

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.

The Saddest Day: Jesus is Tried and Crucified

Jesus was sad.

Soon he would die and leave his special friends.

But he would come back to life and see them again.

His death and resurrection was part of God's plan to save mankind.

So everyone could have God's forgiveness.

Why would Jesus die and come back to life?

So God would forgive everyone.

What does resurrection mean?

Come back to life.







Before the last supper, Jesus washed the feet of his special friends to remind them to love and care for each other.

Jesus asked his special friends to love one another.

But Judas Iscariot went to tell Jesus's enemies where to find him.

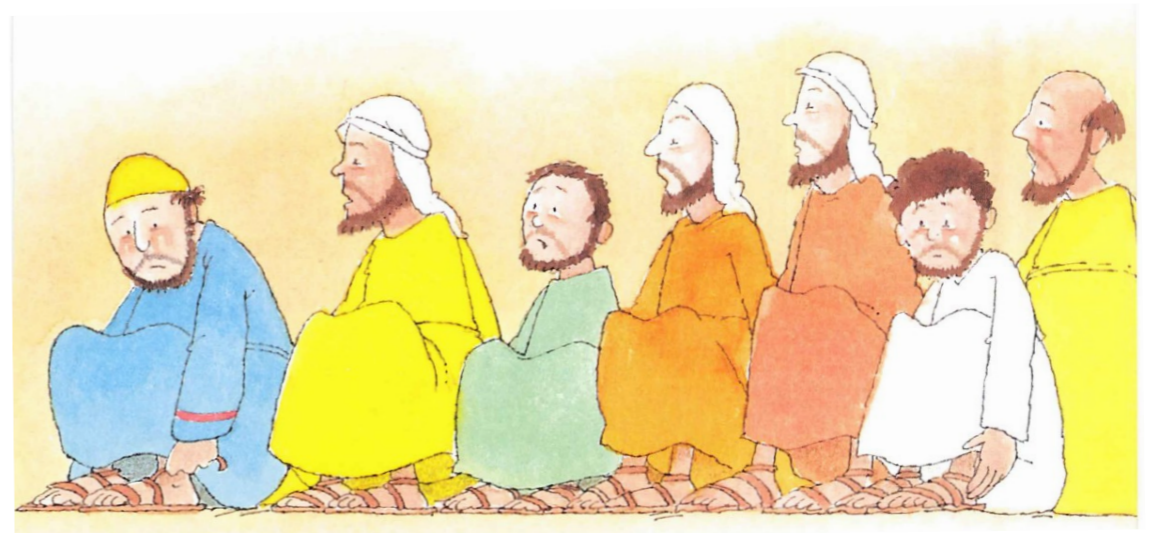
What does Jesus ask us to do?

Love one another.

Who told Jesus's enemies where to find him?

Judas Iscariot.



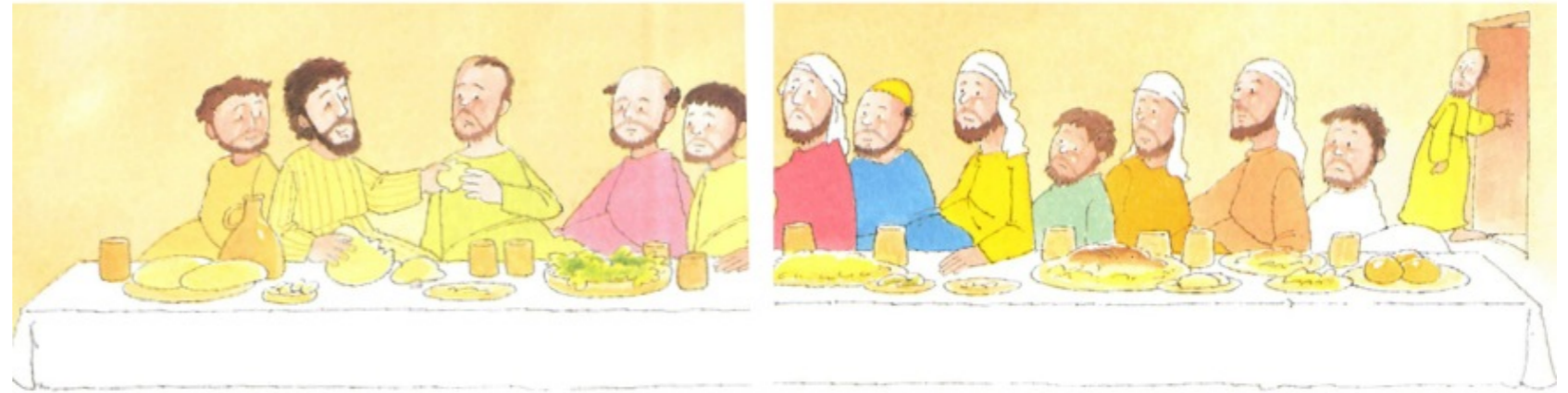




At the last supper, Jesus held the first communion.

He shared bread and wine with his special friends, to help them remember him.

Then Jesus told his special friends that he was going to die and come back to life, so everyone can have God's forgiveness.



What will Jesus do?

Die and come back to life, so everyone can have God's forgiveness.

When do we remember Jesus with bread and wine?

In church at communion.





Jesus went to pray in the Garden of Gethsemane.

He said:

“Father, I don’t want to die on the cross.

But I want to be part of Your plan.

