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Bible Lesson 22 (BTJ)

1. Introduction

This is a very important lesson. The teaching the previous lessons has been building up in preparation for this one and the following one.

This lesson begins with the historical account of the Jewish leaders' plot to arrest Jesus with Judas' willing cooperation. Most important throughout the lesson is seeing that Jesus Christ wanted to lay down his life to pay for our sins.

Jesus ate the Passover feast with his disciples and told them about some things which would happen to him. He wanted them to know that he was giving himself up according to Scripture.

After praying in the garden of Gethsemane, Judas came to Jesus and betrayed him. Then he was arrested and taken away. His disciple saw what happened to him and they ran away. Jesus was not arrested because he was powerless to defend himself. Being God in the flesh, Jesus had all power and could have easily freed himself. But, he did not do so because he wanted to fulfill God's plan for him.

The story continues with Pilate, the Roman governor, knowing that the Jewish leaders were bringing false charges against Jesus Christ. However, in order to please the angry Jewish leaders and the crowd, Pilate sentenced him to death. Jesus could have set himself free at any time but he chose to undergo humiliation and inhumane treatment which was part of fulfilling God's plan for him.

Jesus was sentenced to death by Pilate and the Roman soldiers crucified him. He was condemned for no just reason. As he hung on the cross, he was mocked and ridiculed by people who passed by, Jewish religious leaders, and the Roman soldiers. Even so Jesus did not retaliate because he was committed to paying the penalty with his death and shed blood.

Jesus died on the cross though he did not deserve to be put to death. He died on the cross so that his death and his shed blood fully paid for our sins. Then he was taken down from the cross and buried in a tomb.

2. Review

Setting: Patrick and John met to talk about the Bible teaching.

John: Teacher taught us about the foolishness of living for earthly things. I was so convicted by the teaching because I am guilty of doing that. Earthly things do not last forever and cannot help us to have our sins forgiven.

Patrick: I think all of us were convicted about that point. Then Teacher taught us the parable of the lost sheep and the lost coin which showed us how much God cares for us. He wants us to be saved from the guilt and penalty of our sins. That's why he sent Jesus, the Deliverer.

John: These Bible stories give us so much to think about.

Patrick: That's true. I'm learning so much, what about you?

John: I have learned that it is important to believe God and to trust in him. We cannot allow ourselves to be like the Pharisees who trusted in themselves. They were deceived and did not want to understand the good teachings of Jesus. They just believed in themselves and their own teachings.

Patrick: Teacher has taught us a lot about God and Jesus. If we do not believe what he is teaching us, we are acting foolishly. The rich man who was in torment wanted Lazarus to go back to his family and teach them about God. But Abraham said if they do not believe the Scriptures, they will also not believe the message of a person who has been resurrected to life again. That point is true for us as well. If we don't believe these Bible stories now, it is likely that we will not believe them later.

John: Did you hear how Jesus associated with Zacchaeus, the tax collector? Jesus was not afraid to associate with him because he wanted to save Zacchaeus. Like Zacchaeus, we're not good people, we're bad people but God sent Teacher to us because he wants Jesus to save us.

Patrick: That's right. I understood the point of that story and I know God loves us and wants us to trust in Christ so that our sins will be forgiven.

John: Jesus did many miracles such as healing blind Bartimaeus and demon-possessed people. Many of the Jews and their religious leaders, the scribes and Pharisees, saw these miracles yet they hated Jesus without a just cause. They chose to follow Satan's leading.

Patrick: Jesus was a very kind man. He loved people and he truly wanted everyone to trust him, to believe in him. When he saw how evil the scribes and the Pharisees were he talked to them about their wickedness. He knew that their strong influence among the Jewish people would turn some away from believing in him.

John: The more I hear about Jesus, the more I find myself loving him. He is wonderful. He was so good to everyone, and I know if we trust him he will save us from the guilt and penalty of our sins.

Patrick: It is good for us to admit that we cannot save ourselves because all of us are sinners. We must trust Jesus because he truly was the promised Deliverer. I tell my family, my friends, and the older people in my family, that we must believe in Jesus because he is the only way for us to be made right with God.

3. Jewish Leaders and Judas Plot Against Jesus

Setting: Everyone came to the meetings because they wanted to know how the Deliverer would save them from their sin's penalty and make them right with God.

The Jewish religious leaders saw all the good things that Jesus did which proved that he was divine. But they refused to believe in him because they hardened their hearts against the evidence they saw. They submitted to Satan's temptations to reject Jesus. They were so foolish, so unwise and wicked in their ways. All they could think about was getting rid of Jesus. They wanted to kill him though he had done no evil deed to anyone. Jesus' life and ministry were totally good, without any wrongdoing whatsoever.

Two days before the feast of the Passover, the most important Jewish priests and the scribes were looking for an opportunity to capture Jesus secretly and kill him. They wanted to get rid of him in a way that would not cause an uprising. Many of the Jewish people who were not religious leaders believed in Jesus. He had healed many of them and showed kindness and compassion to them so they believed in him and thought he was a good man sent to them by God. Some understood that he was the promised Christ.

