

March 30, 2014

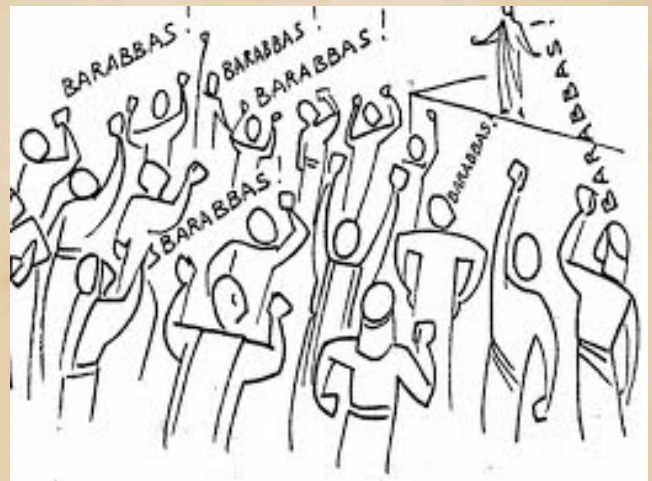
Lesson 25: Jesus and Pilate

John 18:28-40

Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate's headquarters. It was early in the morning. They themselves did not enter the headquarters, so as to avoid ritual defilement and to be able to eat the Passover. So Pilate went out to them and said, 'What accusation do you bring against this man?' They answered, 'If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you.' Pilate said to them, 'Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law.' The Jews replied, 'We are not permitted to put anyone to death.' (This was to fulfill what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.)

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' Jesus answered, 'Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?' Pilate replied, 'I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?' Jesus answered, 'My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.' Pilate asked him, 'So you are a king?' Jesus answered, 'You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.' Pilate asked him, 'What is truth?'

After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, 'I find no case against him. But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?' They shouted in reply, 'Not this man, but Barabbas!' Now Barabbas was a bandit.



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The Big Story Truth: The truth is that Jesus is the Son of God, our Savior!

About This Scripture Passage: The real trial going on here is not about whether or not Jesus is guilty. The real trial going on is whether or not the world will believe Jesus' word and that what he speaks is the truth. Those involved in the story here do not. The Jewish leaders, though they are ultra concerned about not entering the Roman officials headquarters for fear of becoming ritually unclean (according to Jewish law), seem to have no problem condemning an innocent person to death. Their response to Jesus is what reveals them as the guilty ones.

*"Everyone
who belongs to
the truth listens
to my voice."*



Making the Connection:

Pilate asked Jesus a question in this passage that is very ironic. Pilate asks Jesus, "What is the truth?" Right after asking the question, Pilate walked away... entirely oblivious to who it is that is standing right in front of him. We know that Jesus is the truth! This lesson is an opportunity for us to talk about truth with our children. If they were asked that question about truth, what have they learned about Jesus that would empower them to reply that Jesus is the truth?

While we are not likely to ever be formally put on trial for our faith, our kids are daily confronted with opportunities to share their faith with others and to bear witness to the truth that Jesus is. This lesson is an opportunity for us to help strengthen them so that they have an answer to that question!

Where in the World Are We? Jesus is questioned in Pilate's headquarters. There are a couple of possibilities for this location. One is what is called the *praetorium*, which would have been Pilate's residence, a part of the royal palace.