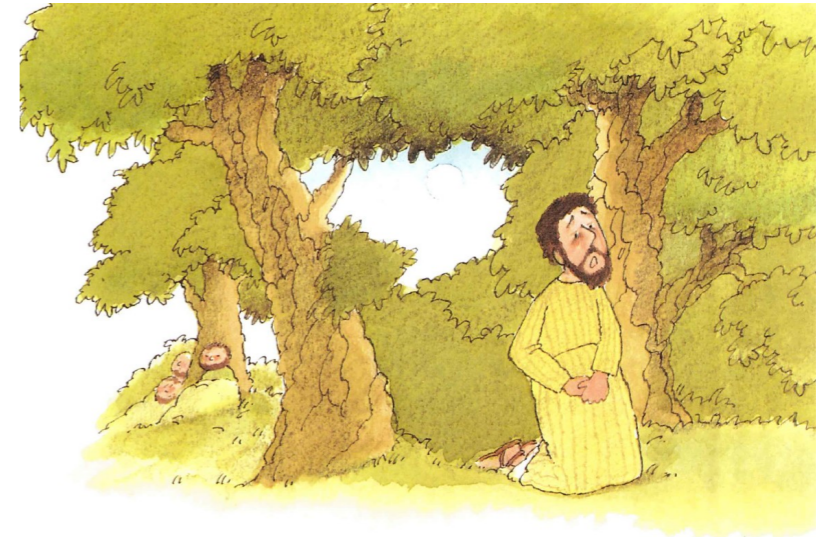
I am ready to give my life.”

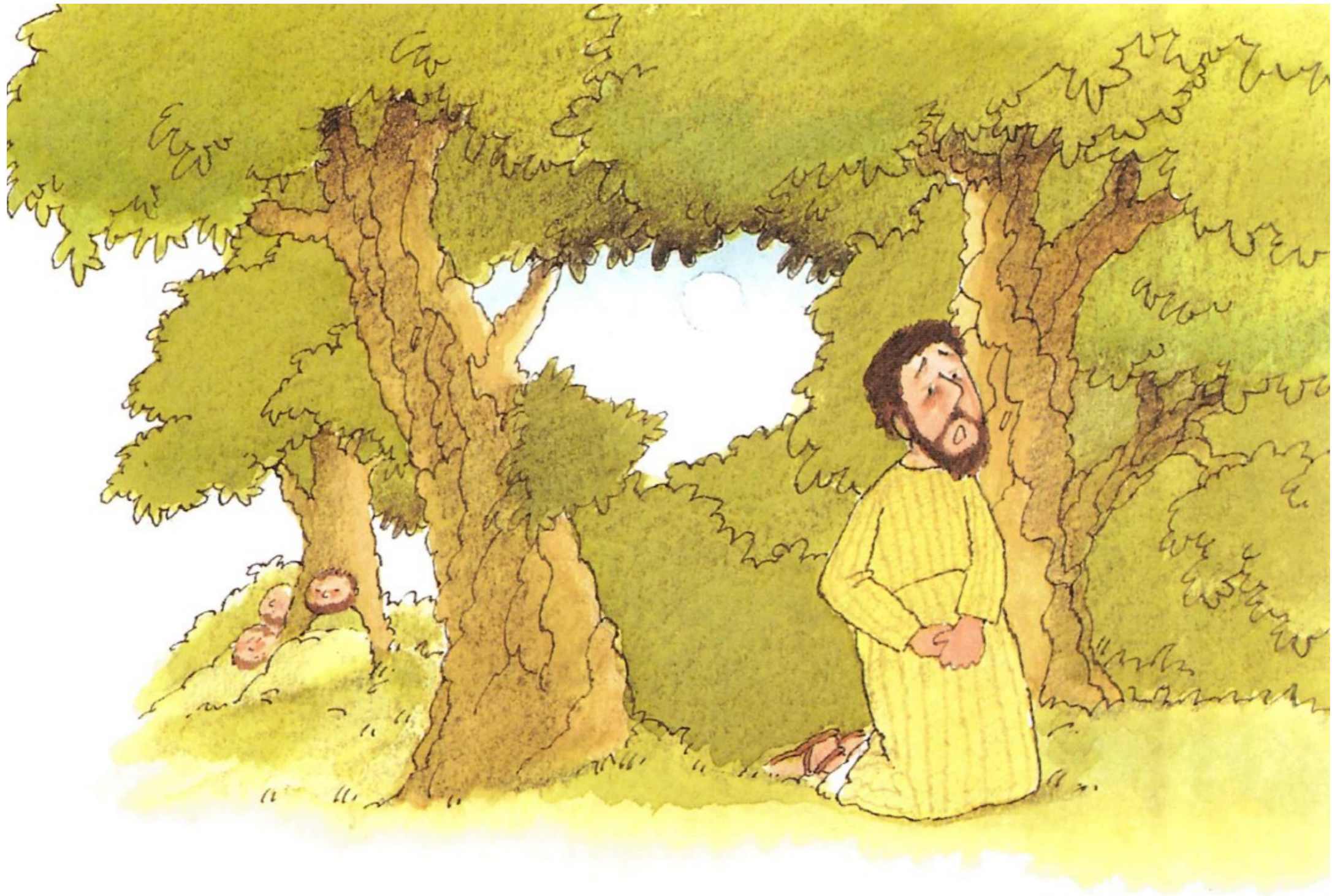
He asked Peter, James and John to keep watch.

But they fell asleep.

What did Jesus say to God?

He didn’t want to die, but he wanted to be part of God’s plan.







Judas came with soldiers.

He kissed Jesus on the cheek, so the soldiers knew who to arrest.

The soldiers took Jesus prisoner.

How did the soldiers know which person was Jesus?

Judas kissed him.







Jesus's enemies, the priests, asked him angry questions all night.

