

Jesus Suffered and Died on the Cross to Save Us from Sin

LESSON 11

Suggested Grade Level

Elementary School

Learning Goals

- › All people have sinned and are in need of salvation.
- › God sent His Son into the world to save us from sin by His Death and Resurrection.
- › Jesus suffered, died, and was buried. He rose from the dead on the third day.
- › Jesus calls us to take up our own crosses and follow in His own example of redemptive suffering.



Connection to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*

- › CCC 422
- › CCC 430
- › CCC 456-457
- › CCC 588
- › CCC 598
- › CCC 601-605
- › CCC 608
- › CCC 613-615
- › CCC 618
- › CCC 624-628



Vocabulary

- › Wage

BIBLICAL TOUCHSTONES

Then he said to all, "If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."

LUKE 9:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

ROMANS 6:23

Lesson Plan

- Materials**
- ▶ Handout A: *What Our Lord Saw from the Cross*
 - ▶ Handout B: Jesus Died for Our Sins
 - ▶ Handout C: Christ's Passion in Sacred Art
 - ▶ Handout D: Christ's Passion Reflection
 - ▶ Handout E: Happy or Sad
 - ▶ Teacher Resource: Christ's Passion According to Luke's Gospel
 - ▶ Mini craft sticks
 - ▶ Markers

Prayer Teacher: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You.

Students: Because, by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the world.

Most High, glorious God, enlighten the darkness of my heart and give me true faith, certain hope, and perfect charity, sense and knowledge, Lord, that I may carry out Your holy and true command. Amen.

DAY ONE

Warm-Up

- Begin by teaching your students the prayer for this lesson and leading them in praying it.
- Distribute **Handout A: What Our Lord Saw from the Cross**. Project an image of the painting by James Tissot. Give your students a few moments to observe the painting. Then ask the following questions:
 - ▶ What stands out to you about this painting? *Accept reasoned answers. There is a lot to see in this painting. Allow your students to fully explore what they see and encourage them with further questioning about what they see and what they think things mean or why the artist painted things in this way.*
 - ▶ What is this a scene of? *The Crucifixion of Jesus.*
 - ▶ From whose point of view are we seeing this scene? How do you know? *Jesus'. We can see Jesus' feet nailed to the Cross at the bottom of the painting.*
 - ▶ Who are the various people in the painting? *Jesus is crucified (we can see His feet). Mary, Jesus' mother, is at the foot of the Cross with her hands folded, looking up at Jesus. The other women that Scripture speaks of (the three Marys) are grouped behind Mary, with John, the Beloved Apostle to the left. Roman soldiers are on the left, and the Jewish authorities are on the right. There are many other bystanders looking on.*
 - ▶ This painting attempts to put us in the place of Jesus, to see what He saw while on the Cross. What do you think Jesus was feeling at the moment captured in the painting? Why? *Accept reasoned answers.*

- ▶ How do you think Mary, Jesus' mother, was feeling at the moment captured in this painting? Why? *Accept reasoned answers.*

C. Then explain to your students that Jesus willingly died on the Cross. He was crucified, suffered, and died so that we could be saved from our sin. He freely gave His life to show how much God loves us. His sacrifice showed us how to be holy, and His Death and Resurrection made it possible for us to one day be with God in Heaven. Christ's Passion and Death on the Cross were part of God's plan, which Jesus lovingly and obediently accepted, to accomplish our salvation. By His Cross and Resurrection, He redeemed the world.

