



THE CROSS & THE CROWN

Life & Ministry of Jesus • U2#4 1st-3rd Grade • August 6, 2023

Concept

Jesus came to give His life for the sins of all people.

Goal

Students will learn the sequence of events during Passion Week. They will learn that the Jews did not recognize Jesus as the Messiah because they expected a ruling, reigning king. They will be encouraged to ask God to reveal His truth to them.

Passage

Matthew 20:17-21:17; 26:1-28:10; John 12:1-8

Key Verse: "Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." Matthew 20:28

Planning Ahead

Lesson Supplies	Craft Supplies
<p>Activity Station:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Adventure Bible Handbook, Zondervan Publishing House</i><i>The Children's Illustrated Bible, Hastings & Thomas</i>"What Do You Really Know about Passion Week?" handout, 1/studentPencils <p>Introduction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>King-size sheet with map of Israel</i><i>Styrofoam cups, 6/class</i>	<p>Activity Station:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Jesus' Last Week on Earth calendar handout, 1/childCalendar event tags, 1 sheet/childMarkersGlue sticksCrayonsScissors

*TEACHERS PLEASE NOTE

For clarity, the italicized areas in the Planning Ahead section indicate supplies that are in—and should be returned to—your classroom SHARED SUPPLY bag.

Background Information/Teacher Helps

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"The importance of Jesus' last week before the cross may be seen in the space given to it by the gospel writers...This emphasis is appropriate, since Jesus' death and resurrection are the major purpose for His coming into our world."¹

Expectation of the Disciples

"The death of Jesus seemed to His disciples a heavy and irretrievable disaster. They had deemed Him the Messiah, and, despite His repeated and emphatic protests, they had clung...to their Jewish ideal and expected confidently that He would manifest Himself to the world in regal splendor, claim the throne of His father David, and reign in Jerusalem over the emancipated and regenerate Israel. The Crucifixion had dispelled their dream....It seemed that nothing remained for them but to creep back to their old homes and ...resume the occupations which they had abandoned in quest of a Kingdom. They had fled panic-stricken when their Master was arrested, and their first impulse was doubtless to get them back to Galilee... They repented of their cowardice and, [returned] to the neighborhood of Jerusalem."²

"The course of Jesus' ministry is one in which He sought to wean the disciples away from the traditional notion of a warrior Messiah. Instead, Jesus tried to instill in their minds the prospect that the road to His future glory was bound to run by way of the cross, with its experience of rejection, suffering, and humiliation... It was only after the resurrection that the disciples were in a position to see how Jesus was truly a king Messiah and how Jesus then opened their minds to what true Messiahship meant (see Luke 24:45-46). The national title Messiah then took on a broader connotation, involving a kingly role which was to embrace all peoples (Luke 24:46-47)."³

Expectation of the Jewish Leaders

The Jewish leaders did not believe that Christ was the Messiah because they were more concerned with keeping Jewish tradition than in knowing the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and obeying the truth that He had thus far revealed to them.

¹ The Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ, Book III, Navpress, p. 29.

² David Smith, The Days of His Flesh, New York, Harper & Brothers Publishers, n.d., p. 508.

³ Holman Bible Dictionary, Article – "Messiah."

Activity Stations:

- **Craft – Jesus' Last Week on Earth Calendar**

- **Instructions:** Give each child a sheet of event tags and a calendar. Have them write their names on the top of the calendar, color the event tags and cut them out. Glue the event tags on the corresponding day of the calendar. Discuss what each tag means. Make sure the children understand that these tags illustrate what happened each of those days. For those who aren't certain about the concept of a week, tell them that it is the 7 days between their Oasis classes.

- **History – "What Do You Really Know about Passion Week?"**

- **Instructions:** Give each student a handout and have them circle the correct answer(s) for each question. Look at pages 166-181 of the Adventure Bible Handbook and pages 256-277 of The Children's Illustrated Bible for information about Passion Week.

Instructions: Place the map of Israel sheet on the floor. Have students sit around it. As each location in bold print is mentioned, have a student put a marker on that location on the map.

To say to the students: Jesus began his public ministry about 2000 years ago in Israel (a country smaller in size than the state of Ohio), which is located next to the Mediterranean Sea. Jesus' public ministry lasted about three and a half years. It began when he was baptized by John the Baptist in the Jordan River when he was about 30 years old. Jesus Christ was not well known during the first part of his public ministry.

As he began to teach people about God and God's plan of salvation for all people, word about Him spread and crowds of people began to follow Jesus. This second period He spent in the region of Galilee. Who can find the region of Galilee on the map? Jesus chose twelve of His followers to be His disciples and He spent the rest of his public ministry carefully training them to be His followers and fishers of men.

The third part of Jesus' public ministry was primarily in Perea. Where is Perea on the map? Jesus continued to teach spiritual truths, revealing more and more about Himself, our need for forgiveness and the death He would soon suffer. The spiritual truths Christ shared caused some to draw closer to Him in faith while many others quit following Christ. The religious leaders strongly opposed Christ and wanted to kill Him.

Today we are going to learn about how "Jesus did not come to be served, but to serve others by giving His life to rescue many" (Matthew 20:28). What does it mean to serve? (ask class but then provide definition). Let's learn what it meant that Jesus came to serve.

Drama – Passionate Performances

Instructions: As you read the Drama Story, point to the event on the poster calendar to help the children connect each tag with the significant events of the day. As you read, a teacher will lead the children – hold their hands up to their heads like a donkey and make donkey sounds, pretend to wave palm branches, put their hands together at the thumbs and flutter fingers like flying doves, pretend to eat loaves of bread and drink from goblets and put a crown of thorns on their heads. **Note:** the underlined words indicate the use of gestures.

