Unit 27: The Death and Resurrection of Jesus

Unit Description: The darkest day the world has ever seen became the brightest day one glorious Sunday morning. After Jesus was unjustly convicted of a crime, He was crucified and His body was placed in a tomb. But on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead, defeating sin and death and rising again as the conquering King.

Big Picture Question: How is Jesus the perfect King? Jesus perfectly rules over the universe as the King of kings.



SESSION 1: Jesus Was Put on Trial Matthew 26–27; Mark 14–15; Luke 22–23; John 18



SESSION 2: Jesus Was Crucified Matthew 27; Mark 15; Luke 23–24; John 19–20

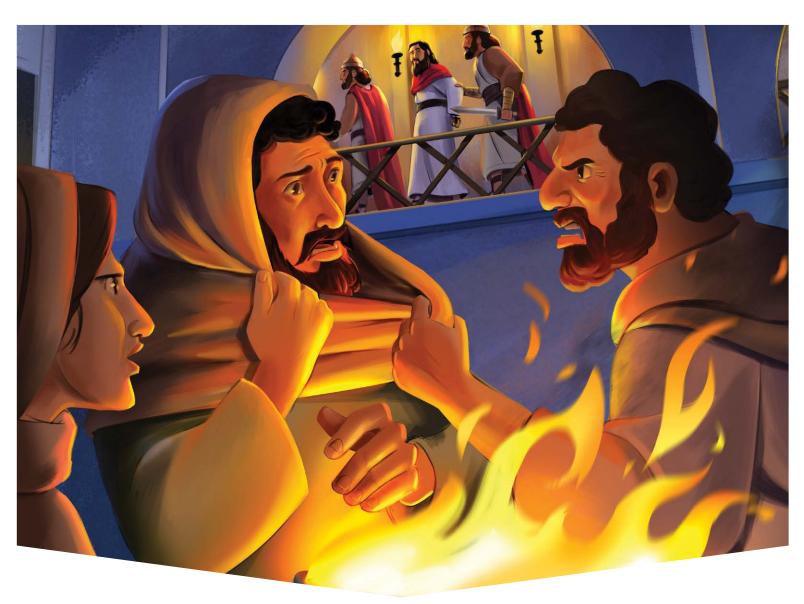


SESSION 3: Jesus Was Raised Matthew 27–28; Mark 15–16; Luke 23–24; John 19–20



SESSION 4: Jesus Is Our Perfect King Colossians 1

Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying: "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!" Revelation 5:13 NIV



UNIT 27 | SESSION 1

JESUS WAS PUT ON TRIAL

MATTHEW 26-27; MARK 14-15; LUKE 22-23; JOHN 18

KEY PASSAGE:

Revelation 5:13

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

How is Jesus the perfect King? Jesus perfectly rules over the universe as the King of kings.

CHRIST CONNECTION:

Jesus was unfairly sentenced to die although He did no wrong. Jesus was the perfect substitute for us, dying on the cross for our sins and rising from the dead. Everyone who trusts in Jesus has forgiveness and life with God forever.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION



LEADER Bible Study

All four Gospel accounts of Jesus' trial revealed the innocence of the Son of Man amid the injustice of the court's proceedings. From the plotting of the chief priests to the scoffing of those in the crowd, each detail revealed the reality of the Savior's choice to step forward as the substitute for our sins.

Why did this court case unfold in the manner that it did, with the religious leaders taking their troubles to the Roman courts? How do we see God at work amid Christ's suffering? The answers to this lay in the Old Testament prophecies and in Christ's fulfillment of all they entailed.

The unjust treatment of the innocent Son of Man cannot be understated throughout these accounts. The Scriptures report some people—Pilate, Herod, and Judas—testifying to Christ's innocence, all the while conspiring against Him and allowing the unfair verdict to proceed. Even still, Jesus' righteousness remained apparent as He continued on, allowing God's will to be done through His death for the sake of our eternal life. We truly see the Son obeying the Father to the point of death, as an innocent lamb led closer and closer to the slaughter.