Activity

- A. Ask your students if anyone is given an allowance. After a show of hands, call on a few students who earn an allowance to share what they have to do to earn their allowance (such as clean their rooms, take out the trash, clean the dishes, and so forth).
- B. Write the word "wage" on the board and ask if anyone knows what a wage is. Explain that a wage is what people earn from what they do or from their work (similar to how you earn an allowance). Someone who has a job gets paid a wage. This is fair and just.
- C. Read aloud to your students Romans 6:23:

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- D. Review with your students the meaning of sin. *An offense, or wrongdoing, against God. It is something we say, think, do, or fail to do that is against the eternal law of God. It is a choice we make on purpose not to love God, ourselves, or others.*
- E. Then ask the following questions:
 - ▶ This passage was written by St. Paul to an early community of Christians in Rome. St. Paul is writing about the wages of sin. If sin is something we say or do (or fail to do) that is an offense against God and a choice to turn away from God's love, what do we "earn" for our sin? In other words, what are the wages of sin? *The wages of sin is death. Death is what we fairly and justly earn for our sin.*
 - ▶ Remind your students that, as they have learned, God is the source of all life. He created all things, including us. He gave us life. When we sin, we reject God and His love for us. We turn away from the source of life. Do you think the "wage" for sin is fair? Why or why not? *Help your students recognize that when we turn away from God by our sin, we are in fact turning away from the source of life. Death is the fair wage. It is what is fairly earned.*
 - ▶ Point out to your students that this may seem to be a sad thing: all of us are sinners, and we all have fairly earned death because of our sin. But that is not the end of the story. (If necessary, reread Romans 6:23.) What is the gift that God gives us, despite our sinfulness? *God gives us the free gift of eternal life. Explain that even though we all have earned death by our sin, God has given us the free gift of life!*

- ▶ How does this free gift of eternal life come to us? *Through Jesus Christ. Jesus died on the Cross – He gave His life freely and willingly – so that we wouldn’t have to. He paid the price for our sins so that we could have eternal life. What a great gift that is! This is the Good News of salvation – the greatest of news! God loves us so much that He sent His only Son to die for us so that we could have eternal life! This is the goal of our faith – the salvation of our souls.*
- F. Distribute **Handout B: Jesus Died for Our Sins** and have your students read about how Jesus died for our sins. Then have them answer the focus questions.
- G. When they have finished, review and discuss the correct answers.

Formative Assessment

- A. Redistribute the painting *What Our Lord Saw from the Cross*. Have your students choose one of the people in the painting and imagine themselves in that person’s position. Then have your students turn to a neighbor and take turns discussing the following:
- ▶ Why did you choose this person? What is this person thinking? What is this person feeling?
 - ▶ Still imagining that they are that person: What is one question you would want to ask of Jesus at this moment?
- B. After a sufficient amount of time for discussion, call on a few students to share their answers with the class.

DAY TWO

Warm-Up

- A. Begin by leading your students in the prayer for this lesson.
- B. Show your students the video of the song “Were You There When They Crucified My Lord?” found at SophiaOnline.org/WereYouThere.
- C. Teach your students the words to the song. Then play the video again and invite your students to sing along with the song.

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
 Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
 Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
 Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
 Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
 Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Were you there when he rose up from the dead?
 Were you there when he rose up from the dead?
 Sometimes I feel like shouting, "Glory, glory, glory!"
 Were you there when he rose up from the dead?

Activity

Note: If possible, take your students to your school's chapel or parish church for today's lesson. If it is not possible to go to the chapel or parish church, set a prayerful atmosphere in your classroom. Consider playing soft music in the background and lowering the lights.

- A. Begin by telling your students that in today's lesson they are going to hear the entire story of Jesus' suffering, Crucifixion, and Death as told in the Gospel of Luke. The story will be illustrated with sacred art to help your students imagine the events. Explain that, as a Church, we recall the story of Jesus' suffering, Crucifixion, and Death at Mass every Palm Sunday when the story is read as the Gospel reading during Mass.
- B. Distribute **Handout C: Christ's Passion in Sacred Art** and have students follow along with the images of the story as you read it to them. If you remained in your classroom, you may wish to project the images as you read (*Note: The cross icon in the text of the story indicates when to advance to the next image. Also noted beneath each image is a line from the Gospel reading that indicates when to begin projecting that new image.*) Give students a few minutes of silence when a new image is projected, to allow them to reflect on it in their hearts.
- C. Read aloud the story of Christ's Passion from Luke 22:14-23:56, found in **Teacher Resource: Christ's Passion According to Luke's Gospel (page 163 in this guide)**. (*Note: This is a long Gospel reading, but it is very important for us to hear it and become familiar with it. You may consider stopping at various points in the story, perhaps at the change of each image, and asking your students to share their thoughts, something that stood out to them from that section of the story, or questions that they might have.*)