The Jewish religious leaders hated Jesus and did not want the people to know their evil plan to kill him. They feared many of the people who liked Jesus would turn against them for wanting to kill him. That's why they kept their evil plans a secret among themselves. They were determined to devise a plan for getting rid of Jesus. As long as they could capture him and kill him without causing a riot, they would achieve their goal.

Whom do you think worked hard to convince the Jewish religious leaders to kill Jesus? He did not deserve to be killed. Satan, the enemy of God, wanted the Jewish religious leaders to kill Jesus because he hated him. He tempted the Jewish religious leaders to be against Jesus and to seek ways to destroy him. Satan is a liar and a deceiver.

From the time of Satan's rebellion against God until now he has never been able to usurp power and authority from God. Satan will never be able to over throw God. But, he continues to do all that he can to lead others to be against God's purposes. He wants to be greater than God but that will never happen. He will always be under the sovereignty of God.

One of the men whom Jesus had chosen to be his disciple, Judas Iscariot, did not trust in Jesus. Judas followed Jesus for his own personal reasons. He did not believe that Jesus was the Deliverer whom God had promised to send. Even though he heard Jesus teachings, saw him perform many miracles, and watched him show compassion to people, Judas remained an unbeliever.

Then Judas committed an evil deed. He allowed Satan to control him and he went to the chief priests to arrange to betray Jesus to them. When the chief priests heard that Judas, one of Jesus disciples, wanted to betray Jesus, they were delighted. So they offered to pay Judas thirty pieces of silver if he would betray Jesus. Judas accepted the thirty pieces of silver as payment for betraying Jesus. Now the chief priests were glad that they had someone who would help them capture Jesus.

4. The Last Supper

Every year since God had led the Israelites out of the land of Egypt, they observed a feast called the feast of the Passover to commemorate how God saved their firstborn during the tenth plague in Egypt. At that time God told the Israelites in the land of Egypt to kill a lamb and apply the blood of the slain lamb to the door frames of their houses. They were supposed to stay within their houses. When God passed through the land of Egypt to execute the tenth plague, he saw the blood of the slain lamb applied to the door frames of their houses and passed over them. He did not kill their firstborn. God showed his mercy and grace to Israelites in a very special way.

God told the Israelites to celebrate the Passover feast every year as a memorial of his mercy and grace shown to them in the land of Egypt. The Israelites obeyed God's instruction and annually observed the feast of the Passover to celebrate God's goodness to them.

It was time for the annual Passover feast celebration and Judas had already secretly arranged to betray Jesus to the Jewish religious leaders. Some of Jesus' disciples asked Jesus, "Where should we go and prepare the Passover for you?" The disciples knew that Jesus wanted to observe this important feast. And they were intending to eat the Passover

meal with him.

Jesus sent two of his disciples into Jerusalem to prepare for the Passover meal. He said to them, “When you have entered the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him into the house that he enters and tell the master of the house, ‘The Teacher says to you, Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’ Then the master of the house will show you a large, furnished upper room. Prepare the Passover meal there.”



Show #82: Jesus last supper with his disciples

Jesus told his disciples that they would meet a man carrying a jug of water. Usually the women carried water jugs. However, Jesus said they would meet a man carrying a water jug. How did Jesus know that? Jesus knew every detail of what would happen before it occurred because he is God. He knows everything. The two disciples went into the city, Jerusalem, and found everything just as Jesus had said, and they prepared the Passover meal in that room.

In the evening Jesus and his disciples were at the table eating the Passover meal. Then Jesus told his disciples that one of them who was eating the Passover meal would betray him. Jesus knew that Judas was going to betray him later that evening. The disciples were alarmed and distressed. Who among them would do such an awful deed, they wondered. So Jesus told them, “It is one of you twelve who is eating from this bowl with me. The Son of Man must die, as the Scriptures declared long ago.”

Jesus called himself the Son of Man because he was God yet he was a man. Jesus knew that he had to die in order to deliver people from eternal death, the penalty of sin, just as the prophets had written in the Scriptures.

Even though God knew that Judas would betray Jesus, God did not make him do it. Judas chose to betray Christ because he did not believe in him. As Jesus and the disciples were eating the Passover meal, Jesus took some bread and blessed it. Then he broke the bread into pieces and gave it to the disciples and said. “Take, eat; this is my body.” Jesus was

speaking figuratively when he called the bread his body. By this he meant that his body likewise would soon be broken by wicked men.

After he broke the bread he picked up a cup of wine, gave thanks to God for it and gave it to them. “Drink of it, all of you,” he said. “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.” Jesus explained that the cup of wine was like his blood which would be shed when he died. Jesus told them his blood would be shed for others and that his life would be taken so that people would not have to be punished forever for their sins.

When Jesus and his disciples had eaten the Passover meal, they sang a hymn and left the room. From there they went out to the Mount of Olives.

5. Jesus Betrayed by Judas and Arrested

Then Jesus and his disciples came to an olive grove called Gethsemane where he wanted to pray. Why did Jesus pray at this time? Jesus prayed to God to strengthen himself because he knew that very soon he would have to endure terrible suffering and pain. He knew that evil men were going to make him suffer intensely.