Finally they asked Jesus if he was the son of God.

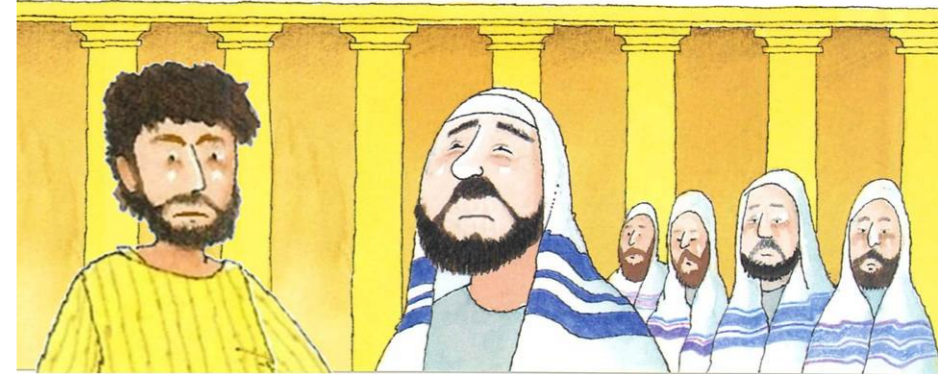
“I am” said Jesus.

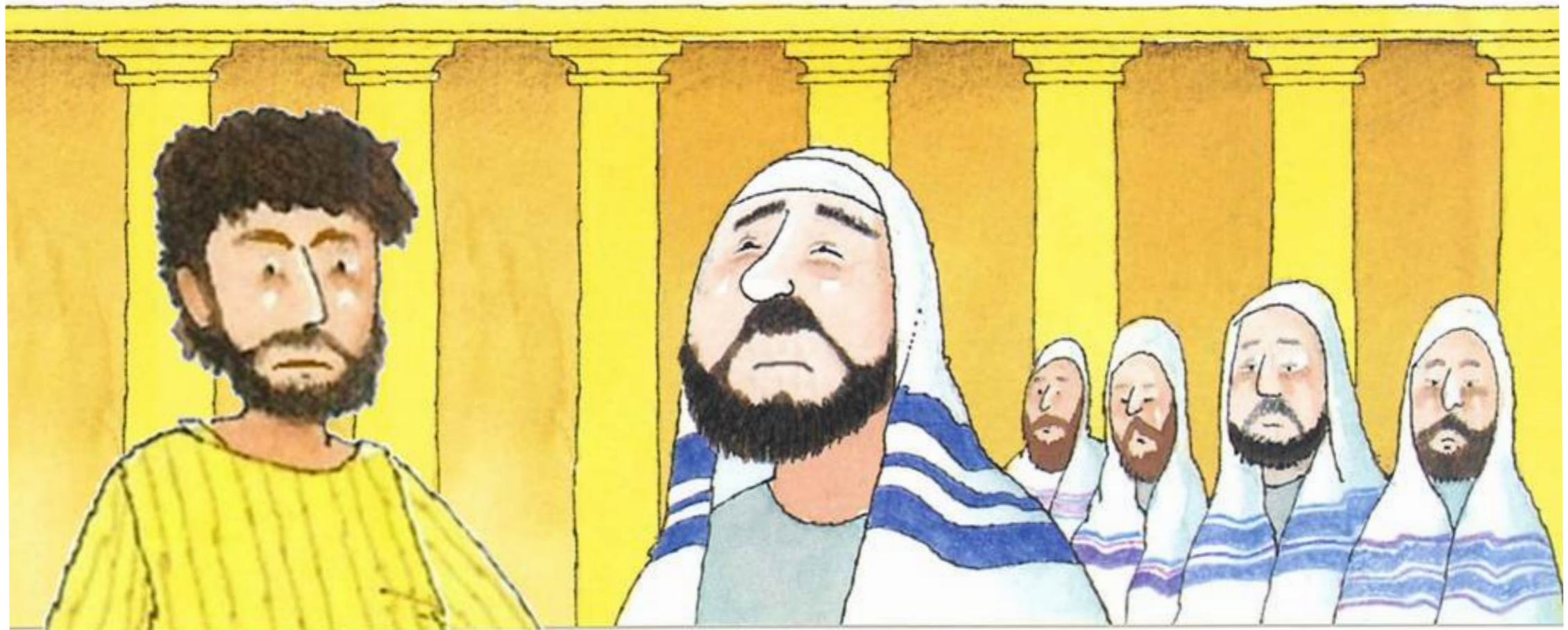
“He is guilty! He must be killed!” said the priests.

But only Pontius Pilate could have Jesus killed.

Why did the priests say Jesus was guilty?

Jesus said he was the son of God.







Early in the morning, the priests took Jesus to the Roman Governor, Pontius Pilate.

The priests said:

“Jesus has been stirring up trouble!”