Formative Assessment

- A. Distribute **Handout D: Christ's Passion Reflection**. Have students choose one of the paintings from the story of Christ's Passion and then write a response to the prompts.
- B. Conclude by singing together the first verse of "Were You There When They Crucified My Lord?"

DAY THREE

Warm-Up

- A. Begin by leading your students in the prayer for this lesson.
- B. Distribute **Handout E: Happy or Sad** and have your students determine if each statement is something that would make them happy or something that would make them sad. If it is a happy statement, have them circle the smiling face. If it is a sad statement, have them circle the frowning face.
- C. After your students have finished, go through each statement to review how your students answered. Then ask your students the following questions to process the activity:
 - ▶ Were all of the situations ones that would make you happy? Were they all ones that would make you sad? No. *There were some situations that would have made students happy and some that would have made them sad.*
 - ▶ Was it difficult to decide whether a certain situation would make you happy or sad? Why? *It should have been more difficult to decide if some of them were happy or sad situations, especially the ones near the end of the list. The reason most of these were difficult to decide about is that they would require students to do something that was perhaps difficult or unpleasant in order to do something good.*
 - ▶ Do you think it is always fun to do the right thing or to do something good (or, do you think doing the right thing will always make you happy)? *Accept reasoned answers.*
 - ▶ Can you think of some other examples of situations in which doing the right thing or something good is difficult or would not make you happy? *Accept reasoned answers.*

Activity

- A. Project again the image of *What Our Lord Saw from the Cross* by James Tissot and give your students a moment to observe the painting again. Then ask your students the following questions:
 - ▶ Given everything that we have learned about Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross over the past few days, how do you think Jesus was feeling in this moment? Was He happy or sad? *Accept reasoned answers.*
 - ▶ Did Jesus "do the right thing" even though it was hard? Why do you think so? *Accept reasoned answers.*
- B. Explain to your students that we have already learned that Jesus calls us to imitate Him, but this is not always easy. Sometimes imitating Jesus won't make us immediately happy and might even make us sad. But regardless of how we might feel about it, imitating Jesus is always the right thing to do. Even if it won't make us instantly happy or even if it makes us sad for a time, imitating Jesus will ultimately lead to the greatest happiness – the happiness of being with God forever in Heaven, and this is far greater than any happiness we could imagine.

C. Read aloud to your students Luke 9:23:

Then he said to all, “If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.”

D. Then ask your students the following questions:

- ▶ What did Jesus tell us we must do if we want to follow Him? *Deny ourselves and take up our cross daily and follow Him.*
- ▶ What do you think it means to “deny” yourself? *Explain that we all have wants and needs. Sometimes I want to sleep late in the morning; sometimes I want an extra scoop of ice cream for desert. Sometimes I need to drink a big glass of water because I’m thirsty. Sometimes I need a big hug from someone I love. To deny ourselves means to say no, on purpose, to something we want or need – to sacrifice that thing.*
- ▶ What do you think it means to “take up your cross”? *Explain that Jesus didn’t mean a physical cross, but rather our own sufferings, responsibilities, and challenges. All of us face challenges in life: maybe I struggle doing math or learning how to spell; maybe I’m shy but wish I weren’t; maybe I have a really difficult home situation; maybe someone close to me died, and I’m really sad. All of us face different challenges over the course of our lives. These are our crosses. We have a choice to allow these difficulties to take over our lives and make us miserable, or we can take them up, offer them to God, and willingly carry them with joy. When we follow Christ, we take up our crosses and walk in His footsteps.*

E. Explain to your students that carrying the Cross was not an easy thing for Jesus to do. He suffered and was sad while He carried His Cross. He experienced great pain. But Jesus knew that He had to carry His Cross so that all of us could be saved from sin and one day go to Heaven. The end result was a far greater good! When we purposefully sacrifice in our lives, and willingly face the challenges and difficulties we encounter in life, we create opportunities for God’s grace to work in our lives. We learn to trust in Him. And we become the people God made us to be.

