Herod and I have questioned Him and neither of us has found Him guilty. Therefore, I will beat Him and let Him go." Now at this time it was the custom for the governor to release one prisoner to be chosen by the crowd. There was a criminal named Barabbas who had committed murder in rebellion. Pilate asked the people, "Whom do you want me to release, Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?" Just then his wife sent him a message saying, "Have nothing to do with that just Man. I suffered much in a dream last night because of Him." The chief priests and elders persuaded the crowd to ask for the release of Barabbas. Pilate said to them, "What should I do with Jesus, then?" They cried, "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!"

"Why, what evil has He done?" asked Pilate. The people shouted, "Crucify Him!" Then Pilate said to them a third time, "I have found no reason to put Him to death. I will therefore have Him beaten and let Him go." But the people cried louder for Him to be crucified. When Pilate saw that he could not convince them, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of the blood of this just Person. You see to it." The people

cried out, "His blood be on us and on our children." Then Pilate released Barabbas to them.

Pilate took Jesus and scourged Him. The soldiers twisted a crown of thorns and put it on His head, then dressed Him in a purple robe. They mocked Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and hit Him. Pilate went out again and said, "Behold, I am bringing Him out to you, that you may know that I find no fault in Him." Jesus came out wearing the purple robe and the crown of thorns. Pilate said, "Behold the Man!" When the chief priests and elders saw Him, they shouted, "Crucify Him, crucify Him!" Pilate said, "You take Him and crucify Him, for I find no fault in Him."

The Jews said, "We have a law, and according to our law He should die, because He made Himself the Son of God." Pilate was afraid when he heard them say that, so he went back into the palace and asked Jesus, "Where are You from?" But Jesus did not answer him. "Are You not speaking to me?" Pilate asked, "Do You not know that I have the power to crucify You and the power to release You?" Jesus answered, "You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above. Therefore the one who delivered Me to you has the greater sin." This made Pilate more anxious than ever to let Jesus go. But the Jews cried out, "If you let this Man go, you are not Caesar's friend. Whoever makes himself a king

speaks against Caesar."

Pilate brought Jesus out and sat down in the judgment seat. He said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" They cried out, "Away with Him, away with Him! Crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar!" Then Pilate delivered Him to them to be crucified. They took Jesus and led Him away.

Discussion Questions

1. How do you know from this story that Jesus went willingly to His death?
2. Why did Pilate choose Barabbas as an alternative to Jesus for a possible prisoner to release?
3. Was Pilate convinced that Jesus was guilty?

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

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

Recalling Details - Unscramble the words and write them on the lines.

1. These people brought Jesus to Pilate: [dleers] _____ and [pircheefstis] _____
2. Jesus said His was not of this world: [minkdgo] _____
3. Pilate sent Jesus to him when he heard He was from Galilee: [drHeo] _____
4. The soldiers put this on Jesus: [bepperulor] _____
5. The Jews said if Pilate let Jesus go, he wouldn't be a friend to this man: [sarCae] _____

Passages

Matthew 6:24 – No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

Acts 8:33 – In His humiliation His justice was taken away, and who will declare His generation? For His life is taken from the earth.

Isaiah 53:5 – But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.

Hymn - Read or sing hymn 145, stanzas 1 and 3.

Jesus, Refuge of the weary,
Blest Redeemer, whom we love,
Fountain in life's desert dreary,
Savior from the world above,
Oh, how oft Thine eyes, offended,
Gaze upon the sinner's fall!
Yet, upon the cross extended,
Thou didst bear the pain of all.

Jesus, may our hearts be burning
With more fervent love for Thee!
May our eyes be ever turning
To Thy cross of agony
Till in glory, parted never
From the blessed Savior's side,
Graven in our hearts forever,
Dwell the cross, the Crucified!

What is a refuge? Why is that a good name for Jesus? Find some other names for Jesus in this hymn.

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. Please help me now to tell everyone I know what You have done for all of us. Amen.

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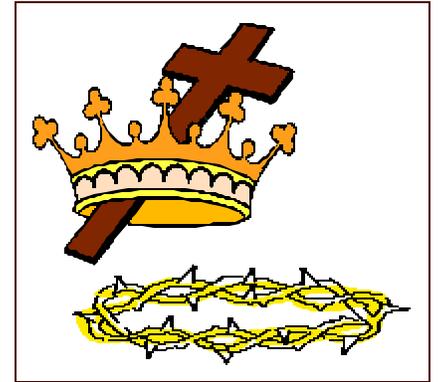
Matthew 27:1-2, 11-31; Mark 15:1-20; Luke 23:1-25; John 18:28-19:16

What words of Jesus in today's story do the symbols in the box portray?

The Story - A Harmony of the Gospels

When morning came, all the chief priests and elders of the people plotted against Jesus to put Him to death. And when they had bound Him, they led Him away and delivered Him to Pontius Pilate the governor. But they themselves did not go into the Praetorium, lest they should be defiled, but that they might eat the Passover. Pilate then went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this Man?" They answered and said to him, "If He were not an evildoer, we would not have delivered Him up to you." Then Pilate said to them, "You take Him and judge Him according to your law." Therefore the Jews said to him, "It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death," that the saying of Jesus might be fulfilled which He spoke, signifying by what death He would die.

Then Pilate entered the Praetorium again, called Jesus, and said to Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered him, "Are you speaking for yourself about this, or did others tell you this concerning Me?" Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered You to me. What have You done?" Jesus answered, "My kingdom is



not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here." Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice." Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?" And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews, and said to them, "I find no fault in Him at all."

