

# 57 Crucifixion



## Good Friday

Jesus has the last supper and is then arrested, after Judas betrays him. The priests find Jesus guilty. They send him to Pontius Pilate, who tries to save Jesus – but the crowd demand that he is crucified. Jesus is crucified and dies on the cross, so God will forgive us. He is buried hastily in the tomb, just before everyone has to go home for the Sabbath.



*Please first introduce yourself and ask each child his or her name.*

### **Crucifixion**

All through the year, we have been reading stories from the Bible and learning about God's love for us.

Even at the beginning, he made a beautiful garden for the first people.

*Can you remember what that garden was called?*

### *The Garden of Eden.*

In the Garden of Eden, God loved Adam and Eve and gave them everything that they needed to be happy.

But he told Adam and Eve not to eat fruit from the Tree of Knowledge.

*Did Adam and Eve follow God's one rule?*

No they did not.

*They ate the fruit and sinned against God.*

Because they disobeyed God, they had to suffer the consequence of their actions.

*Do you know what the word 'consequence' means?*

It is something that happens because of an action or decision that was taken.

*If people broke God's rules or sinned against them, the consequence was that God would punish them.*



*What was the consequence of Adam and Eve's sin?*

God made them leave the Garden of Eden.

But even though God was very disappointed, he still loved humans and continued to look after them and help them.

But whenever they sinned or did something bad, there was a consequence and they had to be punished.





Thousands of years later, God sent his Son, Jesus, to remind people that God loved them and wanted to be friends with them and have a relationship with them.

Jesus travelled around Galilee teaching the word of God, performing miracles and healing sick people.

Many people loved Jesus, but ... many were jealous of how popular he had become.

They wanted to get rid of him.

Jesus travelled to Jerusalem, where he knew that his enemies were waiting for him.

But he did not mind.

He knew that he would be captured and killed, but he went there anyway.



*Do you know why?*

Jesus realised that he could do something that would bring people much closer to God.

Instead of God punishing people every time they did something wrong, Jesus would suffer the punishments for all of us.

He would die so that he could take everyone's punishment.

Like that in future, if people loved God and were sorry for what they had done, God would always forgive them and never need to punish them.

Jesus would suffer for all of us, so that we would not need to suffer.





Last time at Sunday School, we learnt about the Last Supper.

*Can any of you remember some of the things that happened at the Last Supper?*

Jesus gathered with his 12 apostles.

He washed all their feet.

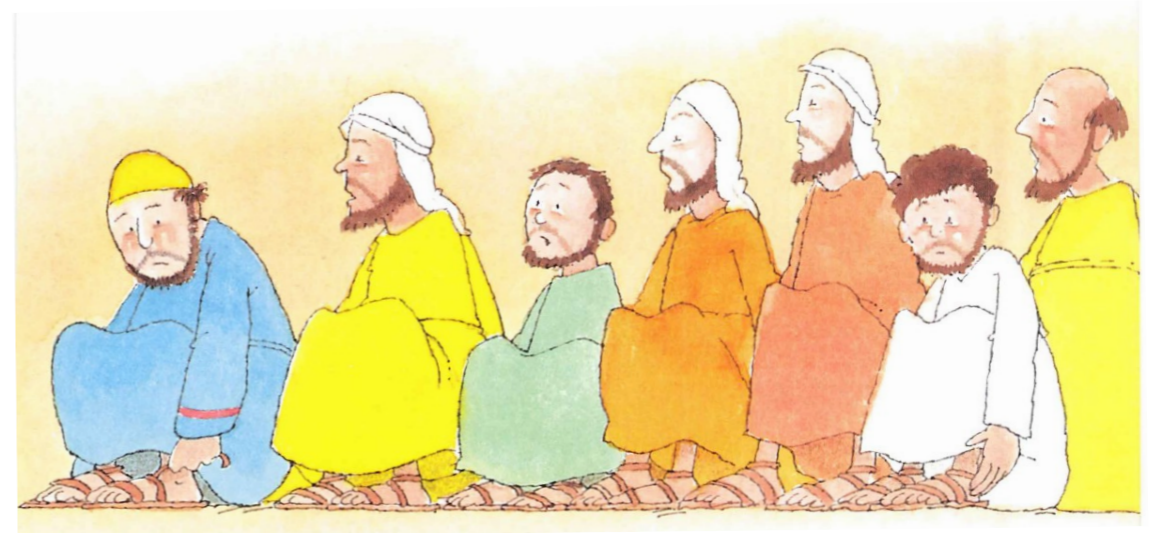
He told them that one of them would betray him.