Assessment

Note: For today’s lesson, bring to class two mini craft sticks for each student.

- A. Distribute to each student two mini craft sticks. Make glue and markers available. Have your students glue the craft sticks together to make a small cross. Then, on one side of the cross, have your students write, “Take up your cross.” On the other side of the cross, have them write, “and follow me.”
- B. Then have your students think of an intentional sacrifice that they can make this week. (Examples may include giving up eating a desert, not watching TV after school, or even spending a few extra minutes in prayer.) Encourage your students to keep their small crosses in their pockets so that every time they feel the crosses in their pockets, they will be reminded to make their sacrifice and offer it up to Jesus.

HANDOUT A

What Our Lord Saw from the Cross

by James Tissot

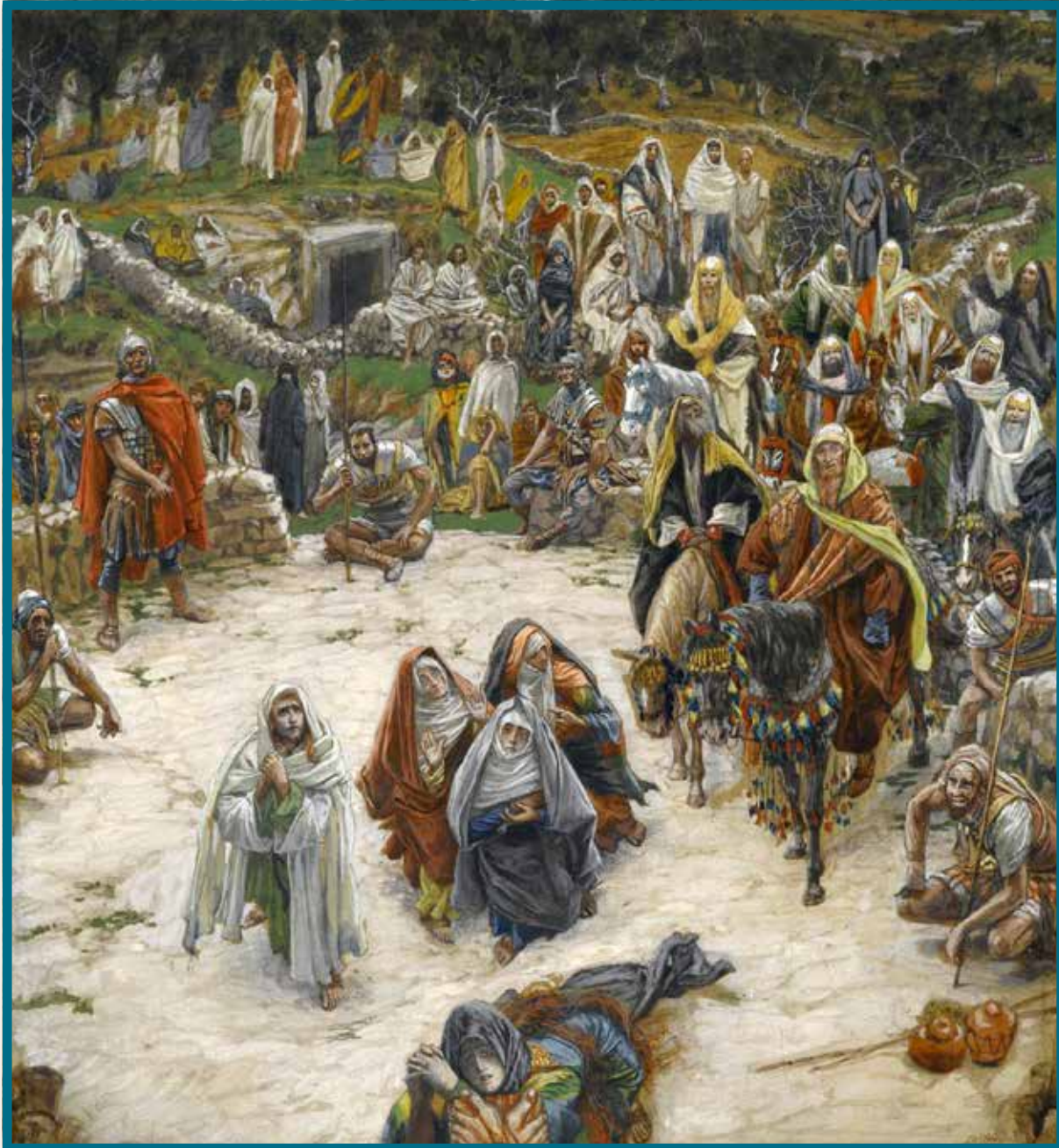


Image courtesy ART Collection / Alamy Stock Photo.

Jesus Died for Our Sins

Directions: Read about how Jesus died for our sins. Then answer the focus questions.

All of us are sinners. And all of us have fairly earned the punishment for sin: death.

But God loves us very much. In order to show us His love, He gave us the greatest gift He could ever give. He gave us His Son to save us from sin.

Jesus is fully God and fully man. He is like us in all things but sin. That means that He lived as all people do, but He never sinned.

After He had spent three years teaching people about God's love for them and the Good News of salvation, He freely gave His life for us.

Jesus was arrested by Roman soldiers. Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor, sentenced Jesus to death. He ordered the soldiers to beat Jesus and whip Him. They placed a crown of thorns on His head. He suffered terribly. Then they made Him carry a big,

heavy, wooden Cross to a place called Calvary. There they crucified Him. He was stripped of His clothes, and His hands and feet were nailed to the Cross.