Throughout these events in the Scriptures, we read that Judas and Herod, as well as Pilate and his wife, each acknowledged Jesus' innocence. The Bible reveals, too, that the religious leaders' only hope of execution was found through crafting inaccurate accusations of Christ's wrongdoings through the Roman court. Despite the falseness of their fabrications, Jesus kept His composure through it all with eyes set on entering into His glory.

Led by a mob mentality that spurred on their scoffing, the people cried out that His blood would be not only on themselves, but their children as well (Matthew 27:25). In these moments, they failed to see the depth of the injustice they thrust upon the only sinless One.

Explain to kids that mankind's sinfulness led to Christ's sacrifice and that this paradox establishes the gospel's great news—that only the perfect sacrifice of God's own Son could lead to our salvation. Despite our unworthiness, Christ remains worthy and invites us into His promise of everlasting life.

PEOPLE TO KNOW

Caiaphas: The high priest at the time of Jesus' crucifixion (Matt. 26:3). He was a leader in the plot to have Jesus arrested and executed.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

GATHER Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.





" "What's a Substitute?" activity page

Session Starter (Option 1)

 yellow constuction paper, 1 per group
 white construction paper, 1 per group
 brown, construction paper, 1 per group

Session Starter (Option 2)

☐ jar of play dough, 1 per pair



Introduce the Session

Big Picture Question

Review the Timeline

Tell the Bible Story

☐ "Jesus Was Put on Trial" video

Bible Story Picture Poster

Questions from Kids

Unit 27, Session 1" questions from kids video

Missions Moment

☐ "Luther Rice Life and Mission" missions video

Key Passage Activity

- Key Passage Poster
 "To the Lamb Forever and Ever (Revelation 5:13)"
 - song
- worship song of your choice (optional)
- □ cardstock, 1 per kid □ plastic bags, 1 per kid





Review & Bible skillsSmall Group Timeline

and Map Set

Activity Choice (Option 1) poster paper or dry erase board

dry erase marker

Activity Choice (Option 2)

Big Picture Question Poster

Journal and Prayer

Journal Page "How Did It Happen?" activity page

Older Kids Leader Guide | Unit 27 · Session 1 | 98



WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

SAY ⁶⁶ How would you react if someone blamed you for something you didn't do? Why would you feel this way? **JJ**

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete "What's a Substitute?" on the activity page.

SAY Sometimes a substitute is not as good as the original, but sometimes the substitute is much better. In today's story, we will see that Jesus is the perfect substitute, taking the punishment of sin in our place.

SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: STAY SILENT



Form kids into groups of three or four. Tell kids that they will complete an activity together but they must keep silent the whole time. Explain that they must figure out how to work together and complete the activity without saying a word. Tell kids that if anyone from their group speaks, they are out.

Provide each group with yellow, brown, and white construction paper. Tell kids that they must create a crown and a cross using the yellow and brown construction paper. Then cut them out and glue them to the white construction paper. Tell groups that they will then write Jesus is the King on the white construction paper. Remind kids that they must complete these tasks without speaking.

SAY f It's hard to stay silent when you're trying to work together to complete a task. Imagine how much harder it would be to stay silent if someone falsely accused you of wrong. Today, we will learn that Jesus was falsely accused yet remained silent. **J**

OPTION 2: ASK AND ANSWER

Form kids into pairs and direct them to sit at a table. Distribute play dough to each pair. Direct one kid from each pair to create something with his clay such as a fish or a piece of pizza. Allow a minute or two for kids to sculpt while the partner keeps her eyes closed. With the partner's eyes still closed, direct them to ask three questions about the sculpture and then guess what it is. Direct kids to open their eyes to see if they guessed correctly. If time allows, repeat the activity, allowing the other kid in each pair to sculpt.

SAY ff At first, you couldn't see the sculptures so asking questions was a way for you to understand what your partner sculpted. Today, we will learn that while Jesus was put on trial, He was asked many questions. People did not see and believe that He is the Messiah. Let's get ready to learn what the people asked Jesus. **J**

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**



Jesus Was Put on Trial | 99



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

INTRODUCE the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (3 minutes)

Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

The Bible is true and trustworthy. It teaches us about who God is and His plan to save us from our sin. It leads us to trust in Jesus who leads us in truth. In our Bible story, we will see how some people refused to seek what is true. As Jesus was on trial, people told lies and falsely accused Him. Let's get ready to learn more about Jesus' trial.