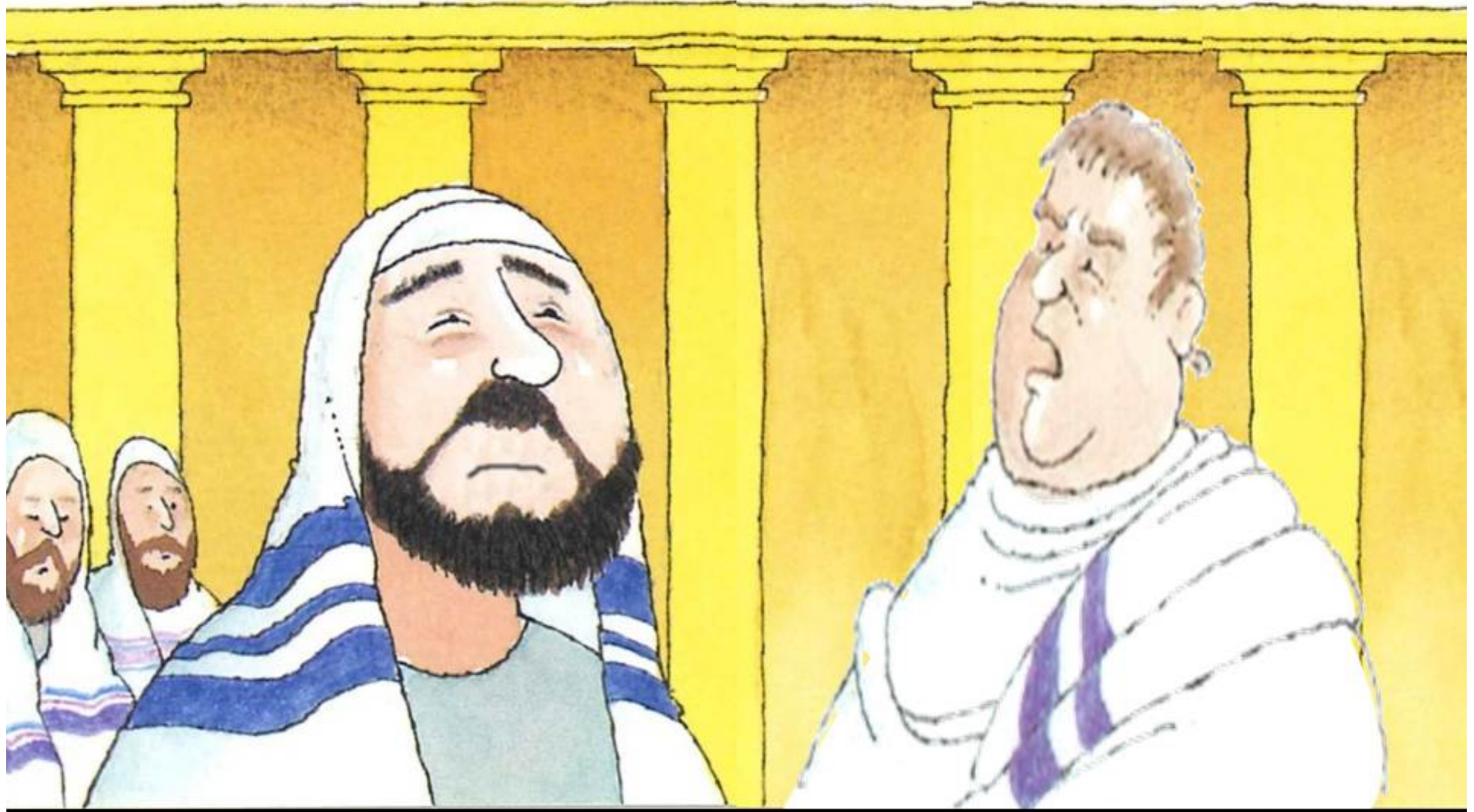
“Jesus has done nothing wrong,” said Pontius Pilate.

He wanted to let Jesus go.

Did Pontus Pilate want to kill Jesus?

No!







As it was Passover, Pontius Pilate could free one prisoner.

He asked the crowd if he should release Barabbas, a murderer.

Or Jesus.

Jesus's enemies paid the crowd to choose Barabbas.

Who did the crowd save?

Barabbas.

Why?

The priests paid them.







Pontius Pilate asked the crowd what he should do with Jesus.

“Kill him! Nail him to a cross! Crucify him!” the crowd shouted.

“Why? He has done nothing wrong!” said Pontius Pilate.

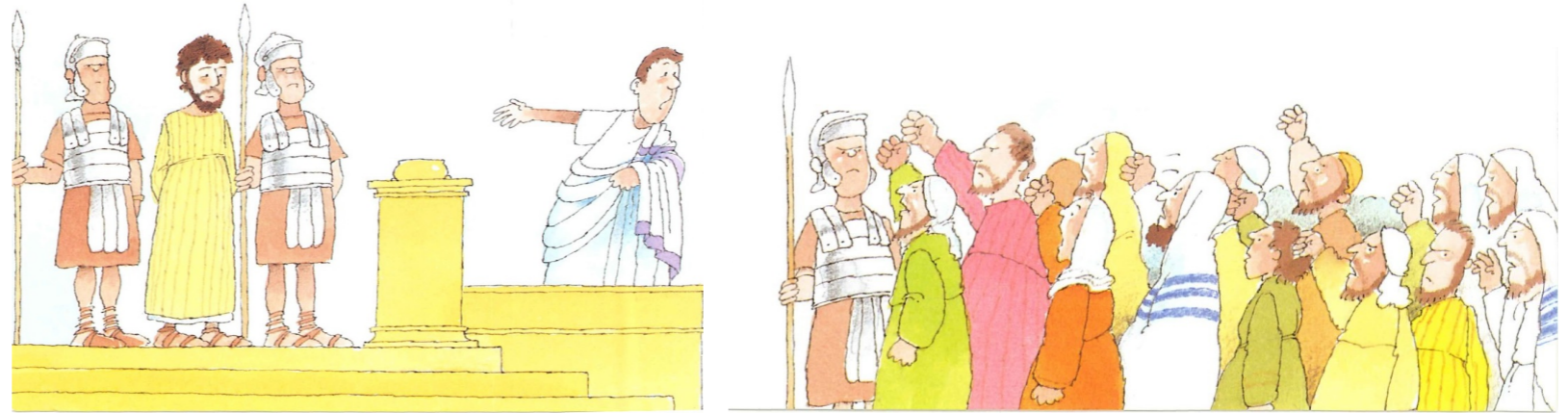
“He tells lies about God,” the priests said.

