

Lesson C3.7 - People Turned Against Jesus



Teacher's Pages with Step-by-Step Lesson Plan

For Lower Elementary Students and Classes

Recommended for students in Preschool, Kindergarten, and Grades 1-2.

Quick Facts for the Teacher

Lesson Summary: Matthew 27:11-26

- Bible Characters: Jesus, Pilate, Barabbas, crowd

After Jesus was arrested, he was brought before the Roman Governor, Pilate. When Pilate brought charges, Jesus remained silent in reply. Finally, Pilate asked the crowd if they'd like to free Jesus or a known criminal named Barabbas. Encouraged by their chief priests and leaders, the people chose Barabbas, and Jesus was taken to be crucified.

Brief Bible Background

- Today's Lesson is from the New Testament
- Scripture Section: Crucifixion

The crucifixion of Jesus was the act by which Jesus took upon himself the penalty for our sins and sacrificed his own life so that we would have life. This divine atonement (at-one-ment) reconciled us to God and revealed Jesus as our true King.

For More Information

The primary role of a Sunday School teacher for Preschool, Kindergarten (pre-readers), and Early Elementary (new readers) is to simply tell children the stories of Scripture and introduce them to the major characters of the Bible.

Teachers who want to know more about the lessons for their own familiarity with the story are encouraged to read the information in the SEED Upper Elementary and Youth Teacher's Pages.

a. Classroom Greeting

Teachers should arrive 10 to 15 minutes before class and greet students and parents by name. Write the day's Bible Message on the white board or poster board for all the kids to see. Have kids gather on a rug or in a dedicated meeting space. Encourage the children to learn each other's names.

b. Opening Prayer Song

The words to this song are sung to the tune, "Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes."

Optional motions: Lift hands up on "Lord," point to ears on "hear," fold hands on "pray."

Stretch hands outwards on "all who need your help today."

Lord, hear us as we pray, as we pray!

Lord, hear us as we pray, as we pray!

Bless all who need your help today!

Lord, hear us as we pray, as we pray!

c. Introduction to Today's Message

*Teacher's Script (student responses are in **bold**).*

If you have ever been treated unkindly, Jesus understands how that feels. **People turned against Jesus**, even though he had done nothing wrong. He knows what it's like to stand alone.

- Raise your hand if you have ever seen a group treat someone else badly. What can we do to help in a situation like that?

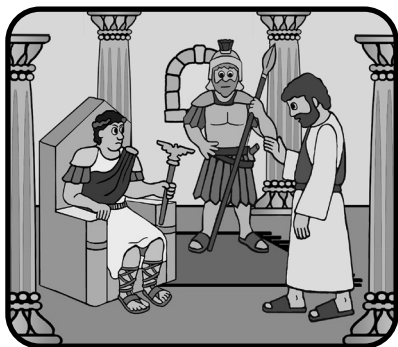
In today's story, we will hear what happened when **people turned against Jesus**. Did anyone stand up for him? What did Jesus do? Let's hear the story and find out.

d. SEED Bible Story Video

The teacher may introduce the lesson by playing the video clip from the SEED website. This may be displayed simply on a laptop computer or tablet. If the classroom is equipped with a computer video monitor or video projector, the video can be displayed in a larger size.

e. Read the Story with Poster Pictures

The Bible Story has been divided into four parts, each with an accompanying Poster Picture. The teacher should hold up or point to the relevant Poster Picture while reading the individual part of the story, asking questions while reading. Posters may be printed on letter-sized paper, or enlarged and printed on ledger-sized paper if a bigger printer is available. Poster pictures may also be opened as a PDF on a computer screen, scrolling through each of the four pages.



Picture 1

Tell the children: Judas brought the chief priests and scribes to arrest Jesus. After this, they brought him to the Romans to be put in jail.

Read the caption: Jesus was taken to a Roman leader named Pilate. "Are you the king of the Jews?" Pilate asked. "You say so," Jesus said.

- Which person is Pilate in this picture? [The one sitting in the chair] What is Jesus doing? [He's speaking to Pilate.]
- Point out the armed guard in the picture. Why do you think he is in the room? [They are treating Jesus like a criminal who might escape.]

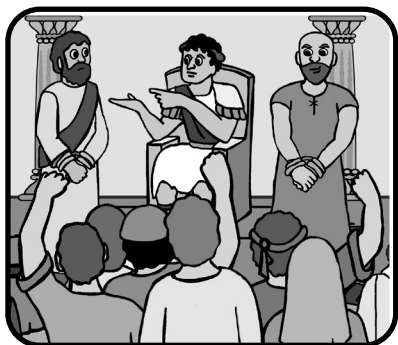


Picture 2

Tell the children: But Pilate was not the only one to question Jesus. The group that had arrested Jesus had many things to say against him. Do you think they would listen if Jesus defended himself? [Probably not.]

Read the caption: Even though Jesus had done nothing wrong, the chief priests brought charges against him. Jesus didn't say anything.