2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

SAY II Our big picture question and answer for the next few weeks is, **How is Jesus the perfect King?** The answer we will learn is, **Jesus perfectly rules over the universe as the King of kings**. **Let's say the answer together.** [Allow responses.] **Jesus perfectly rules over the universe as the King of kings**.

When we read about Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on a donkey, we learned that the people welcomed Jesus as King. But Jesus was not the King the people expected. They thought Jesus had come to free them from the rule of Rome. As Jesus was arrested and put on trial, we learn that Jesus did not come to overthrow Roman rule. Instead, Jesus came to lay down His life by His own will to save us from our sin. Jesus' arrest, trial, and crucifixion was always a part of God's plan. **Jesus perfectly rules over the universe as the King of kings.**

3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

SAY ff Jesus, the Messiah, was born as God promised. He lived a perfect life and performed many miracles. His miracles and His teachings prove He is God. Jesus knew His purpose in coming to the earth and that His earthly ministry would come to an end. Today, we will see that Jesus was put on trial and unfairly sentenced to die. Through His sacrifice, people can experience forgiveness and life with God forever.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Matthew 26–27; Mark 14–15; Luke 22–23; John 18. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video "Jesus Was Put on Trial." Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

JESUS WAS PUT ON TRIAL

If The men who arrested Jesus led Him to the house of Caiaphas (KIGH uh fuhs) the high priest. **The religious leaders** were gathered there. They **wanted a reason** to kill Jesus, but they couldn't find one. Finally, two men came forward and said, "This man said He can destroy the temple of God and rebuild it in three days."

Caiaphas stood up and asked Jesus, "Is this true? What do You have to say for Yourself?" **But Jesus said nothing.**

Caiaphas said, "I command You to answer: Are You the Messiah, the Son of God?"

Jesus replied, "Yes, that's right. In the future, you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of God. And you will see Him coming on the clouds of heaven."

Caiaphas was angry. He and the other religious leaders did not want to believe that Jesus is God's Son. They said Jesus was lying, but Jesus was telling the truth! **Caiaphas** tore his robes and **said**, **"This man has spoken against God!** You all heard Him. **Now what should we do?" The crowd said**, **"He deserves to die!"** Then they spit in Jesus' face, hit Him, and mocked Him.

The next morning, **the religious leaders** decided how they would kill Jesus. Then they **took Him to Pilate**, **the governor**. **Pilate asked Jesus**, **"Are You the King of the Jews?"**

Jesus answered, "Yes, that's right." Then the religious leaders made accusations against Jesus, but Jesus did not say anything. Pilate was surprised that Jesus was silent.

Every year at Passover, the governor would free a prisoner—whichever prisoner the people chose. At that time, there was a prisoner named Barabbas (buh RAB uhs) who was very dangerous. So **Pilate asked the crowd, "Who do you** want me to set free? Barabbas or Jesus, who is called the Messiah?"

The crowd answered, "Barabbas!"

Pilate asked, "Then what should I do with Jesus, who is called the Messiah?" **The crowd answered, "Crucify Him!"**

Pilate asked, "Why? What has He done wrong?"

But the crowd kept shouting, "Crucify Him!"

STORYTELLING TIPS

Portray emotion: As you tell the story, portray the emotions experienced by the different characters. Use dramatic pauses and voice inflection as needed.

Active listening: Tell kids to raise their arms in praise every time they hear the words "Messiah "Jesus" or "King." Remind kids that Jesus is the King of kings and deserves our praise.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

Pilate saw there was nothing else he could do, so he took some water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. "I am not guilty of this man's death," he said.

Then Pilate freed Barabbas and handed Jesus over to the crowd to be killed.

