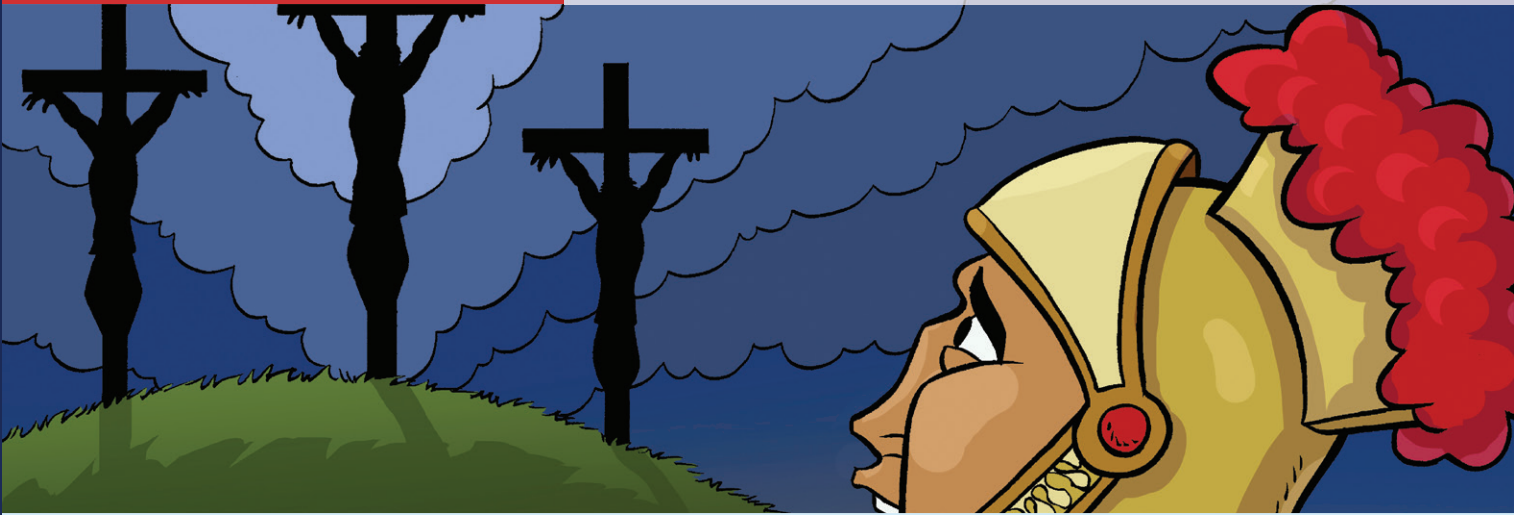


SHARE THE BIBLE LESSON

EASTER WEEK 1

The crucifixion of the Son of God

John 19:1-42



DAY 1

*The Jews confirmed Jesus' innocence •
John 18:28-30, 33, 40; 19:7, 12, 15b*

READ

John 18:28-19:16a

EXPLAIN

The truth of John 18:28-30, 33, 40; 19:7, 12, 15b

Jesus was innocent, so the Jews had to rely on insolence, deceit, and threats instead of real evidence. They arrogantly refused to come into the headquarters of Pilate (a Gentile). They also spoke rudely, essentially telling Pilate, "Do your job and execute Him." Eventually, they brought two charges, but both were deceitful. First, they said Jesus claimed to be king (Luke 23:2). He did claim to be King (Mark 14:61-62), but since His kingdom would not come by human means, He was not a threat to Rome. Second, the Jews accused Jesus of blasphemy. Jesus did claim to be God, but since that was true, it was not blasphemy. In reality, the Jews had a double-standard. While accusing Jesus of rebellion, they set free a real rebel (Mark 15:11)! While accusing Jesus of blasphemy, they blasphemed by denying their true King (1 Sam 8:7). Finally, the Jews used threats. Once before, the Jews had appealed to Tiberius Caesar, and Tiberius had decided in their favor against Pilate. Now, they threatened to go to Tiberius again, and Pilate feared that Tiberius might kill him or at least end his political career.

ASK

1. What did the Jews accuse Jesus of?
Being a rebel king and blaspheming.
2. Were the Jews telling the truth?
No. Jesus was a king, but He was not a rebel against Rome. He did claim to be the Son of God, but this was the truth, not blasphemy.
3. How did the Jews get Pilate to crucify Jesus?
They threatened to make Pilate look bad in front of the emperor.

DISCUSS

1. When people use only insolence, deceit, and threats, what does this show about how weak their argument really is?
2. How did the religious leaders act like bullies?

DAY 2

Pilate declared Jesus innocent three times • John 18:38; 19:4, 6

READ

John 18:28–19:16a

EXPLAIN

The truth of John 18:38; 19:4, 6

Three times Pilate said that Jesus was innocent. So why did he condemn Jesus? To save himself, he rejected Jesus as the true God. But by rejecting Jesus, he was also denying truth. Pilate had no absolute standard of right and wrong. He was a pragmatist, trying to get the best results for himself. When a crowd had come to ask him to set a prisoner free (Mark 15:8), Pilate tried to use Jesus' popularity to turn the crowd against the Jewish leaders (cf. Mark 15:11). When that didn't work, he had Jesus beaten, mocked, and paraded before the crowd to try to get the people's sympathy. When that failed, he tried bullying. He mockingly reminded the Jews that he was in charge, and he taunted them by calling Jesus "your king." Yet in the end, Pilate wasn't willing to risk his life, even for a man he knew was innocent.