Though Jesus was God, he was also a real man with a body like ours. He would feel the pain and suffer just like we feel pain and suffering. Even though Jesus knew everything that was going to happen to him and that he would suffer intensely, he willingly wanted to endure it in order to fulfill God’s plan and be our Deliverer.



Show #84: Judas betrayed Jesus

Jesus had finished praying and was ready to go on with his

disciples. Right then Judas, one of the twelve disciples, arrived with a crowd of men armed with swords and clubs. They came to capture Jesus and take him away. Judas had given this group of men a prearranged signal that he would kiss Jesus so they would know who he was when he betrayed him. All of these men had been sent by the Jewish religious leaders, chief priests, the scribes, and elders who were guided by Satan in their hatred for Jesus. Though they were religious men, they did not believe in Jesus. They hated Jesus

without a just cause and were determined to kill him.

Judas walked up to Jesus, greeted him, and kissed him just like he said he would. He betrayed Jesus into the hands of these evil men. Did Jesus deserve to be treated like this? No, he had not committed any crime. Right away the men who came to arrest Jesus grabbed him and arrested him for no just reason.

When this happened, could Jesus have freed himself from those evil men? Could he have overpowered them? Or, had they truly overpowered him? Remember this truth: Jesus has all power and authority which means he could have set himself free and destroyed those who captured him. He did not do so, however, because he wanted to fulfill God's purpose for him. Jesus willingly allowed them to arrest him because he was going to fulfill God's plan for him. He gave himself up to them according to God's plan.

When the disciples saw Jesus being arrested by those evil men, they were frightened. "Will we also be arrested?" they wondered. They feared for their own lives and ran away. They were confused and afraid as they saw Jesus being arrested. They did not want to be arrested. They had believed in him, but now, the one in whom they had trusted was arrested so they ran away.

6. Jesus Tried by Jewish Leaders

After Jesus was arrested, he was taken to the high priest's home where the chief priests, the Jewish elders, and the scribes had gathered. The chief priests and the Sanhedrin were trying to find evidence against Jesus, so they could lawfully put him to death. But they couldn't find any evidence against Jesus because Jesus never committed any crime.

Many false witnesses testified against Jesus. They tried to incriminate Jesus but their testimonies were contradictory and untrue. After a while, some other men tried to accuse Jesus of making false statements. Again, their stories were not the same. They could not prove that Jesus had committed one crime against anyone. Jesus' accusers were frustrated because they failed to prove that he had committed a crime.

Why did the Jewish religious leaders hate Jesus so much? They hated Jesus because they did not serve God. They followed their own religious beliefs and loved their own ways. They were not interested in Jesus' teachings nor even want to learn from him. They had seen him perform many miracles that proved his divinity. But, since they did not truly worship God, they did not recognize who Jesus was. Everything the Jewish religious leaders did was done to impress others with their religious goodness.

Jesus heard the lies of the false witnesses but did not answer them nor did he deny their charges. He knew the truth about every accusation. He had done no wrong. He also knew that it was God's plan for him to undergo such cruel and unjust treatment in order to be the Deliverer for all mankind. He knew these things were God's will so that people could be delivered from the guilt and penalty of their sins and be made right with God.

Then the high priest stood up and asked Jesus why he did not answer these charges. He wanted to know whether or not Jesus was going to defend himself. Jesus continued to remain silent, he made no reply to the high priest's questions. Then the high priest asked him a very important question. He asked Jesus, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?"

Jesus answered the high priest and said, "I AM. And you will see the Son of Man seated in the place of power at God's right hand and coming on the clouds of heaven." When Jesus answered the high priest with this statement, he declared that he truly was God. He also declared that the Son of Man would be seated at the right hand of God, in the place of power and that he would be seen coming on the clouds of heaven. That means Jesus, who assumed a human body, would be seated at God's right hand in heaven. And, at a future time, he would be seen coming on the clouds of heaven. Jesus' answer made it very plain to understand that he was God in a human body.

Listen to this important point again: Jesus made it plain to the high priest that someday everyone will see him as the Almighty Son of God who will judge everyone. Everyone will see him sitting beside his father, God, and it will be clear to everyone that he is equal with God, his father.

When the high priest heard Jesus' reply, he tore his clothing to show his horror and anger toward Jesus. As far as the religious leaders were concerned, Jesus had committed blasphemy against God. They believed that Jesus was just an ordinary human being as they were. They did not believe that he was God. Since Jesus declared his divinity, they thought that he deserved to be put to death according to the Jewish law.

Then some of the angry people began to spit at him as if he were an evil person. They blindfolded him and beat him with their fists. They jeered at him. Jesus, however, was innocent of any wrongdoing. He did not deserve to be mistreated in this way. He did not deserve to die.