Judas left the supper to get the enemies of Jesus.

Jesus gave his apostles bread and wine and told them to remember him when he was gone.

Jesus told them that he would die, but that he would come back to life and return to them.







After dinner, Judas returned with the enemies of Jesus and some Roman soldiers.

They captured Jesus and took him away to be tried.









The people who hated Jesus most were the chief priests in Jerusalem.

They were the religious leaders of the people, and were used to telling people what they should and should not do.

They did not like it that Jesus was travelling around, teaching people about God and performing miracles.

The chief priests were worried that people would not follow them anymore, and that instead they would all follow Jesus.

They were jealous of Jesus' powers and miracles.

They questioned Jesus and accused him of many things.

They made up all sorts of bad stories about him.

But he did not reply.

At last, one asked him:

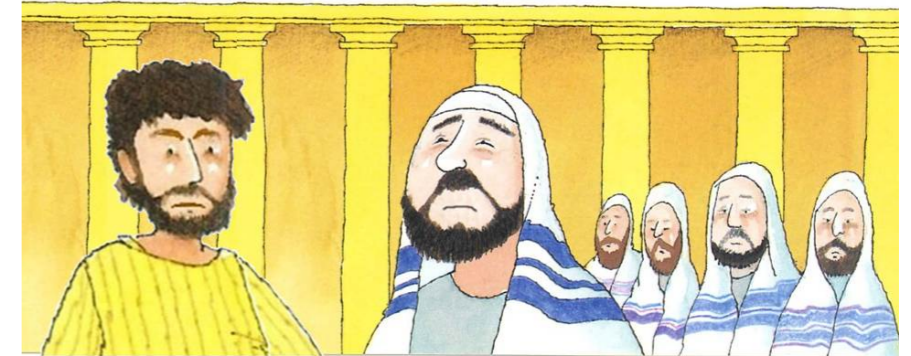
“Are you the Son of God?”

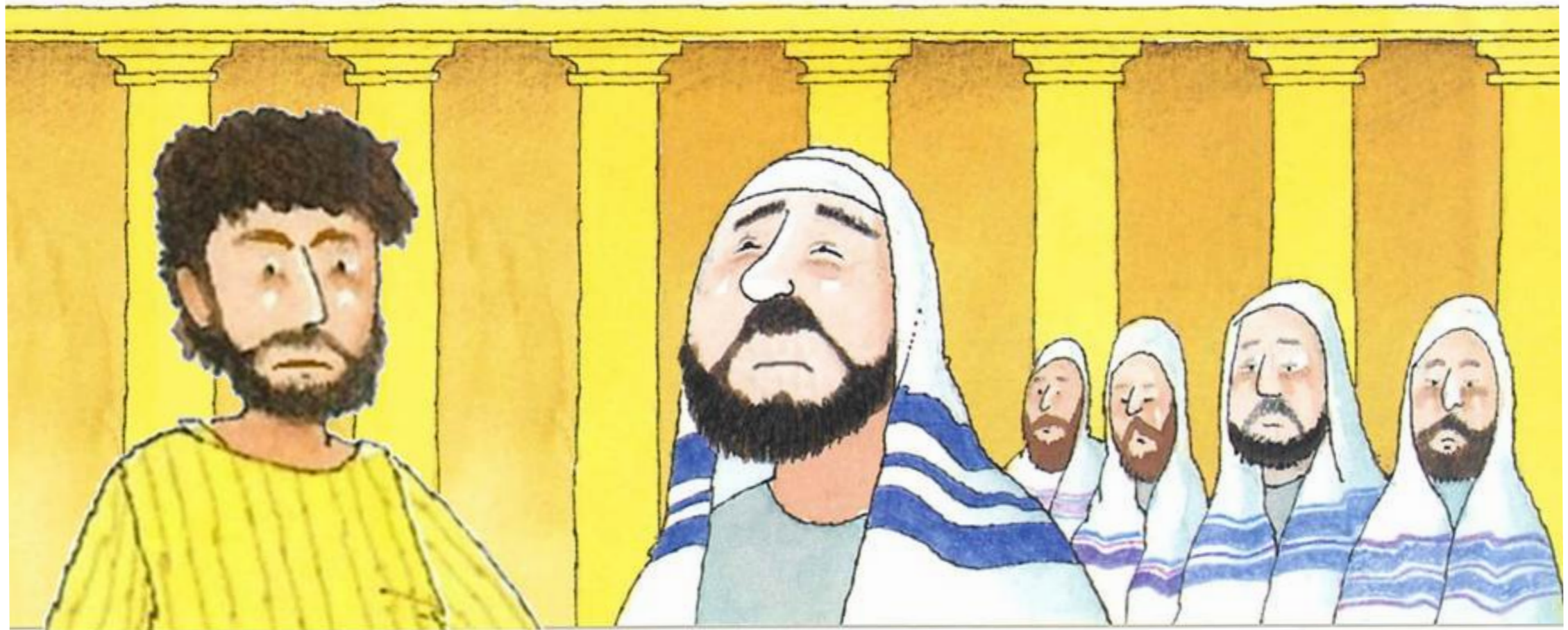
Jesus replied:

“I am.”