They hated Jesus.

They were jealous and did not believe he was God’s promised King.

What did the crowd want to do to Jesus?

Kill him.



Had Jesus done anything wrong?

No! He helped bad people become good and taught people God’s rules.

Is it nice to be jealous and hate people?

No! The priests didn’t follow God’s rules.





Pontius Pilate was afraid of the crowd.

At last he said:

“I will do as you want.

But don’t blame me.”

He washed his hands to show that he was not to blame for Jesus’s death.

Why did Pontius Pilate wash his hands?

To show it wasn’t his fault.

He wanted Jesus to live.







The soldiers took Jesus to Skull Hill and nailed him to a cross.

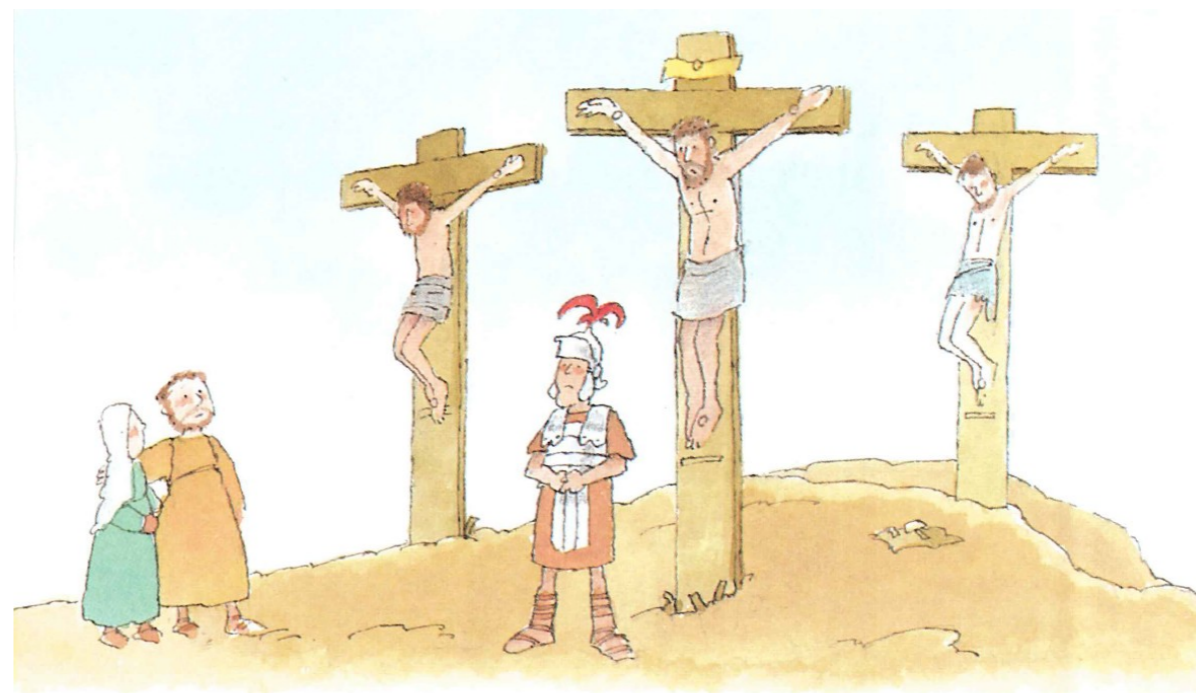
They put a crown of thorns on his head and a sign saying:

“Jesus of Nazareth: King of the Jews.”

What happened to Jesus?

He was nailed to a cross with a crown of thorns hurting his head.







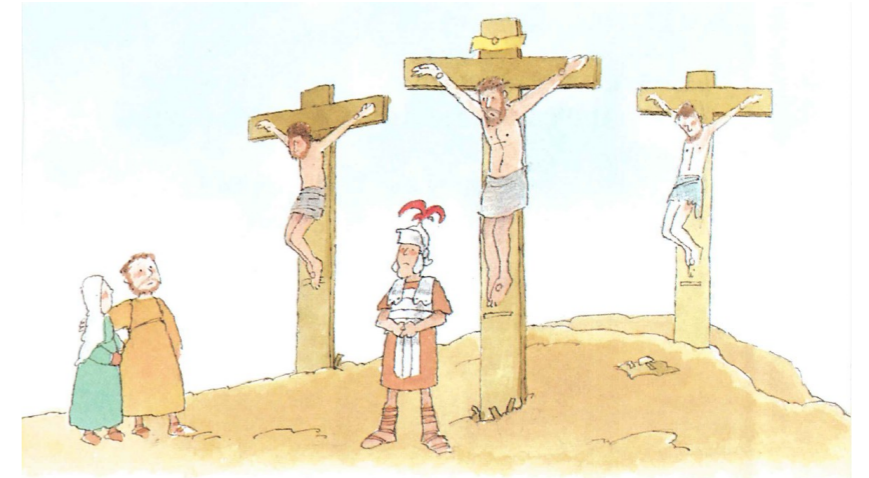
Jesus's mother, Mary, stood close to the cross, with his special friend John.