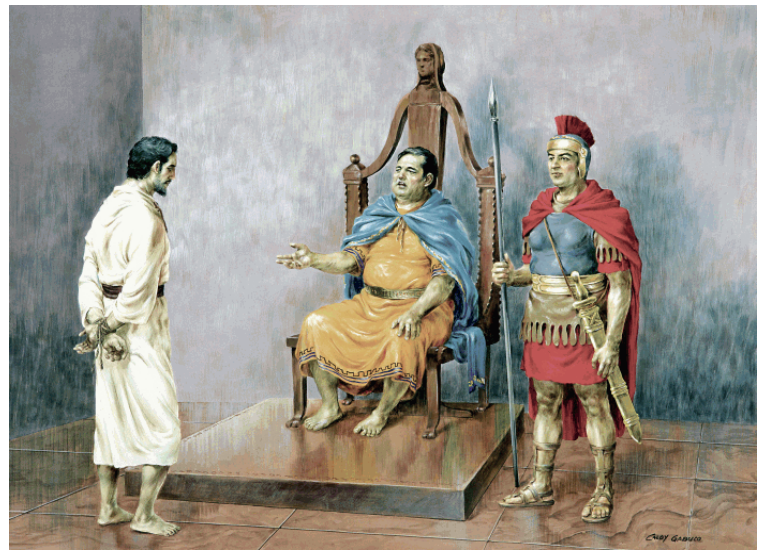
7. Jesus tried by Pilate

Determined to have Jesus condemned to death, the chief priests and the elders and scribes in the Sanhedrin bound Jesus and took him to Pilate, the Roman governor of that territory.

Only Roman rulers had the authority to condemn a person to death. The Jews did not have the authority to execute Jesus so they wanted Pilate to condemn him.

Pilate heard the Jewish religious leaders' accusations against Jesus. Then he interrogated Jesus and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered Pilate and said, "It is as you say." Then the chief priests angrily made many accusations against Jesus. As Pilate continued to question Jesus, he refused to answer any more questions and Pilate was amazed. Jesus remained silent, just as the prophets had written about him, as he was wrongly accused over and over again of wrongdoing. He had committed no sin or crime against anyone.

The trial of Jesus happened at the time of the feast of the Passover. It was customary for the Roman governor to release one prisoner at the time of the feast. The prisoner that he released was one whose release the Jews requested.



Show #85: Jesus tried and condemned by Pilate

At this time there was a man named Barabbas who had been imprisoned with insurrectionists. He had committed murder during an insurrection. The Jewish crowd requested the release of Barabbas. Pilate however suggested that Jesus, the King of the Jews be released. He said this because he knew that the chief priests had handed him over because of their hatred for him. They were jealous of Jesus because he was so popular among many of the Jews. Pilate was well aware of their personal agenda against Jesus.

Why did the crowd turn against Jesus? Had he wronged them? No, there was no reason for the crowd to turn against Jesus. They were incited by their religious leaders and turned against Jesus for no just cause. They were not interested in a man who came to save them from the guilt and penalty of their sins. They wanted a leader who would set them free from Roman rule.

The chief priests kept on stirring up the crowd and told them to demand the release of Barabbas instead of Jesus. "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" asked Pilate. "Barabbas, release Barabbas!" the frantic crowd shouted. Then Pilate said, "If I release Barabbas then what shall I do with Jesus whom you call the King of the Jews?"

The crowd shouted, “Crucify Him!” They answered unwisely but their answer was according to the desires of the Jewish religious leaders. Then Pilate said to them, “Why should Jesus be crucified? What evil has He done?” The frenzied crowd just shouted louder and louder, “Crucify Him!” Finally, in order to please the crowd, Pilate granted the Jews their request and released Barabbas. Then he commanded that Jesus be scourged and he handed him over to be crucified. He condemned to death an innocent man!

The Roman soldiers scourged Jesus and mocked him. Showing no mercy or care for him, the Roman soldiers whipped Jesus with a lash which cut his skin and inflicted great pain upon him. The soldiers mocked Jesus by dressing him in a purple robe like a king wore. They made fun of Jesus and put a crown of thorns on his head. These thorns had very sharp points which inflicted much pain on the head of Jesus.



Show #86: The Roman soldiers torture and mock Jesus

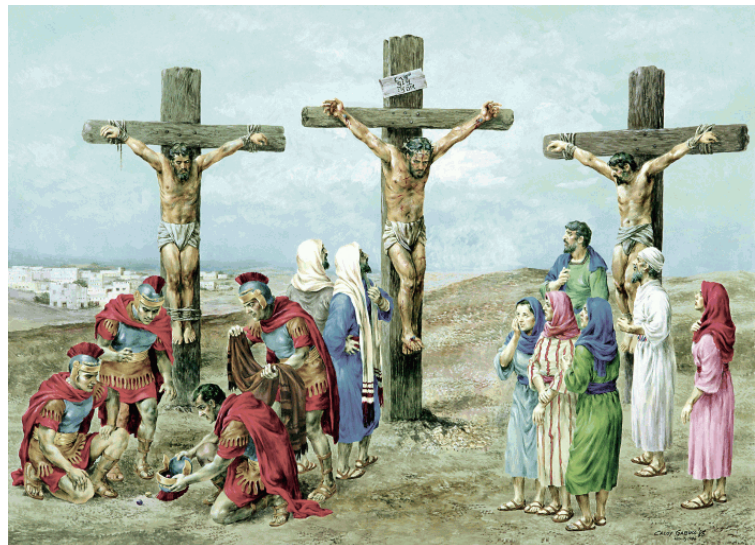
Where did those thorns come from? Why do they grow? Listen to this: Thorns began to grow on the earth after Adam and Eve sinned and God cursed the earth. These thorns, which were the result of God’s curse on the earth, were used to inflict pain on Jesus and to humiliate him. Everything that the soldiers did to Jesus was done to mock him and humiliate him. A political king would have worn a nice purple robe and a crown made from gold, attire which would have glorified him. And, people would have praised him for his political position.