As He was dying on the Cross, He could see all the people who had beaten Him and the ones who had nailed Him to the Cross. He looked toward Heaven and prayed. He asked His Father to forgive those who had crucified Him. He wanted everyone to be saved, even those who had put Him to death.

And then Jesus died.

His body was taken down from the Cross. He was placed in a tomb. Then, on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead. Death did not have any power over Him. He won a great victory over sin and death!

Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross and His Resurrection saved us all from our sins. He made it possible for us to live holy lives, to be forgiven of our sins, and to be in Heaven with God one day.

1. What is the punishment for sin?

2. What gift did God give us to show us His love?

3. What did Jesus do after He taught people about God's love and the Good News of salvation?



4. Who was Pontius Pilate?

5. What did the Roman soldiers do to Jesus?

6. What did Jesus see while He was dying on the Cross?
What did He pray for?

7. What happened on the third day after Jesus died?

8. What saved us from sin?



Last Supper

by Jacopo Bassano (ca. 1542)



“When the hour came, he took
his place at table with the apostles.”
(Luke 22:14)

HANDOUT C

Christ's Passion in Sacred Art

The Agony in the Garden

by El Greco (ca. 1590)



“Then going out, he went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him.”
(Luke 22:39)

The Taking of Christ

by Caravaggio (ca. 1602)



“While he was still speaking, a crowd approached and in front was one of the Twelve, a man named Judas. He went up to Jesus to kiss him.” (Luke 22:47)



St. Peter's Denial

by Rembrandt (ca. 1660)



“After arresting him they led him away and took him into the house of the high priest; Peter was following at a distance.”
(Luke 22:54)



Christ before Caiaphas

by Matthias Storm (ca. early 1630s)



“When day came the council of elders of the people met, both chief priests and scribes, and they brought him before their Sanhedrin.” (Luke 22:66)

Christ before Pilate

by Mihaly Munkacsy (ca. 1881)



“Then the whole assembly of them arose and brought him before Pilate.”
(Luke 23:1)