Our key verse for this week is, “Jesus did not come to be served, but to serve others by giving His life to rescue many people” (Matthew 20:28). Let’s see what He did during that week to rescue us.

On **Sunday** Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey colt. Crowds of people had come to celebrate the Jewish Passover Feast. Many people had heard about Jesus and thought that He was going to be the king so they spread palm branches on the ground and welcomed him saying, “Blessed is the King of Israel!”

On **Monday** when Jesus walked into the temple He was angry because people were being cheated. He threw out all the people who were selling things. He turned over the tables of those who were selling doves and the doves flew away. After that, blind and crippled people came to Jesus and He healed them. The religious leaders saw that Jesus was doing wonderful things and that the children were even praising Him. This made them very angry.

On **Tuesday** Jesus taught in the Temple for the last time. He said the religious leaders loved their religious practices more than God or other people. This made them mad so they wanted to kill Jesus. That evening, Jesus and His disciples went to Bethany to stay with their friends, Mary, Martha and Lazarus.

On **Wednesday** Jesus was with Mary, Martha and Lazarus at Bethany. Judas went to the religious leaders and they gave Judas 30 silver coins because he agreed to take them to find Jesus so they could kill Him.

On **Thursday** Jesus and His disciples ate bread and drank wine together as they celebrated the Passover meal. That meal is called the Last Supper because it is the last time they ate with Jesus. Then He and the disciples went out to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray. The disciples didn't understand what was going to happen to Jesus. They thought He would take over and become King so they fell asleep in the garden while Jesus prayed.

Lesson Continued

Very early **Friday** morning Jesus said to His disciples, "Get up, we must go. Look, here comes the man who has turned against me." Judas came with many soldiers and he had told them, "The man I kiss is Jesus. Arrest him." He went to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Teacher!" and kissed Him. So the soldiers arrested Jesus and took Him to Jerusalem. The religious leaders decided that Jesus should die because He said He was God. Jesus was beaten and whipped. They made fun of Him and put a crown of thorns on His head. Then He was nailed to a cross and died. Nicodemus and a man named Joseph buried Him.

On **Saturday** the disciples were very sad. When Jesus was arrested they had run away and acted like they didn't know Him. They thought Jesus was gone for good and they didn't know what to do.

On **Sunday** two Marys went to the tomb where Jesus was buried. The tomb was empty—His body was not there. An angel told them that Jesus had risen from the dead and was alive. When Jesus appeared to them they went and told the other disciples that they had seen Jesus. The disciples could not believe that Jesus was really alive until they saw Him themselves. Then Jesus explained everything to them.

Transition

We've been sitting a while, so let's get into pairs to serve like Jesus.

Learning Activity #1 Lg. Group

Serving One Another - Asking Questions

Goal: To get the kids moving around!

Instructions: Have the students pair up and ask another student two questions to get to know them better (teachers: provide examples). After they have listened to their answers, have them find another student. They must first share the two things they learned about the student they just spoke to and then ask the new student two questions as well.

Transition

Let's get into small groups to talk a little more about Passion Week.

Learning Activity #2 Lg. Group

The last week of Jesus' life is called the Passion Week. Passion is a word that means very strong feeling. It was a week of very strong feelings for Jesus and His disciples. Terrible things happened to Jesus. The disciples never expected Jesus to be killed because they thought He would be their king. The disciples thought that Jesus would free them from the rule of the Roman government. But instead that week He went to Jerusalem and was crucified. They thought all was lost. Jesus had told them why He had come to earth. Remember our key verse, "just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:28). Jesus gave his life for the sake of other people. He served us by paying the price for our sins so that we could be given forgiveness!

Learning Activity #2 Continued

1. Have you ever expected something great to happen and then it didn't happen the way you thought it would? What did you do? Did anything good come from it? How do you think the disciples felt when Jesus died instead of freeing them?
2. Can you remember a time in your life when you chose to serve, rather than be served? This is very difficult to think about, isn't it? What are some ways you could choose to serve others instead of demanding that others serve you?
3. Jesus was willing to serve us by dying for our sin because He loves us and wants us to have a relationship with Him. He gave His life so we could be forgiven for our sins. Do you ever think about how awesome that love is? Do you thank Him for His love? What might be some ways that we can remember what Jesus has done for us by coming to earth to serve us? (Suggest they ask God each day to show them things they can be thankful to Him for.)

After He gave His life to pay for our sins, the most wonderful thing of all time happened. He was raised from the dead. Jesus is alive! If Jesus had not given His life—if He hadn't died on the cross, paid the penalty for our sin and risen from the dead—we could not be forgiven. But Jesus did die on the cross to pay for the sins of all people so we can be forgiven and be a child in God's family. If you want to be forgiven you can tell God that you know you sin, need His forgiveness and thank Him that Jesus died for you. At that moment you will be completely forgiven and become one of His children.

Mission Prayer: Talk about and pray for Oasis Giving campaign.

Let's pray. If you have asked Jesus into your life thank Him that "... the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:28). Thank Him that He loves you so much that He was willing to pay for your sin and bad choices.

Review

Review main points: We learned about Jesus' last week on earth. The disciples thought Jesus would be with them and free them, but then he was crucified and died on the cross. Jesus had told the disciples "Jesus did not come to be served, but to serve others by giving His life to rescue many people" (Matthew 20:28). After he gave his life for us, he rose from the dead!