Jesus, the son of God, was humiliated, mocked and beaten like a criminal. He was not a criminal. He was God in a human body. He had the power to set himself free from these evil men but he did not do so. He wanted to suffer and die in order to make it possible for people to be delivered from the guilt and penalty of their sin. The soldiers mockingly knelt before him and made fun of him. Little did they know that Jesus could have instantly overpowered and destroyed them. They did not know that they were mocking God. Jesus, however, willingly gave himself up to them because he was determined to be our Deliverer. That’s why God sent him to the earth in a human body.

8. The Crucifixion of Christ

Pilate sentenced Jesus to die by crucifixion. The Roman soldiers led Jesus to a place outside of Jerusalem on a hill called Golgotha. They made him carry his own cross until he could barely do so. Then they forced another man to carry it for him until they arrived at the place of his crucifixion. When they arrived at Golgotha, some women from Jerusalem offered him wine drugged with myrrh to dull the pain of the crucifixion, but Jesus refused it.

Then the soldiers nailed him to the cross. They hammered long nails through his hands and feet and fastened them securely to his cross. Each blow of the hammer sent jolts of excruciating pain through Jesus' body. This fulfilled the Scripture written by King David many years earlier which prophesied the Deliverer's hands and feet would be pieced.



Show #87: The crucifixion of Christ between two criminals

After Jesus was nailed to his cross, the soldiers stood the cross in an upright position in a hole in the ground. There they left Jesus to hang upon his cross and suffer immensely until he would die. As the crucifixion was carried out by the Roman soldiers, the Jewish religious leaders who witnessed this cruel and unjust event believed the end to this person called Jesus had finally come. They believed that they had finally triumphed in their wicked scheme to kill him.

As Jesus hung on the cross he fulfilled what he had spoken about with Nicodemus. He told Nicodemus that as Moses lifted up the brass serpent in the wilderness on a pole, so too he had to be lifted up so that sinners could be saved from the guilt and punishment of their sins. Jesus was crucified on his cross and in agony he hung upon it. In that way he was lifted up for everyone to see, just as he had said he would be to Nicodemus.

The soldiers who nailed Jesus to the cross gambled for his clothing so that they each would get a piece. Many years earlier, King David had written that some people would gamble for the Deliverer's garments. This prophecy was fulfilled when the soldiers gambled for Jesus clothing.

Then Pilate, the Roman governor, ordered that a nameplate be placed above Jesus' head. A sign was fastened on Jesus' cross announcing the charge against him, the reason for his crucifixion. The sign read, "The King of the Jews." The Jews objected to this sign and wanted Pilate to change it. Pilate, however, refused to change it.

When the Roman soldiers crucified Jesus, they also crucified two revolutionaries, one on each side of him. These men, unlike Jesus, were guilty of crimes and were being put to death for their crimes. This fulfilled a prophecy from Scripture written by Isaiah many years ago. This prophecy said the Deliverer will die with the wicked and that is what happened in history.

As Jesus hung on the cross, people were passing by who mocked Jesus for being on the cross. They did not understand the truth about Jesus or why he gave himself up and allowed the soldiers to crucify him. They made fun of him and said, "You said you were going to destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days. Save yourself and come down from the cross if you are so great!" These people did not understand what Jesus had meant when he said if they destroy the temple, he would build it again in three days time. In their ignorance and hard-heartedness they mocked Jesus, the Son of God as he suffered on his cross.

The chief priests and the scribes also made fun of Jesus as he was hanging on the cross and suffering though he committed no crime. They laughed at him and said, "Look, he saved others but he can't save himself." Mockingly they called him the King of Israel and said that he should come down from the cross so that they could see it and believe in him. They had no intention of believing in him. They hated him because they were jealous of him. They lived out Satan's influence in their lives. They did not believe that they were sinners who needed to be saved by Jesus. Even the two men who were crucified with Jesus mocked him. All of this happened according to Scripture which was written in a prophecy by King David hundreds of years before the fact.

9. The Death of Jesus

Jesus was on the cross, suffering and dying to save us from sin, eternal death and the power of Satan. At midday, darkness covered the whole land until three o'clock. Then Jesus cried with a loud voice and said, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" The darkness that was all over the land showed that God had turned his back on Jesus. He turned away from him and left Jesus, his beloved son, completely alone to die. Throughout Jesus' life on earth, God the father was always there with him but now at this critical point he was turning away from him. And the two were separated.

Why did God turn his back on Jesus at this time? Did Jesus fail in his mission? No! Jesus did not fail in his mission. He always obeyed God. He never did anything wrong. All that God gave him to do was done perfectly because Jesus is perfect. God turned away from Jesus because he was punishing him for the sins of the whole world. That means Jesus was being punished for my sins and your sins. He did not deserve this punishment. He willingly bore this punishment for you and me, for the sins of everyone in the world.