Christ Connection: Jesus was unfairly sentenced to die although He did no wrong. Jesus was the perfect substitute for us, dying on the cross for our sins and rising from the dead. Everyone who trusts in Jesus has forgiveness and life with God forever. **J**

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY ff Jesus' trial was not a surprise to God the Father or to Jesus. This was all part of God's plan to save us. Jesus is the only One who could pay for our sins and provide the way for us to be with God forever. What did Jesus say when He was asked if He was the Son of God? Look at Luke 22:67-70. **[Choose a volunteer to read aloud Luke 22:67-70.]** Jesus remained silent when accusations were made against Him, but when He was asked if He was the Son of God, He responded. He first said that if He told the religious leaders the truth, they would not believe Him. Then He confirmed that He is the Son of God. This caused the leaders to be outraged and considered what Jesus said to be worthy of punishment.

Did Jesus deserve to be sentenced to die? Look at Matthew 26:59-60. [Choose a volunteer to read aloud Matthew 26:59-60.] No, Jesus is innocent and sinless. The Bible tells us that the religious leaders tried to gather false witnesses to testify against Jesus. They had no evidence of Jesus' guilt because there was none! Pilate also knew that Jesus had done nothing wrong. Instead of releasing Him, Pilate let the crowd decide. What did the crowd choose? [Allow responses.] They chose to release, Barabbas, a known criminal.

Jesus was sentenced to die on the cross. God used the wicked, evil plans of men to send Jesus to the cross. Jesus willingly laid down His life and allowed these events to unfold so that people can be saved from their sin. Jesus is our perfect King who gave His life to save ours. **J**

3 CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY *ff* Jesus was unfairly sentenced to die although He did no wrong. Jesus was the perfect substitute for us, dying on the cross for our sins and rising from the dead. Everyone who trusts in Jesus has forgiveness and life with God forever. **J**

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.)

QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the "Unit 27, Session 1" questions from kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

- 1. Why did the people choose Barabbas to be freed rather than Jesus?
- 2. Why is it important that Jesus never did anything wrong?



5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

SAY II Luther Rice was born in Northborough, Massachusetts, on March 25, 1783. He helped Baptists in the United States work together to support missions in places outside of the country.

Play the missions video. Tell kids that while Luther Rice never returned to the foreign mission field, he continued helping foreign missionaries. Explain that he traveled to various towns and villages on horseback and that he formed several groups to support missions. Close in prayer, thanking God for the work of Luther Rice.

6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Show the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Revelation 5:13 together.

Distribute one sheet of cardstock to each kid. Direct kids to write out the key passage on the cardstock and then color their paper. Next, challenge kids to use a pencil to draw lines on their papers to create a puzzle. Lead kids to cut out their puzzle pieces. Once kids have cut out their puzzle pieces, challenge kids to put their puzzles back together. Distribute plastic bags for kids to use to take their puzzles home.

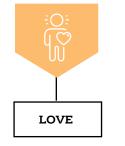
Lead kids to sing "To the Lamb Forever and Ever (Revelation 5:13)." You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning to Love.

SAY *ff* Thank You, Lord for providing Your Son, Jesus, to pay the price for our sins. Thank You for the love You have for us and for allowing us to be forgiven and experience life forever with You. In Jesus' name, amen. **JJ**





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God by Applying the Story

1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles and display the New Testament Israel Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to John 18. Explain that throughout the night of Jesus' arrest and morning of Jesus' trial, He was taken to several places throughout Jerusalem including Caiaphas' house, Pilate's palace, Herod's palace, and then back to Pilate' palace. Point to Jerusalem (H5) on the New Testament Israel Map.

Consider comparing the New Testament Israel Map to a modern-day map to help kids understand where these stories took place. (Tip: Locate the areas in and around modern-day Jerusalem.) Choose a volunteer to read aloud John 18:36-37.

SAY ⁶⁶ Pilate was confused by Jesus' actions and words. Jesus is the King, but He is a different kind of King. His kingdom is not of this world and does not follow the ways of the world. Jesus was not the kind of King who would wage war against the Roman Empire, like many thought He would. Jesus offered something much better than freedom from the Roman Empire. He came so that through Him we can have forgiveness of sins. Jesus is the Truth who gave His life so that we can be saved and experience eternal life. Through faith in Jesus, we can be a part of God's kingdom.

OROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

SAY 🚅 Jesus willingly laid down His life. How does this demonstrate His love for you? 邦

Discuss how God used the evil actions of men to send Jesus to the cross, but it was not a surprise to Jesus. Remind kids that Jesus knew He came to earth to die for people's sin. Prompt kids to think about the amazing love of Jesus to willingly die for sinners!

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read John 15:13.)

SAY 💕 Why is Jesus our perfect substitute? 🍤

Remind kids that Jesus never sinned. Explain that He is the perfect, spotless sacrifice for our sins. Discuss how Jesus is fully God and fully man. Remind kids that Jesus was like us in every way, except He never sinned. Tell kids that because Jesus is the perfect man, His life was acceptable to God as payment for our sin.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read 1 Peter 1:18-19.)

SAY ⁶⁶ Jesus told Caiaphas that in the future He would be seated at the right of God. Why would Jesus be at God's right hand? **J**

Help kids understand that Jesus' death would not be the end. Remind kids that Jesus died for our sin and rose again. Explain that Jesus' death and resurrection defeated sin and death. Tell kids that Jesus' work is done and that anyone who trusts in Him will live with Him forever.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Heb. 1:3.)

Transition from $\ensuremath{\textbf{LOVE}}$ to $\ensuremath{\textbf{LIVE}}$





THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: MISSION NEEDS



Ask kids to name things that someone might need as they go to another country to tell people about Jesus. Write their ideas on poster paper or a dry erase board. Discuss the items named and ask kids why they think those items would be needed. As kids discuss the need for money, point out all the things that money would be needed for as missionaries move to another country to tell people about Jesus.

SAY SAY SAY

OPTION 2: WHAT IS TRUE?



Write the following accusations from Jesus' trial and Scripture references on a white board: two men said Jesus would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days (John 2:19-22), Caiaphas said Jesus blasphemed God by claiming to be the Son of God (Acts 7:55-56), men accused Jesus of telling people to stop paying taxes to Caesar (Luke 20:24-25), the Jews said Jesus made Himself a king (John 18:33-37).

Form kids into four groups and provide each group with a Bible. Assign one of the accusations along with the Bible verse to each group. Lead groups to look up and read their Bible verse. Then ask groups to determine whether the accusation was true or false. Allow groups to share their answers.

SAY SAY The accusations made against Jesus were twisted to make Jesus look guilty. But Jesus is innocent and sinless. Jesus' life and teachings point us to the truth that Jesus is not only King of the Jews, but He is the King of kings.

2 JOURNAL AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page. As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas.

- •What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
- Are there promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

Review the gospel and encourage kids to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions. Then pray, thanking God for His great love for us and for providing a way for us to be saved. As time allows, lead kids to complete "How Did It Happen?" on the activity page.



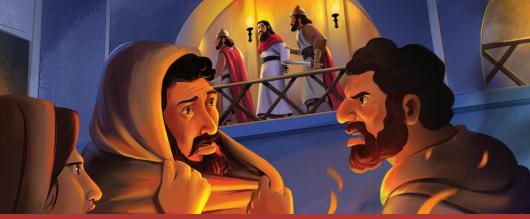
1. What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?

2. What does this story teach me about myself?

3. Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?

4. Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?

5. How does this story help me to live on mission better?



Unit 27 • Session 1 JESUS WAS PUT ON TRIAL Matthew 26-27; Mark 14-15; Luke 22-23; John 18

HOW IS JESUS THE PERFECT KING? JESUS PERFECTLY RULES OVER THE UNIVERSE AS THE KING OF KINGS.

The men who arrested Jesus led Him to the house of Caiaphas. The religious leaders wanted a reason to kill Jesus, but they couldn't find one. Finally, two men came forward and said, "This man said He can destroy the temple of God and rebuild it in three days."

Caiaphas stood up and asked Jesus, "Is this true? But Jesus said nothing. Caiaphas said, "Are You the Messiah, the Son of God?" Jesus replied, "Yes, that's right.