- Point out the chief priest in this picture. [He's the one pointing at Jesus.]
- Why do you think the leaders were so angry at Jesus? [They didn't like that he said he was God's Son, the Messiah. They expected a different kind of Messiah.]

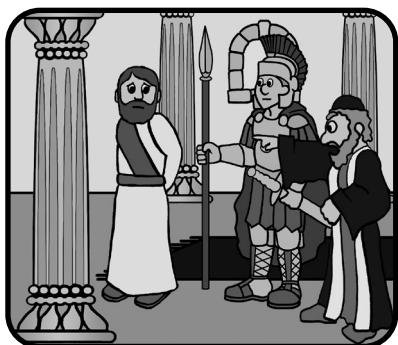


Picture 3

Tell the children: While Pilate was judging the case, his wife sent him a message. She'd had a dream about Jesus and was nervous. "Don't have anything to do with that innocent man!" she said.

Read the caption: Pilate decided to give the people a choice. They could free a bad criminal, or they could free Jesus. They chose the criminal.

- Which person in the picture is Barabbas, the criminal? How does he look? [Pleased, because he can see the people want to free him instead of Jesus]
- What is Pilate doing? [He's pointing to Jesus and listening to the crowd.]



Picture 4

Tell the children: Pilate seemed surprised by the people's decision. "What should I do with Jesus?" he asked. "Nail him to a cross!" the crowd yelled. "But what crime has he done?" Pilate asked. "Nail him to a cross!" the people yelled again.

Read the caption: So Pilate freed the criminal, even though his wife said this was a bad idea. Then they took Jesus to be put on a cross.

- Where is Pilate? [He's not in this picture. Pilate washed his hands of the case and sent Jesus away with the people who planned to kill him.]

f. Bible Story Rhyme (optional)

The Bible Story Rhyme below is the same one found on the Upper Elementary Student sheet. The teacher can read the beginning of the line and see if the children can finish the last rhyming word of the phrase.

*After Jesus was arrested,
Pilate put him to the test.
“Are you a king?” he asked the Lord.
But Jesus didn’t say a word.*

*At that time there was in prison
another man accused of treason.
Pilate offered them a choice,
but the crowd yelled with one voice:*

*“If you really want to please us,
free Barabbas, then kill Jesus.”
Of this problem to be rid,
that’s what Pontius Pilate did.*

g. Young Children’s Activity (optional)

Simple in-class crafts or activities may be completed by the children if there is time left at the end of class. (Note: For the youngest children, simply providing crayons and letting them complete the Coloring Page may serve as the “craft” for the day.)

Craft: Negative Space Cross



Materials Needed:

Card stock, blue painter’s tape, scissors, paint brushes, non toxic watercolor or acrylic paints, cups of water

Instructions:

Have kids put their card stock on the table, vertically. Take the painter’s tape and cut a long piece and a short piece for each student. The long piece should be almost the length of the card stock; the short piece should be almost the width of the card stock. Invite children to press the painter’s tape in the middle of their card stock, placing the long piece vertically and the short piece horizontally to make a cross shape.

Next, give everyone a paintbrush, a cup of water, and paints. Invite them to paint in shades of blue and purple all over the paper. They can go right over the painter’s tape and should fill the whole page with color.

Let the paint dry. Then, invite kids to gently lift up the tape. Be ready to help with this step. After the tape is removed, kids will have what is called a “resist picture” using negative space to form a cross.

h. Song (optional)

The tune to this classic hymn can be heard online on YouTube, Vimeo, or other sites. Kids can do the motions as described, or can put their arms over each others’ shoulders and sway back and forth to the song.

Trusting Jesus, That Is All

Simply trusting every day, (*hands palms up*)
Trusting through a stormy way; (*wave motion*)
Even when my faith is small, (*show “small”*)
Trusting Jesus, that is all. (*make cross with fingers*)
 [Chorus:]
Trusting as the moments fly, (*flap “wings”*)
Trusting as the days go by; (*hand held to brow*)
Trusting Him whate’er befall, (*hands palms up*)
Trusting Jesus, that is all. (*make cross with fingers*)

i. Story Review: Then What Happened?

Then What Happened is a learning game that helps kids retell the story and remember the flow of events. The teacher reads the starting sentence and then chooses a student to continue the story. There are two rules: each student may only add one sentence or say one new thing, and events in the story need to be in the right order.

► **Start: After Jesus was arrested, he was brought before the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate. What happened next?**

If the younger kids have trouble, cut a Take-Home Page into four pieces (with no words) and let the kids put the illustrations in order while they tell the story.

j. Closing Prayer

Send the children home with the Take-Home Page, and tell them to ask their parents to read the story to them again (or, perhaps, they can read it to their parents).

End class with this closing prayer, repeated each week for memorization.

*Heavenly Father, God above,
We’re grateful for your faithful love.
Bless everyone who need your care,
Help hurting people everywhere.
Be with us now, in all we do,
So we may serve and live for you. Amen.*