The priests were furious and hit him.

Then they sent him off to the Roman soldiers and asked them to kill Jesus.







At this time, the Roman governor of the land was called Pontius Pilate.

(Remember that the land of Israel had been invaded by the Romans and they ruled over all the Israelites).

Pilate was curious why Jesus was letting the chief priests say bad things about him.

He asked Jesus:

‘Are you the king of the Jews?’.

Jesus replied:

“Yes, it is as you say.”

Pilate was not very happy about killing Jesus.



Even Pilate’s wife had told him that she had had a bad dream that warned them not to kill Jesus.

Pilate told the chief priests that he did not think that Jesus had done anything so bad that he had to be executed, killed.

But the chief priests did not listen.

They shouted:

“Crucify him, crucify him.”

The chief priests got lots of their friends worked up too, so they were all shouting:

“Kill him! Crucify Jesus!”

Pontius Pilate realised that the chief priests were very jealous of Jesus and just wanted to get rid of him.





Pontius Pilate fetched a bowl of water and a towel.

In front of the people, he washed his hands and told them:

“I am innocent of this man’s blood.

It is your responsibility.”

*What did it mean that he washed his hands and said this?*

Then Pilate had Jesus flogged and beaten.

The Roman soldiers put a crown of thorns on Jesus’ head, and took him to be crucified.







Jesus was taken to Golgotha.

The Place of the Skull.

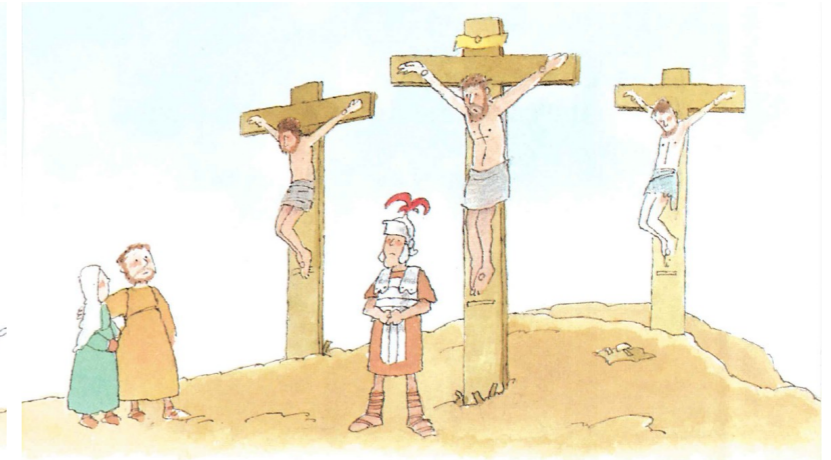
It was a hill where people were crucified.

*Do you think many people followed and watched?*

Yes, all Jesus's enemies came, and laughed at him.

But all the people who loved Jesus and looked after him came too.

They had to be careful, as the followers and supporters of Jesus were also in trouble with the chief priests.



*How do you think Jesus's followers and friends were feeling?*

At Golgotha, Jesus was nailed to the cross by his hands and feet.

Then the Roman soldiers raised the cross up, and put a sign on the cross that said:

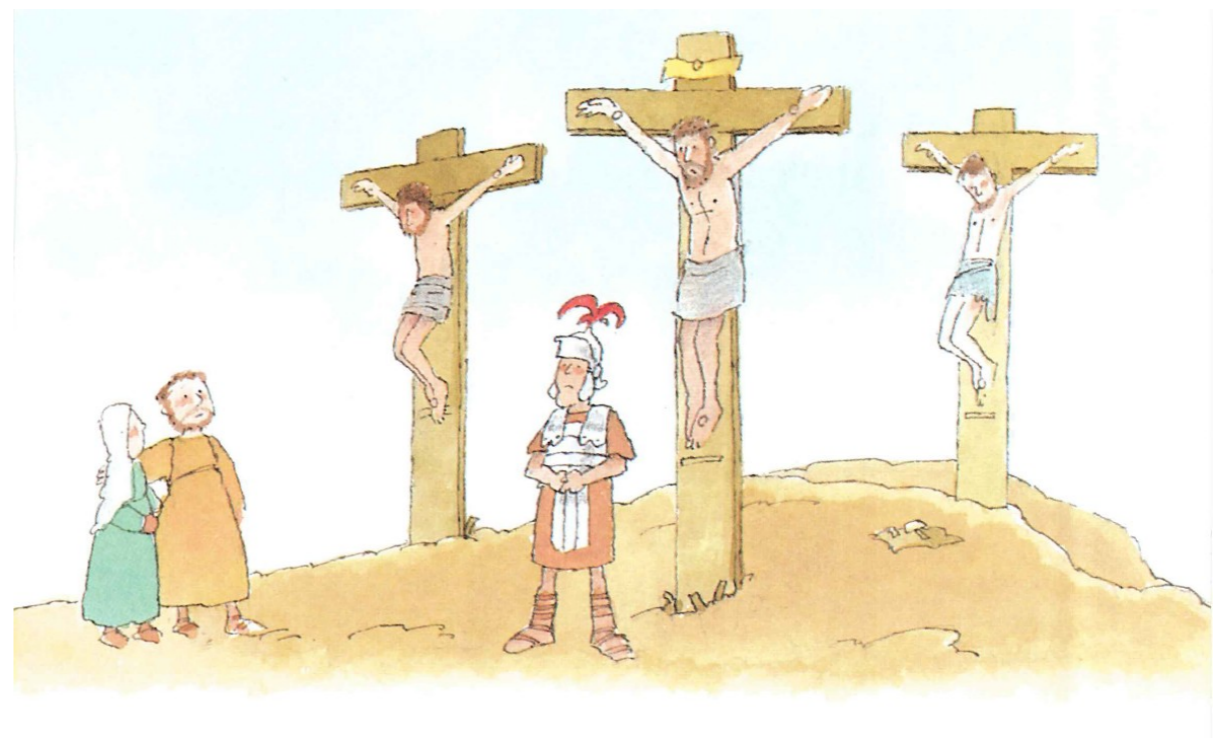
“This is Jesus, King of the Jews.”

Then everyone waited for Jesus to die.

Crucifixion was a terrible way to die.

It was very slow and painful, and it was the worst punishment that could be given.







On the cross, Jesus spoke.

He asked God to forgive the people who had killed him.

Then he looked down and saw his poor mother Mary was terribly upset.

He asked the apostle John to look after her from now on as if she were his own mother.

Even though Jesus was in terrible pain, he still thought about other people.

Later on, he was suffering so much and listening to the horrible shouts and jokes of his enemies, he called out to God, asking why God had abandoned him.

Even though he was the Son of God, at that moment he felt very human and weak.

Finally, just before he died, he said:

“It is finished.”

His work was done.

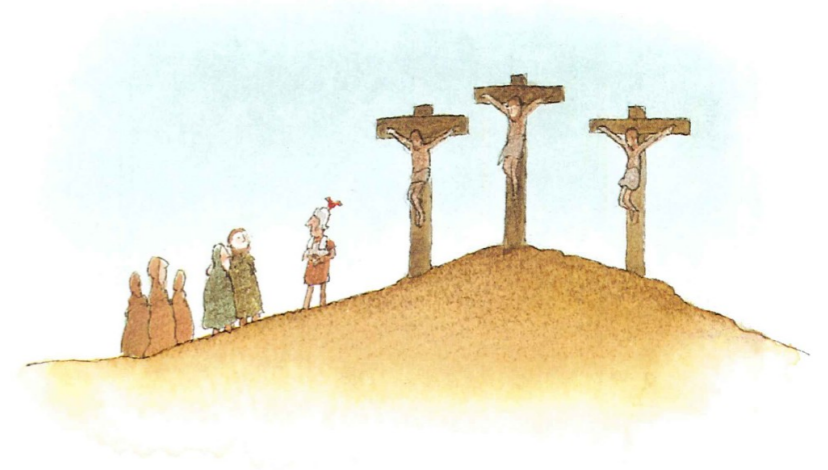
He had died to take the punishments for all of us.

His death saves us from God’s anger and brings us all closer to God.

Jesus died on a Friday, and we now call that day “Good Friday”.

Now the apostles had to wait for Jesus to return.

They knew Jesus’s secret that he would come back to life.



Prayer:

Dear God,

Thank you for sending us your Son Jesus and letting him die on the cross so that we could all be forgiven by You and saved.

Help us to follow Jesus’s teachings and love you and love each other.

Amen