ASK

1. Did Pilate think Jesus was guilty?
No.
2. How many times did Pilate say Jesus was innocent?
Three times.
3. Did Pilate make any attempts to release Jesus?
Yes.
4. Why did Pilate ultimately hand Jesus over to be executed?
He wasn't willing to risk his life, even for a man he knew was innocent.

DISCUSS

1. By rejecting any standard of right or wrong, how was Pilate like many people today?
2. Is truth objective (true whether you believe it or not) or subjective (only true for people who believe it)? Can someone say, "The Bible is true for you but not for me"?

DAY 3

Jesus' truthful testimony proved His innocence •
John 18:36–37; 19:11

READ

John 18:28–19:16a

EXPLAIN

The truth of John 18:36–37; 19:11

In contrast to the others, Jesus spoke the truth. He told the truth about His kingdom. Although His kingdom will one day be on earth, it will not come by human methods (Dan 2:44–45; Rev 20:6). He also spoke the truth about Pilate's authority. He said that Pilate would not be Jesus' judge if God had not arranged events to bring Jesus to this trial. God was sovereign over the whole process.

God even used the legal details to fulfill prophecy: Jesus would be killed by being lifted up on a cross the Roman way instead of being thrown down and stoned the Jewish way (Lev 24:16; Num 21:8–9; John 3:14). Jesus told the truth because He is the truth (John 14:6). He is the Word, the Light, and the Son who always makes God known. He was in the world for this one reason: to declare the **truth**. He entered His own creation, became a human, and was about to die so that people could know *ultimate reality—God Himself*. Jesus' truthfulness confirms that He is the innocent Lamb of God (John 1:29).

DAY 3 CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

ASK 

1. What did Jesus tell Pilate He came into the world to do?
To bear witness to the truth. To tell the truth and show everyone what is true.
2. Why did Jesus always tell the truth?
Because He is the truth. He came to earth as a human to show humans who God truly is.
3. What does Jesus' truthfulness confirm?
That He is the innocent Lamb of God.

DISCUSS 

1. How much do you value the truth? What standard do you use to get a clear view of reality? Is there an ultimate standard?
2. Who is the "father of lies" (John 8:44)?

DAY 4*Jesus was crucified according to Scripture • John 19:16b–30***READ** 

John 19:16b–42

EXPLAIN **The truth of John 19:16b–30**

Jesus died according to Scripture. The soldiers led Him away, like a lamb led to slaughter. He died outside the city as a sin offering (Lev 16:27; Heb 13:11–12). He was put to death with criminals (Isa 53:12). He was lifted up on a cross (Num 21:8–9; John 3:14) to be the curse in the place of sinners (Deut 21:23; Gal 3:13). His hands and feet were pierced (Ps 22:16; Isa 53:5), with a nail driven through His heels (Gen 3:15). He died as the Messiah, the King of the Jews (Dan 9:26). Even the small detail of His clothing being divided confirms He is the King who dies to bring people to God (Ps 22:18). Jesus Himself made sure to fulfill Scripture. By making sure His widowed mother had a believer to care for her, He kept the 5th commandment (Exod 20:12). By loving others as He was dying, He kept the second greatest commandment (Mark 12:31). By faithfully keeping all of Scripture to the very end, He kept the greatest commandment of all (12:28–30; Deut 6:5). Even His thirst and the sour wine fulfilled Scripture (Ps 22:15; 69:21).

ASK 

1. Was Jesus killed because He did something wrong?
No. He was killed because people hated Him.
2. Why did Jesus need to die?
His mission was to make it so that people could know the Father. To do that, He had to deal with the sin that keeps sinners from a holy God.
3. What did the soldiers do with His clothes?
They divided them into four parts, casting lots (like rolling dice) to decide who got His tunic.
4. What are some ways that Jesus' death fulfilled prophecy?
See explanation paragraph.

DISCUSS 

1. How were Jesus' final words a cry of triumph (Isa 53:12; Rom 3:25; Heb 2:14; 9:12; 1 Pet 2:22)?
2. How do you know Jesus' death was not an accident?

DAY 5

Jesus was buried according to Scripture • John 19:31–42

READ

John 19:16b–42

EXPLAIN

The truth of John 19:31–42

The events after Jesus died again confirm that He died exactly according to plan. He was the final Passover Lamb, killed on Passover without any broken bones (Exod 12:46; Ps 34:20). He was the firstborn, pierced through because of the hatred of His own people (Zech 12:10). And He most certainly died as water and blood flowed out, a vivid reminder that redemption and cleansing comes by His death (John 3:5; 1 John 1:7). Finally, although killed as a criminal, He was buried with honor in the new tomb of a rich man (Matt 27:57; Isa 53:9). All these fulfilled prophecies show that Jesus was in control even in His death (John 10:18; Acts 2:23; 3:18; 13:27). He willingly chose to accomplish His mission. He lived and died so that sinners could know God the way they were created to know Him (John 17:3).

ASK

1. Did the soldiers break Jesus' bones?
No. He was already dead.
2. How did Jesus die?
As a criminal.
3. How was Jesus buried?
With honor in the new tomb of a rich man.
4. What are some ways that Jesus' burial fulfilled prophecy?
See explanation paragraph.

DISCUSS

1. Why did Jesus willingly choose to die? Pray and thank Jesus for obeying to the point of death.
2. How can you enjoy the salvation Jesus provided through His perfect life and sacrificial death (Acts 16:31)?

NEXT WEEK

The resurrection of the Son of God

John 20:1–31