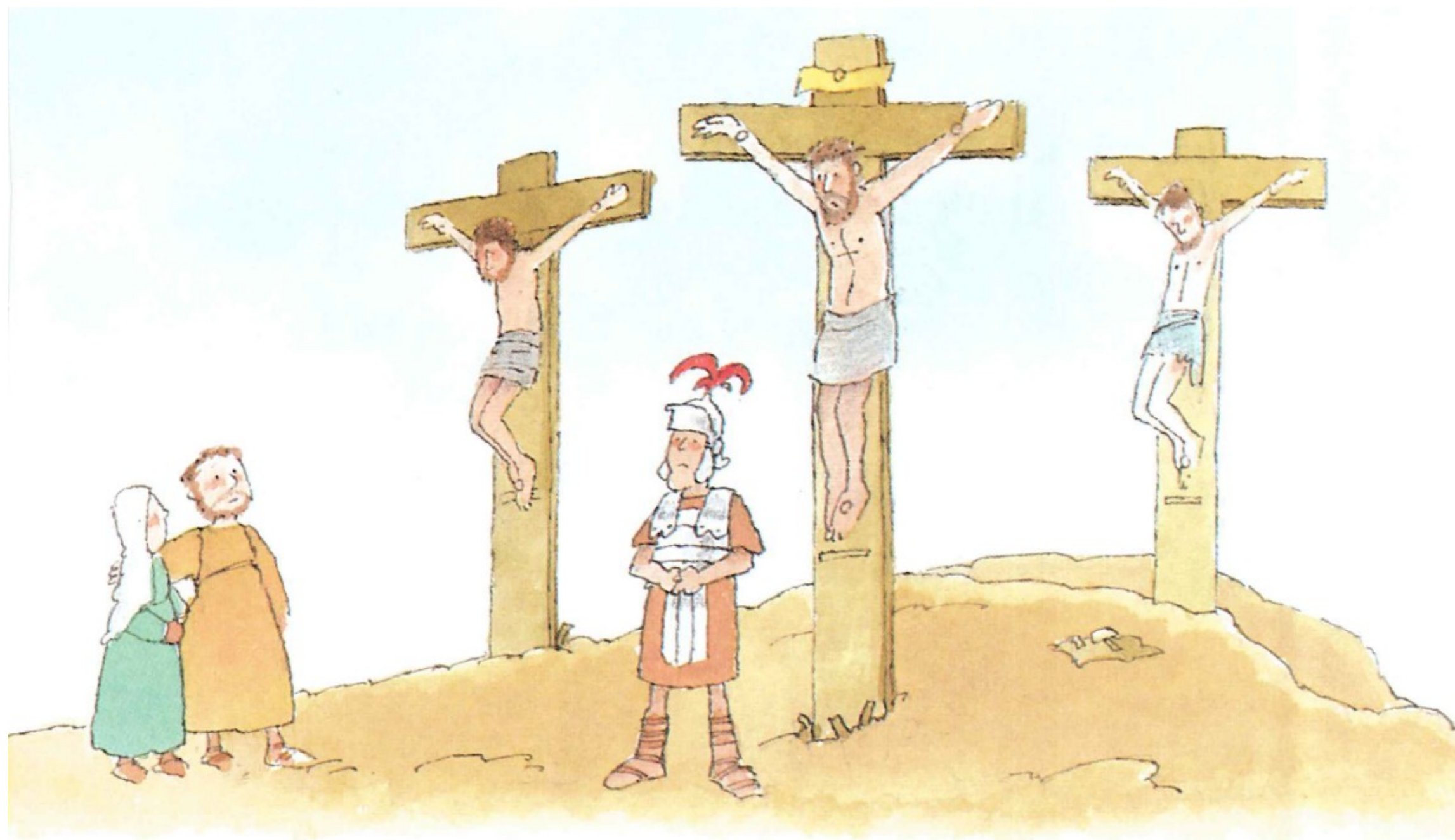
“Look after her for me, John, as if you were her son,” Jesus said from the cross.

And from that day on John took care of Mary.

What did Jesus ask John to do?

Look after his mother.







Jesus did not hate the soldiers who nailed him to the cross.

He did not hate his cruel enemies.

“Father forgive them, they do not know what they are doing” he prayed.

The sky went dark.

Jesus cried:

“I have finished my work.”

Then he died.

It was the saddest day.

Did Jesus hate the men who were nasty?

No! He followed God’s rules to love everyone – even people who were nasty to him.

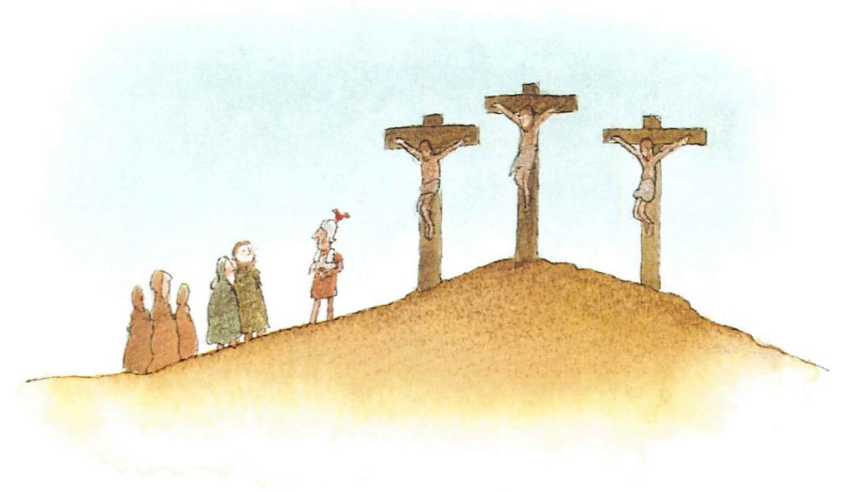
What happened to Jesus on the cross?