Do you remember what God told them in the garden of the Eden? God told Adam if he ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil he would die, he would experience death. Do you remember what death means? God meant that Adam would be separated from him because of sin, he would die a physical death, and he would go to the never-ending fire of punishment which God had prepared for Satan and the evil spirits.

Adam sinned against God and was immediately separated from God. The open and free relationship which God and Adam had was over! From then on, Adam aged and finally died. If Adam would not have repented of this sin and believed in God before he died, he would have gone to the never-ending fire of punishment. All people who die when they are separated from God go to the never-ending fire of punishment and will be there forever.

While Jesus was on the cross, he was separated from God so that he could pay the price of the punishment for our sins. Remember this: Sin's payment is death. He suffered the complete punishment for our sins and died. Jesus' death is the complete payment for our sins. Anyone who believes that the death of Jesus Christ was the complete payment for their sins will be forgiven by God and declared saved. The moment God declares them saved he gives them eternal life.

When Jesus was hanging on the cross, a soldier pierced his side with a spear and blood and water came out of Jesus' body. Jesus shed his blood for us. Jesus died and his blood was shed just like the sacrifices that God had commanded the children of Israel to offer as a sin offering to him. If a person had offered an animal to God as a sin offering but would not have killed the animal and shed its blood, God would not have accepted the offering and that person would have remained a guilty sinner.

Jesus was hanging on his cross and uttered another loud cry and said, "It is finished" and he breathed his last breath. He was dead. What did Jesus mean when he said it is finished? He meant that he had fully done the work that God gave him to do in order to deliver sinners from the domain of Satan, from sin and death. Jesus finished his work by giving his life, his blood, and being separated from God as the payment for our sin.

Right then the thick veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. Who tore the temple veil into two pieces? God did. He tore it from top to bottom because the death of Christ had fully paid the price for our sin. No longer was it necessary to continue offering the blood of the sacrifice on the day of atonement in the holy of holies by the high priest. No longer would people need to be shut out from the presence of God because of sin. The death and shed blood of Christ totally satisfied God's wrath toward sin. It totally satisfied God's requirement for the payment of sin. God ripped the veil in two in order to show that he was fully satisfied with the payment Jesus made to him for sinners. Sinners, like you and me, no longer need to be shut out from God if we admit our sinfulness and only trust in Jesus as our Deliverer.

When Jesus died and shed his blood to pay for our sins, the practice of the blood sacrifice was over! Before Jesus died and shed his blood to pay for our sins God required the Israelites to bring a blood sacrifice to him. Did the blood of these animals pay for their sins? No, the blood of animals did not fully pay for anyone's sins. God forgave the people who admitted they were sinners, who trusted in him and offered a substitutionary blood sacrifice, of their sins. He forgave their sins because he knew that his Son Jesus Christ would come, give his life and shed his blood as the complete payment for all sin.

Jesus was put to death by crucifixion. When he died, hanging on the cross, there was an earthquake which frightened the people who observed the event. A Roman officer, who stood facing him and saw how he died, exclaimed in awe, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"

There were some women, who believed in Jesus, watching from a distance. They had been followers of Jesus and took care of him while he was in Galilee. These women were believers in Jesus so they wanted to be where he was. They believed that he was the Deliverer and they were trusting in him. Even though the Jewish religious leaders tried to influence everyone to be against Jesus, some people did not follow their evil influence. They had seen Jesus do many miracles, they had heard his teachings, and they had seen his compassion for people so they believed that truly he was the promised Deliverer. Their faith in him was the right response to the overwhelming evidence that he truly was the Deliverer.

10. The Burial of Jesus

On the day of the crucifixion of Jesus, as evening was approaching, Joseph of Arimathea went to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. This man was a wealthy person and had already prepared a place for his own burial. When he asked Pilate for the body of Jesus, Pilate

doubted that Jesus had already died. Pilate asked a Roman officer whether or not Jesus had already died. The officer confirmed his death so Pilate gave permission to Joseph to take his body and bury it. Then they took the body of Jesus down from the cross and wrapped it in a burial cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been carved out of the rock. Then a large stone was rolled in front of the entrance to the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph saw where Jesus' body was laid.

Jesus was now dead and laying in a tomb. His enemies rejoiced in the success of their evil conspiracy. They believed they were successful in getting rid of him. Jesus had done no wrong to anyone. He always did what God wanted him to do. He performed many miracles and helped many people, he taught with authority, not with empty words like the Pharisees and the scribes. He showed love and compassion for people all the time. He was grieved by the way the scribes and the Pharisees rejected him. Their hearts were so hard, they were so self-righteous, that nothing said or done by Jesus had any good effect upon them. They did not see their spiritual neediness, their sinfulness. The very person whom they hated so much was the one who came to set them free from the guilt and penalty of their sin.

Let me ask you this: Do you believe in this man Jesus? Do you believe he is the promised Deliverer? Do you think that his death and shed blood fully paid for your sin? There is more to this story which you will hear at our next meeting. God wants you to think about everything that happened to Jesus, the promised Deliverer. God wants you to believe in him. He wants you to know and believe that his death and his blood that was shed appeased the wrath of God and fully paid the price of sin. Remember this. Sin's payment is death. Jesus Christ's death and shed blood fully paid for everyone's sins. God was fully satisfied with the sacrifice that Jesus made for us.