Christ Carrying the Cross

by Titian (ca. 1565)



“As they led him away they took hold of a certain Simon, a Cyrenian, who was coming in from the country; and after laying the cross on him, they made him carry it behind Jesus.”
(Luke 23:26)



Jesus Being Crucified

by William Brassey Hole (ca. 1900s)



“When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him and the criminals there.”
(Luke 23:33)



Christ and the Good Thief

by Titian (ca. 1566)



“Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying, ‘Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us.’” (Luke 23:39)

Christ Crucified

by Diego Valazquez (ca. 1632)



“It was now about noon and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon because of an eclipse of the sun.” (Luke 23:44-45)

The Entombment of Christ

by Caravaggio (ca. 1602-1603)



“Now there was a virtuous and righteous man named Joseph who, though he was a member of the council, had not consented to their plan of action.” (Luke 23:50-51)

Christ's Passion Reflection

Directions: Choose one of the paintings from the story of Christ's Passion and then write a response to the prompts

1. Which painting did you choose to write about?

2. Which scene from the story of Christ's Passion does this painting illustrate? How?

3. How does this painting help you better understand Christ's Passion and Death?

Happy or Sad

Directions: Decide whether each statement is something that would make you happy or sad. Circle the smiling face if it is a happy statement. Circle the frowning face if it is a sad statement.



1. It's Christmas morning, and you get exactly what you wanted for Christmas.



2. Your mom makes your favorite food for dinner.



3. Your mom makes your least favorite food for dinner.



4. You come to school and discover that you have a surprise math test today.



5. You have spent hours making a giant creation out of Legos, and your friend walks by and knocks it down.



6. Your friend comes back and apologizes for knocking down your Lego creation.



7. You go to see a new movie that you've been wanting to see.



8. You wake up to discover that school has been canceled because of a lot of snow.



9. You see your friend across the street, and you run over to say hi.



10. You don't like what your mom made for dinner, so you refuse to eat until she gives you Cheetos and ice cream.



11. Your parents ask you to spend the afternoon cleaning your room instead of playing video games.



12. Your favorite TV show is on Sunday mornings, and you miss it each week to come to Mass to love and be loved by Jesus.



13. You and your family spend a Saturday morning at a local soup kitchen serving food to the poor.



14. Your next-door neighbor is too sick to rake the leaves in her yard, so you spend an entire Saturday afternoon raking the leaves for her.



15. A classmate you don't know very well is being made fun of at recess by some older students.



16. You step in and tell the older students to stop making fun of your classmate.



17. Your mom is busy making dinner for your family and asks you to change your baby sister's diaper.



18. You notice a new student sitting alone at lunch.



19. You leave the group of friends you usually eat lunch with to sit with the new student.

Christ's Passion According to Luke's Gospel

TEACHER RESOURCE

Teacher Note: Read the Passion story aloud to your class from Luke 22:14–23:56. As you read, you may wish to project the images from **Christ's Passion in Sacred Art**. Each instance of † in the story indicates when to advance to the next image. Give students a few minutes of silence when a new image is projected to allow them to reflect on it.

† When the hour came, [Jesus] took his place at table with the apostles. He said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer, for, I tell you, I shall not eat it [again] until there is fulfillment in the kingdom of God."

Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and said, "Take this and share it among yourselves; for I tell you [that] from this time on I shall not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."

Then he took the bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which will be given for you; do this in memory of me."

And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which will be shed for you. And yet behold, the hand of the one who is to betray me is with me on the table; for the Son of Man indeed goes as it has been determined; but woe to that man by whom he is betrayed."

And they began to debate among themselves who among them would do such a deed.

Then an argument broke out among them about which of them should be regarded as the greatest. He said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them and those in authority over them are addressed as 'Benefactors'; but among you it shall not be

so. Rather, let the greatest among you be as the youngest, and the leader as the servant. For who is greater: the one seated at table or the one who serves? Is it not the one seated at table? I am among you as the one who serves. It is you who have stood by me in my trials; and I confer a kingdom on you, just as my Father has conferred one on me, that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom; and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

"Simon, Simon, behold Satan has demanded to sift all of you like wheat, but I have prayed that your own faith may not fail; and once you have turned back, you must strengthen your brothers."