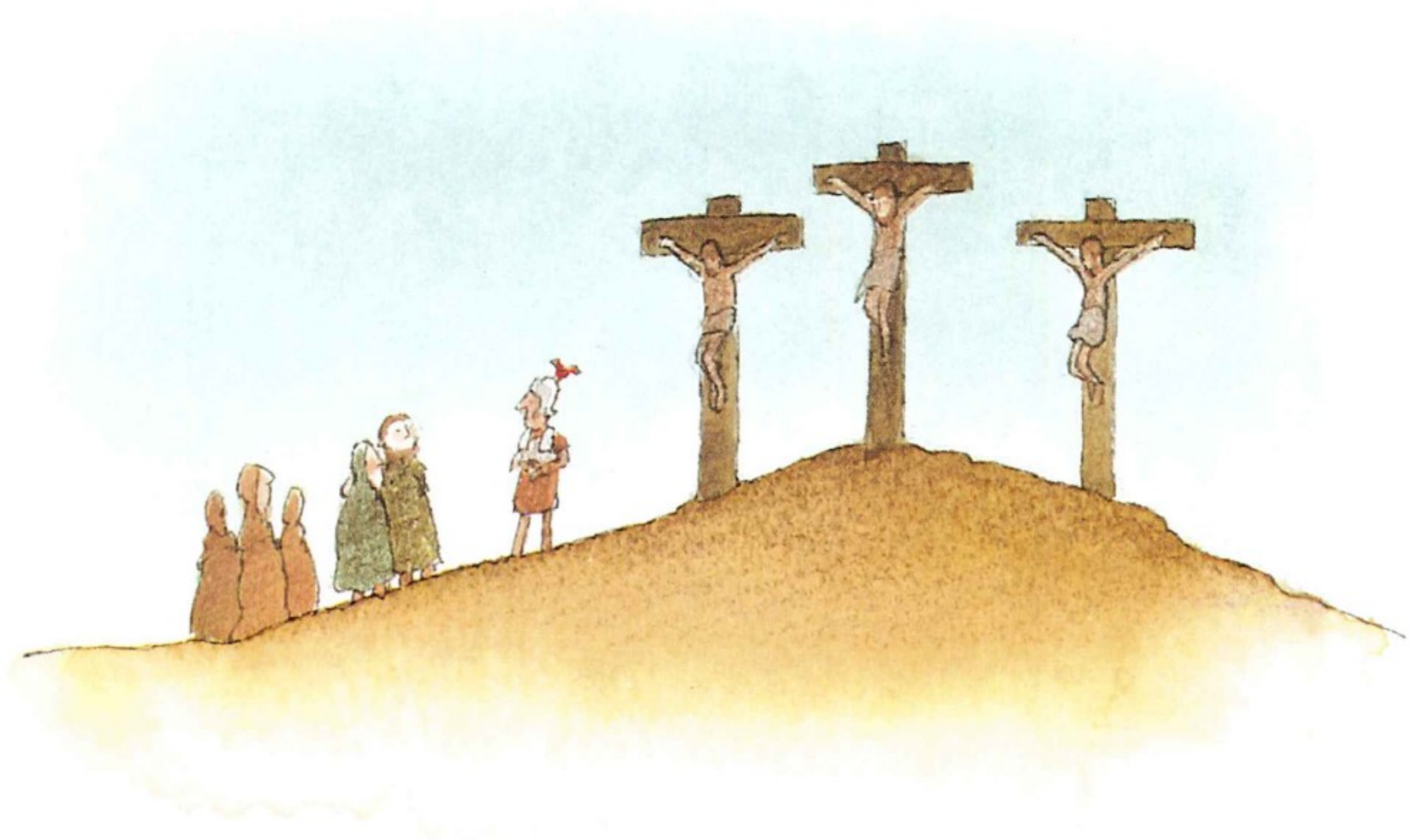
He died. It was the saddest day.

Where do you see crosses?

In church. On necklaces. On bibles.

People use crosses to help them remember that Jesus died for us, so God would forgive us.







Jesus's friends took his body to a tomb.

It was a cave – with a big, heavy stone across the opening.

Then the friends had to go home for God's special day of rest.

Christians call the day Jesus died "Good Friday".

Jesus's death was part of God's plan, so God would forgive everyone.

That's why Jesus came back to life three days later, on Easter morning.

Where was Jesus laid?

In a tomb like a cave.

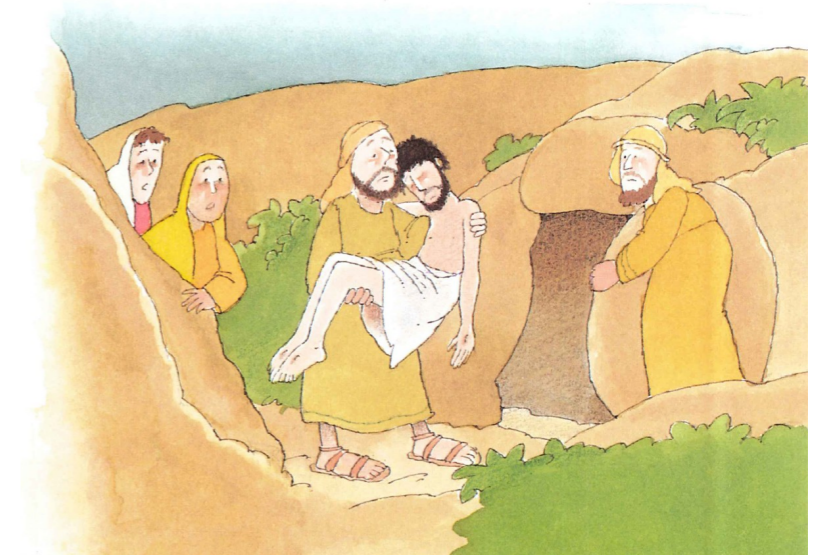
What do we call this day?