And while He was being accused by the chief priests and elders, He answered nothing. Then Pilate said to Him, "Do You not hear how many things they testify against You?" But He answered him not one word, so that the governor marveled greatly. They began to accuse Him, saying, "We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to pay taxes to Caesar, saying that He Himself is Christ, a King." But they were the more fierce, saying, "He stirs up the people, teaching



throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee to this place."

When Pilate heard of Galilee, he asked if the Man were a Galilean. And as soon as he knew that He belonged to Herod's jurisdiction, he sent Him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time. Now when Herod saw Jesus, he was exceedingly glad; for he had desired for a long *time* to see Him, because he had heard many things about Him, and he hoped to see some miracle done by Him. Then he questioned Him with many words, but He answered him nothing. And the chief priests and scribes stood and vehemently accused Him. Then Herod, with his men of war, treated Him with contempt and mocked *Him*, arrayed Him in a gorgeous robe, and sent Him back to Pilate. That very day Pilate and Herod became friends with each other, for previously they had been at enmity with each other.

Then Pilate, when he had called together the chief priests, the rulers, and the people, said to them, "You have brought this Man to me, as one who misleads the people. And indeed, having examined *Him* in your presence, I have found no fault in this Man concerning those things of which you accuse Him; no, neither did Herod, for I sent you back to him; and indeed nothing deserving of death has been done by Him. I will therefore chastise Him and release *Him*".

At the feast the governor was accustomed to releasing to the multitude one prisoner whom they wished. And at that time they had a notorious prisoner called Barabbas, who was chained with his fellow rebels; they had committed murder

in the rebellion. Therefore, when they had gathered together, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release to you? Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?" For he knew that they had handed Him over because of envy. While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent to him, saying, "Have nothing to do with that just Man, for I have suffered many things today in a dream because of Him."

But the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitudes that they should ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. The governor answered and said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" They said, "Barabbas!" Pilate said to them, "What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" *They* all said to him, "Let Him be crucified!" Then the governor said, "Why, what evil has He done?" But they cried out all the more, saying, "Let Him be crucified!" Pilate, therefore, wishing to release Jesus, again called out to them. But they shouted, saying, "Crucify *Him*, crucify Him!" Then he said to them the third time, "Why, what evil has He done? I have found no reason for death in Him. I will therefore chastise Him and let *Him* go." But they were insistent, demanding with loud voices that He be crucified. And the voices of these men and of the chief priests prevailed.

When Pilate saw that he could not prevail at all, but rather *that* a tumult was rising, he took water and washed *his* hands before the multitude, saying, "I am innocent of the blood of this just Person. You see *to it*." And all the people answered and said, "His blood *be* on us and on our children." Then he released Barabbas to them.

So then Pilate took Jesus and scourged *Him*. And the soldiers twisted a crown of thorns and put *it* on His head, and they put on Him a purple robe. Then they said, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they struck Him with their hands. Pilate then went out again, and said to them, "Behold, I am bringing Him out to you, that you may know that I find no fault in Him."

Then Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. And *Pilate* said to them, "Behold the Man!" Therefore, when the chief priests and officers saw Him, they cried out, saying, "Crucify *Him*, crucify *Him*!" Pilate said to them, "You take Him and crucify *Him*, for I find no fault in Him." The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to our law He ought to die, because He made Himself the Son of God."

Therefore, when Pilate heard that saying, he was the more afraid, and went again into the Praetorium, and said to Jesus, "Where are You from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. Then Pilate said to

Him, "Are You not speaking to me? Do You not know that I have power to crucify You, and power to release You?" Jesus answered, "**You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above. Therefore the one who delivered Me to you has the greater sin.**" From then on Pilate sought to release Him, but the Jews cried out, saying, "If you let this Man go, you are not Caesar's friend. Whoever makes himself a king speaks against Caesar."

When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Jesus out and sat down in the judgment seat in a place that is called *The Pavement*, but in Hebrew, Gabbatha. Now it was the Preparation Day of the Passover, and about the sixth hour. And he said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" But they cried out, "Away with *Him*, away with *Him*! Crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar!" Then he delivered Him to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus and led *Him* away.

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

Story Details - Make the following false statements regarding the story true.

1. Pilate was delighted that the people came to him as judge of Jesus.
2. Jesus never told Pilate He was a king but that He was born to lead the fight for the kingdom.
3. Pilate heard the accusations of the priests and elders and Jesus answered every accusation.
4. Herod requested Pilate to send Jesus to him.
5. Herod wanted to get to the truth of why the elders wanted Jesus to die.
6. Pilate, after hearing all the witnesses, found Jesus deserving of death.

7. Pilate was told to adhere to the custom of releasing one prisoner of his choice, so he chose Barnabas.
8. When Pilate couldn't decide on the punishment, he had Jesus killed by the sword.
9. The soldiers were kind to Jesus believing that He was the King of the Jews.
10. Jesus knew that Pilate had the power to kill Him and Jesus asked for mercy.

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

What God Says To Us

Knowing Jesus had our salvation as His agenda throughout His life and during these last few hours, review what Isaiah prophesied to Israel about Jesus' purpose here on earth.

"He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities, the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed." Isaiah 53:5

Pick out the different parts of the story that fulfills this prophecy.

How Does This Apply To Us

We can be confident that Jesus made payment in full for our sins. Scripture tells us many times over about the love God has for us. Review the following passages for how they apply to today's story.

John 3:16-17

Ephesians 2:8-10

Hebrews 9:12-15

What does the world need to realize before they can accept this good news of God's love, salvation?

List ways that we can share this wonderful news with others.

Student Prayer - Let us always remember what Jesus had to go through to pay the price for our sin and be grateful to Him for such deep love.

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. Please help me now to tell everyone I know what You have done for all of us. Amen.