He said to him, "Lord, I am prepared to go to prison and to die with you."

But he replied, "I tell you, Peter, before the cock crows this day, you will deny three times that you know me."

He said to them, "When I sent you forth without a money bag or a sack or sandals, were you in need of anything?"

"No, nothing," they replied.

He said to them, "But now one who has a money bag should take it, and likewise a sack, and one who does not have a sword should sell his cloak and buy one. For I tell you that this scripture

must be fulfilled in me, namely, *He was counted among the wicked*; and indeed what is written about me is coming to fulfillment.”

Then they said, “Lord, look, there are two swords here.”

But he replied, “It is enough!”

✝ Then going out he went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. When he arrived at the place he said to them, “Pray that you may not undergo the test.” After withdrawing about a stone’s throw from them and kneeling, he prayed, saying, “Father, if you are willing, take this cup away from me; still, not my will but yours be done.” [And to strengthen him an angel from heaven appeared to him. He was in such agony and he prayed so fervently that his sweat became like drops of blood falling on the ground.]

When he rose from prayer and returned to his disciples, he found them sleeping from grief. He said to them, “Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not undergo the test.”

✝ While he was still speaking, a crowd approached and in front was one of the Twelve, a man named Judas. He went up to Jesus to kiss him. Jesus said to him, “Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?”

His disciples realized what was about to happen, and they asked, “Lord, shall we strike with a sword?” And one of them struck the high priest’s servant and cut off his right ear.

But Jesus said in reply, “Stop, no more of this!” Then he touched the servant’s ear and healed him.

And Jesus said to the chief priests and temple guards and elders who had come for him, “Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs? Day after day I was with you

in the temple area, and you did not seize me; but this is your hour, the time for the power of darkness.”

✝ After arresting him they led him away and took him into the house of the high priest; Peter was following at a distance. They lit a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat around it, and Peter sat down with them. When a maid saw him seated in the light, she looked intently at him and said, “This man too was with him.”

But he denied it saying, “Woman, I do not know him.”

A short while later someone else saw him and said, “You too are one of them”; but Peter answered, “My friend, I am not.”

About an hour later, still another insisted, “Assuredly, this man too was with him, for he also is a Galilean.”

But Peter said, “My friend, I do not know what you are talking about.” Just as he was saying this, the cock crowed, and the Lord turned and looked at Peter; and Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him, “Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times.”

He went out and began to weep bitterly. The men who held Jesus in custody were ridiculing and beating him. They blindfolded him and questioned him, saying, “Prophecy! Who is it that struck you?” And they reviled him in saying many other things against him.

✝ When day came the council of elders of the people met, both chief priests and scribes, and they brought him before their Sanhedrin. They said, “If you are the Messiah, tell us,” but he replied to them, “If I tell you, you will not believe, and if I question, you will not respond. But from this time on the Son of Man

will be seated at the right hand of the power of God.”

They all asked, “Are you then the Son of God?”

He replied to them, “You say that I am.”

Then they said, “What further need have we for testimony? We have heard it from his own mouth.”

+ Then the whole assembly of them arose and brought him before Pilate. They brought charges against him, saying, “We found this man misleading our people; he opposes the payment of taxes to Caesar and maintains that he is the Messiah, a king.”

Pilate asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?”

He said to him in reply, “You say so.”

Pilate then addressed the chief priests and the crowds, “I find this man not guilty.”

But they were adamant and said, “He is inciting the people with his teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee where he began even to here.”

On hearing this Pilate asked if the man was a Galilean; and upon learning that he was under Herod’s jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod who was in Jerusalem at that time.