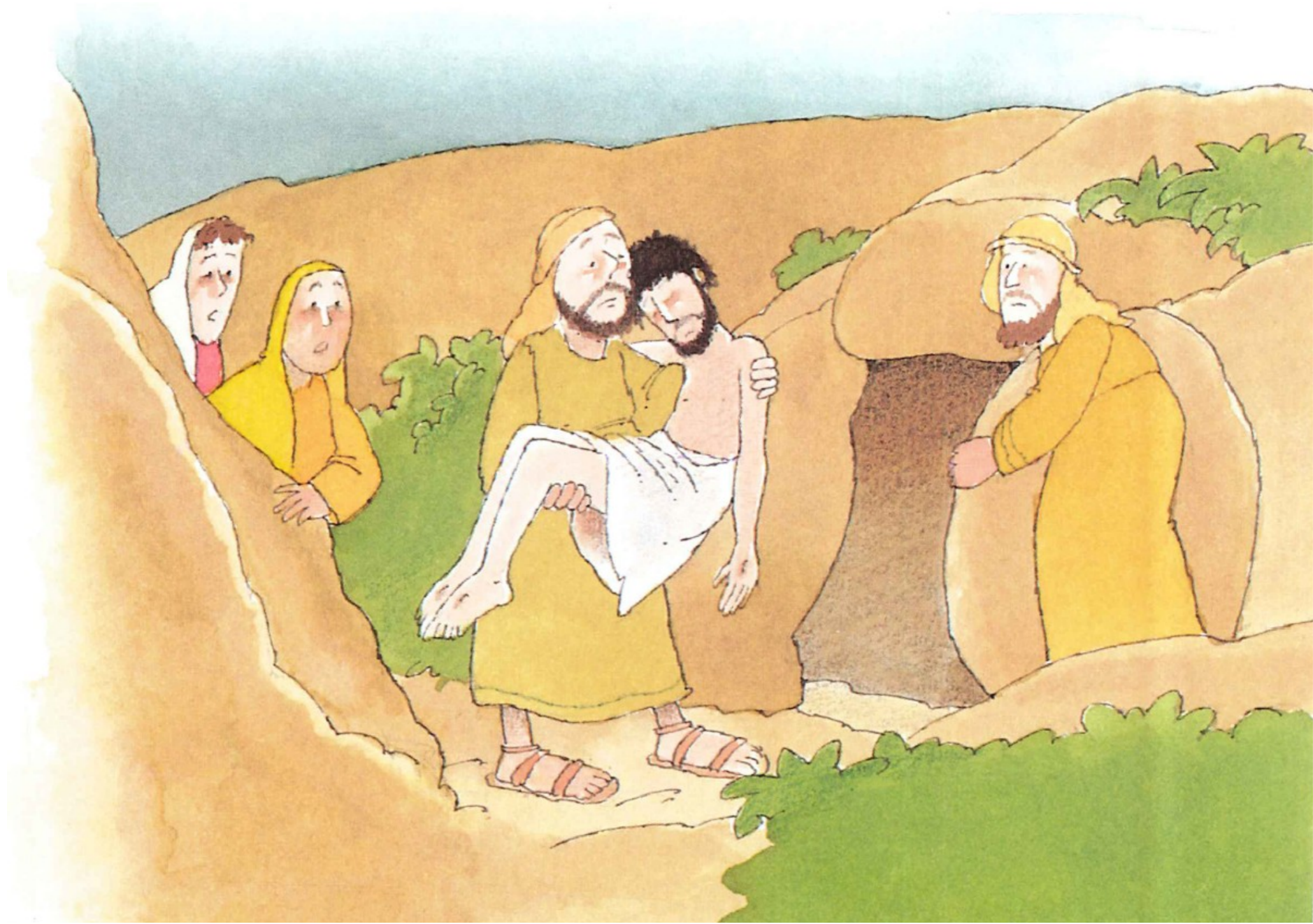
Good Friday.

What did Jesus say would happen next?

He will come back to life.

We will hear about that next week.







Why did Jesus die and come back to life?

So God would forgive everyone.

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Love one another.

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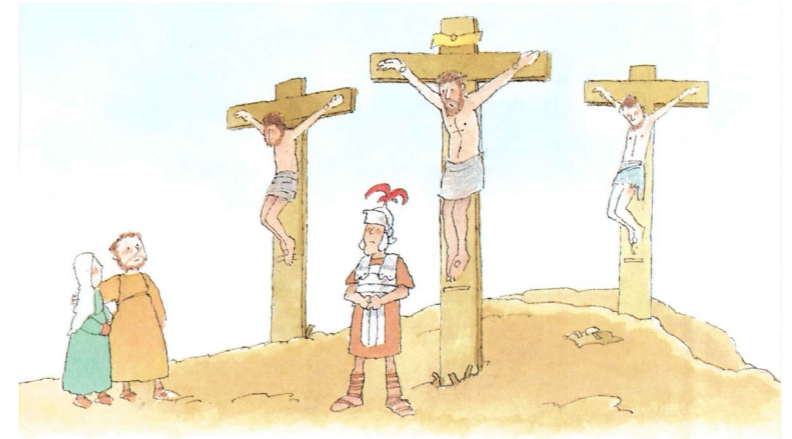
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