Caiaphas said, "This man has spoken against God! Now what should we do?" The crowd said, "He deserves to die!"

The religious leaders took Him to Pilate, the governor. Pilate asked Jesus, "Are You the King of the Jews?"

Jesus answered, "Yes, that's right."

Every year at Passover, the governor would free a prisoner—whichever prisoner the people chose. At that time, there was a prisoner named Barabbas.

Pilate asked the crowd, "Who do you want me to set free? Barabbas or Jesus?

The crowd answered, "Barabbas!"

Pilate asked, "Then what should I do with Jesus?"

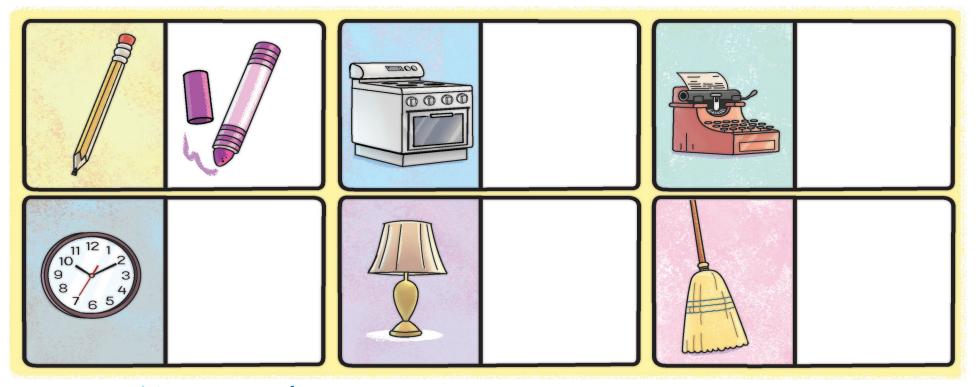
The crowd answered, "Crucify Him!"

Pilate freed Barabbas and handed Jesus over to the crowd to be killed.

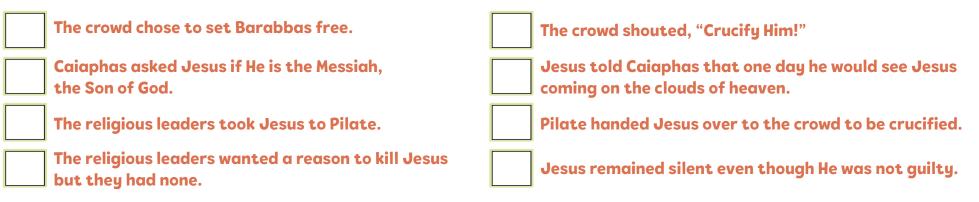
Christ Connection: Jesus was unfairly sentenced to die although He did no wrong. Jesus was the perfect substitute for us, dying on the cross for our sins and rising from the dead. Everyone who trusts in Jesus has forgiveness and life with God forever.

What's a Substitute? | Jesus willingly became our perfect substitute for our sin. Look at each picture and

draw something you could substitute for that object.



How Did It Happen? Order the events from today's Bible story from 1–8. Look up Matthew 26–27 in your Bible to help you.



NAME:



Jesus Was Put on Trial

BIBLE STORY SUMMARY:

- The religious leaders put Jesus on trial. They wanted a reason to kill Jesus. But Jesus never did anything wrong.
- Caiaphas asked Jesus if He is God's Son. Jesus said He is. They said Jesus was lying, but Jesus was telling the truth!
- Jesus was taken to Pilate who questioned Him. Pilate let the crowd decide what to do with Jesus. The crowd chose to free Barabbas and crucify Jesus.
 Pilate handed Jesus over to the crowd to be killed.

CHRIST CONNECTION:

Jesus was unfairly sentenced to die although He did no wrong. Jesus was the perfect substitute for us, dying on the cross for our sins and rising from the dead. Everyone who trusts in Jesus has forgiveness and life with God forever.

KEY PASSAGE: Revelation 5:13

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

How is Jesus the perfect King? Jesus perfectly rules over the universe as the King of kings.

> Younger Kids Activity Pages **Unit 27 • Session 1**