11. After the Meeting

Setting: Greg and his family continued to talk about the teaching, especially the betrayal, the trial, and the crucifixion of Christ.

Sharon: Jesus ate the Passover meal with his disciples. The bread which he broke and passed around to his disciples symbolized his broken body. The cup of wine which they drank symbolized his blood which would be poured out to pay for our sins. When he told them to drink of the cup of wine and to eat the bread he was showing his disciples that he was the total payment for sin which God required.

Greg: After eating the meal with his disciples Jesus went to the garden of Gethsemane and prayed. He asked God, his father, to strengthen him for the awful things he would

experience.

Sharon: Jesus showed his love and concern for people by willingly giving himself over into the hands of evil people who beat him and killed him. He could have used his power to overcome the ones who arrested him. Now I understand why Jesus did not want to free himself. He wanted to be the complete and perfect payment for our sins.

Greg: Did Jesus resist those who arrested him? Did he resist being tried by Pilate? No, he willingly gave himself so that he could be the sacrifice to pay for our sins.

Sharon: I remember that John, the prophet who spoke about Jesus, called him the Lamb of God. Now I know why he was called the Lamb of God. He gave himself up as a sacrifice to pay for our sins. He wanted to do this so that we could have eternal life.

Greg: The Jews' religious leaders hated Jesus. These evil men claimed to follow God's laws. They lied about Jesus, they incited the crowd against Jesus, and they wanted him killed for no just reason. They were evil, jealous religious leaders who did not lead the people in right ways.

Sharon: When Pilate talked to Jesus, he knew Jesus was not guilty of any crime. He knew the Jews wanted him killed because they were jealous of him because many people liked and followed Jesus. In their jealousy they did all they could to get Pilate to condemn him.

Greg: Pilate condemned Jesus and he was crucified. This was according to a prophecy. Even though Pilate did not believe in God, he fulfilled Scripture by condemning Jesus to die with criminals and to be crucified.

Sharon: Many people saw Jesus hanging on his cross and mocked him. They made fun of the one who created everything including them. The religious leaders mocked the very person who was dying and shedding his blood as the only acceptable sacrifice for the payment of our sin.

Greg: At first I was upset when Teacher told us about the bad things that happened to Jesus. Then I understood. All of these things had to happen to Jesus in order for him to be our Deliverer. He had to be offered up like a sacrifice. For us to be saved from our sins, a substitute was needed and that substitute is Jesus.

Sharon: When Jesus died the curtain in the Temple was torn from top to bottom. It was torn into two pieces because Jesus' sacrifice paid for our sins. There is no other sacrifice.

There is no other substitute for us.

Setting: All around the village the people continued to discuss crucifixion, death, and shedding of Christ's blood, as the full payment for their sins.

12. Review of the Lesson's Themes

God is sovereign: It is important to bring out that Jesus Christ willingly gave himself up to be arrested, tried, and condemned. All of this was according to God's sovereign, eternal plan. Though various human beings were instruments in the execution of his sovereign plan, nothing happened contrary to that plan.

Satan is the enemy of God and fights against him: Satan influenced people such as Judas betraying Christ and the Jewish religious leaders conspiracy to have Jesus Christ killed. Satan hates God and he hated Jesus Christ. He wanted Christ to be destroyed. Though Satan is involved in the affairs of people, is not the main character. God is the main character in history.

God is holy, righteous, and demands death for the payment of sin: God requires death as the payment for sin. Either it is the death of the sinner or the substitute which takes the sinners place.

God is love. He wants people to be reconciled to him: Jesus, God in a human body, wanted to give himself up so that his death would pay for our sins. His voluntary sacrifice of himself shows the unparalleled love which God has for people. At any moment Jesus had the power to set himself free from the evil people who mistreated him and humiliated him. He chose to not exercise his power because he wanted to undergo all necessary things in order to secure for us a way of salvation. He wanted to pay sins' payment by his death.

The death of Jesus Christ is the only acceptable payment for sin: Jesus died to pay for our sins. Over the years the Israelites sacrificed many animals as sin offerings to God. None of these offerings could fully pay for sin. Only God was able to fully pay sins' penalty through the death of his son Jesus. Jesus Christ took our punishment upon himself and died. Jesus Christ was our substitute, he died, so that we can live and have eternal life.

God accepts no death except the death of Christ as the proper payment for sin. There is no other way for sins payment to have been paid than through the death of Jesus Christ.

13. Practice Telling the Bible Stories

At the end of this lesson, practice telling the story you have just heard to each other. Everyone needs to practice teaching Bible lessons by telling the stories. Tell the stories with excitement! Tell them in a culturally appropriate way that exudes your belief and confidence in them. If you are not excited about the truth taught in these lessons, how will you teach them with authority and confidence?

The Table of Contents at the beginning of the lesson lists the stories for each lesson. Practice telling the stories of this lesson in pairs. One pair should teach one of the stories in the lesson following this lesson's Table of Contents for divisions in the lessons. Some of the stories or sections of a story are short. Combine shorter sections in order to make this exercise profitable.