Herod was very glad to see Jesus; he had been wanting to see him for a long time, for he had heard about him and had been hoping to see him perform some sign. He questioned him at length, but he gave him no answer. The chief priests and scribes, meanwhile, stood by accusing him harshly. [Even] Herod and his soldiers treated him contemptuously and mocked him, and after clothing him in resplendent garb, he sent him back to Pilate. Herod and Pilate became friends that very day, even though they had been enemies formerly.

Pilate then summoned the chief priests, the rulers, and the people and said to them, “You brought this man to me and accused him of inciting the people to revolt. I have conducted my investigation in your presence and have not found this man guilty of the charges you have brought against him, nor did Herod, for he sent him back to us. So no capital crime has been committed by him. Therefore I shall have him flogged and then release him.”

But all together they shouted out, “Away with this man! Release Barabbas to us.” (Now Barabbas had been imprisoned for a rebellion that had taken place in the city and for murder.) Again Pilate addressed them, still wishing to release Jesus, but they continued their shouting, “Crucify him! Crucify him!”

Pilate addressed them a third time, “What evil has this man done? I found him guilty of no capital crime. Therefore I shall have him flogged and then release him.”

With loud shouts, however, they persisted in calling for his crucifixion, and their voices prevailed. The verdict of Pilate was that their demand should be granted. So he released the man who had been imprisoned for rebellion and murder, for whom they asked, and he handed Jesus over to them to deal with as they wished.

+ As they led him away they took hold of a certain Simon, a Cyrenian, who was coming in from the country; and after laying the cross on him, they made him carry it behind Jesus. A large crowd of people followed Jesus, including many women who mourned and lamented him. Jesus turned to them and said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep instead for yourselves and for your children, for indeed, the days are coming when people will say, ‘Blessed are the barren, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that

never nursed.' At that time people will say to the mountains, 'Fall upon us!' and to the hills, 'Cover us!' for if these things are done when the wood is green what will happen when it is dry?" Now two others, both criminals, were led away with him to be executed.

✝ When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him and the criminals there, one on his right, the other on his left. [Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do."] They divided his garments by casting lots.

The people stood by and watched; the rulers, meanwhile, sneered at him and said, "He saved others, let him save himself if he is the chosen one, the Messiah of God." Even the soldiers jeered at him. As they approached to offer him wine they called out, "If you are King of the Jews, save yourself." Above him there was an inscription that read, "This is the King of the Jews."

✝ Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us."

The other, however, rebuking him, said in reply, "Have you no fear of God, for you are subject to the same condemnation? And indeed, we have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes, but this man has done nothing criminal."

Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied to him, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

✝ It was now about noon and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon because of an eclipse of the sun. Then the veil of the temple was torn down the middle.

Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit"; and when he had said this he breathed his last.

Here all kneel and pause for a short time.

The centurion who witnessed what had happened glorified God and said, "This man was innocent beyond doubt."

When all the people who had gathered for this spectacle saw what had happened, they returned home beating their breasts; but all his acquaintances stood at a distance, including the women who had followed him from Galilee and saw these events.

✝ Now there was a virtuous and righteous man named Joseph who, though he was a member of the council, had not consented to their plan of action. He came from the Jewish town of Arimathea and was awaiting the kingdom of God. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.

After he had taken the body down, he wrapped it in a linen cloth and laid him in a rock-hewn tomb in which no one had yet been buried. It was the day of preparation, and the sabbath was about to begin.

The women who had come from Galilee with him followed behind, and when they had seen the tomb and the way in which his body was laid in it, they returned and prepared spices and perfumed oils. Then they rested on the sabbath according to the commandment.

Answer Key

Handout B: Jesus Died for Our Sins

1. Death.
2. He gave us His only Son to save us from sin.
3. He freely gave His life for us.
4. The Roman governor who sentenced Jesus to death.
5. They made Him carry a big, heavy, wooden Cross. Then they nailed Him to the Cross.
6. All of those who had beaten Him and nailed Him to the Cross. He prayed for God to forgive them.
7. He rose from the dead.
8. Jesus' Death and Resurrection.

Handout E: Happy or Sad

Accept reasoned answers.