When you are teaching a lesson by telling the story, use culturally appropriate questions and illustrations to keep the story interesting and to make the people think about the lesson's meanings. Be prepared to engage the audience with questions which are crafted to bring out how well they understand the meaning of the story. Emphasize the important points when telling the stories.

Use visual aids or objects used in the lesson when you teach a story. Show the pictures at the right time in the story. When illustrations are used, be sure to bring them to a right and logical conclusion. If you do not make the right conclusions through telling the story, people will likely guess what it means and they could easily come to a wrong conclusion.

After you have practiced telling stories to each other, talk about ways to improve your story-telling ability. Be open to critique and be kind to each other as you work together to help each other become master story-tellers. The goal of teaching God's Word via telling Bible stories is the salvation people who need to be saved.

As you tell the stories ascertain how well you present the stories and the themes. Does your teaching tend to highlight man? Or does it focus on God working in history? Do you tell the story so that God is highlighted? Or is man, in a subtle way, the main actor in the story? Make sure that the role of God in these stories is the main focus of your teaching.

14. Teaching Tips for Teachers

General Note:

This is very important lesson and you need to be well prepared to teach it. If the people you have been teaching have believed the previous lessons it is likely that this will be emotional for them. As they hear about the betrayal, trial and condemnation of Christ, and his crucifixion, there should be much conviction in their heart about their own sin and need for salvation.

It is possible that some may come to salvation before you have taught the next lesson about the resurrection of Christ. Be sure that you talk to them and help them with any lingering or unclear understanding about the purpose of the death of Christ.

Other people may have a less clear understanding of what happened. They may understand the story and its components but miss the point of what happened in history through Christ death on the cross. The next lesson about the resurrection of Christ should help them have a clearer understanding.

Do not rush people to say they understand the purpose of what happened to Christ in history if they are not clear in their understanding. As a teacher you must realize that salvation is of God. If you try to rush people to make a positive comment about believing in the death of Christ for their sins payment, you may be putting words into their mouth that do not correspond to reality in their understanding. So, be very careful at this stage as to how you respond to the people after you have taught them this lesson.

Time to meditate is often needed. Be willing to give the people time to meditate and process what you just taught them. Remember this: The Holy Spirit will do his work of making plain the message and leading them to salvation.

At this point, some people may now understand the message and turn away from it for a number of reasons. Do not despair. Pray that the Lord will work in their hearts and lead them to believe it.

Lesson Point #3:

Show that Satan could not force Judas to betray Jesus. Because Judas did not believe in Jesus, he was open to being tempted to betray him. The role of Satan in the betrayal, trial and condemnation of Jesus is evident but it is not the controlling factor in these events. It was all according to God's plan—emphasize this point.

Lesson Point #4:

Emphasize that Jesus wanted to eat this Passover meal with his disciples. He knew that it was the last time before his crucifixion that they would be together and he wanted them to understand that he was willingly giving his body and blood to pay for our sins. Make it plain that Jesus was not teaching that the bread and the wine turned into his literal physical body and blood.

Lesson Point #5:

Emphasize that Jesus had the power to stop Judas from betraying him and stop the arrest but he did not want to do so. Jesus wanted to give himself up to evil men who thought they were overpowering him because he wanted to do his sacrificial work to pay for our sins.

Lesson Point #6:

Stress the point that Jesus submitted himself to the questioning and ridicule of the Jewish leaders. He did not have to tolerate this kind of treatment, but, he wanted to. Point out again that Jesus willingly gave himself up to those who mistreated him because he wanted to be this sacrifice to pay for our sins.

Lesson Point #7:

Pilate condemned Jesus although he could find no just reason to do so. Be sure to emphasize that at any moment Jesus could have freed himself but he didn't. Emphasize that Jesus endured everything so that he would be our substitute and die in our place.

Lesson Point #8-9:

Emphasize that sins' payment is death. That's why Jesus willingly died in our place. He did not deserve to die, we deserve to die. His death and shed blood paid the price for our sins. Jesus Christ wanted to pay for our sins by his death and shed blood. This was according to God's plan and Jesus wanted to do it. Emphasize the great love of God for lost humanity which is why Jesus became our substitute and paid for our sins by his death and shed blood.

Lesson Point #10:

Point out that Jesus' lifeless body was taken down off the cross and placed in a tomb. Emphasize again that everything that happened to him was according to God's plan and foretold in Scripture. Nothing happened to him that was out of God's control.

15. To the Honorable Teacher

If any part of this lesson is misunderstood, go over that part again. Play that part of the lesson again. Summarize that part briefly for the students then play that part a second time. Then ask questions to ascertain whether or not this part of the lesson is now understood.

Be prepared to use proper illustrations to clarify a given lesson point. Sometimes it is helpful to use a picture and talk about what is portrayed in the picture as you teach.

Stress to the students that the important themes of this lesson must be understood before proceeding to the next lesson.

Simple drama can be useful to make a point clearer in the people's minds. Before using drama, be sure that it is culturally appropriate to do so. If people are not accustomed to understanding simple drama, it may be best to not use it.

At this point in the teaching is more important than ever for you to mingle with the people to discover how well they understand the lessons and to what degree they are believing the message you are teaching them. It is very important at this point for you to show in an appropriate manner your sincere concern for their spiritual welfare.