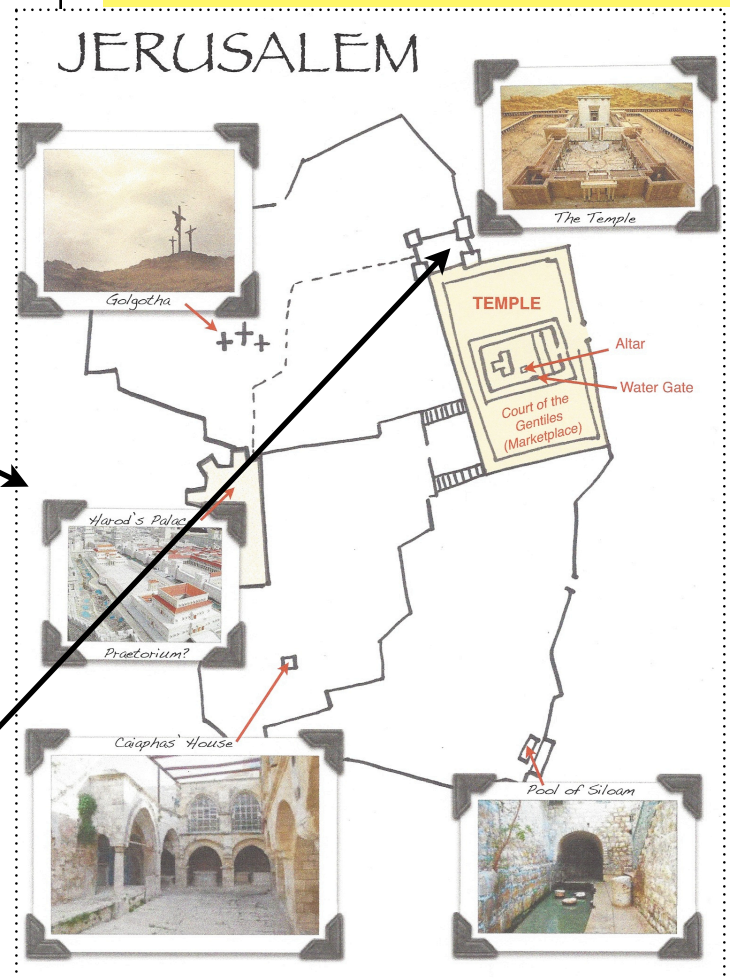
The actual word used though in John 19:13 for where Jesus is questioned means "the pavement." The ancient historian Josephus describes a paved yard next to Harod's Palace, but no ruins of one have (at least as of yet) been found there. Another option for where the trial might have taken place would have been in the courtyard of the Fortress Antonia. This area is still visible today in the basement of a modern day convent.

For Your Reflection:

What are the things that you know- without a doubt- to be true?

What is it mean to you to define Jesus as "the truth"?

Since Jesus is truth, what is lie? How can you equip your kids to counter any lies they will come upon in their lives?



Family Faith 5

March 30[☆], 2014[☆]

1. Each person shares their high and low (the best and worst things that happened this week.)
2. Read together this Bible Verse:
“Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.”
3. Talk about how the Bible verse relates to your highs and lows.
4. Pray aloud for one another's highs and lows.
5. Bless one another. Make the sign of the cross on each other's heads and say these words: _____, the truth is that you are loved!

Large Group Gathering

Welcome the children and their families. Give groups 5 minutes to do their Faith 5. Before parents leave, give them a heads up that the kids are going to be preparing something very special for worship next week!

If your group has been working on the John 3:16 song by Nillson, sing that this morning. Say: **We know that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. But not everyone realized that Jesus was speaking the truth. Some people were angry about everything that Jesus was saying and doing. Some people were scared. Some people wanted Jesus to die. It's a sad story, that people didn't recognize Jesus as the truth. It's sad that Jesus had to die on the cross. But Jesus said that he came for this reason- so that we all would get to know the truth of God's love for us and that God would even go so far as to die on the cross because he loves us so much.**

Have kids sing John 3:16 again and then plan to sing it as part of the worship service this morning.

Practice the Apostles' Creed, particularly focusing on the second article (the section about Jesus) and the meaning from Luther's Small Catechism pages 12-13. Notice with them the part in the Creed that talks about Pontius Pilate. We'll hear more about Pilate in our story today.

Say: **I told your parents that we are planning something very special for next week. You'll find out more about your part when you get to your classes this morning, but we have been asked to tell the gospel lesson during worship next week. It's going to take all the time we have this week and next week to get ready, so we better get started! Head to your classes!**

Preschool and Early Elementary

Materials Needed:

3" Smoothfoam Ball (1 per student)

Squares of Fabric for puppet clothing (1 per student)

12" Dowel (1 per student)

Markers

Googly Eyes

Yarn and other craft supplies as desired

Before the Children Arrive:

Make a sample puppet of your own by sticking a dowel through the center of a piece of fabric and then into a Smoothfoam ball. Draw a face on your puppet. The fabric piece should cover your hand as you give your puppet life!

Experiencing the Story:

Have your sample puppet greet the class. Introduce your puppet by name and let the kids interact with the puppet for a minute or two. Then have your puppet say that he/she would like to tell the story of what happened to Jesus in Jerusalem.

Read "Christ the King" (Spark Story Bible, pages 474-475). Have kids look at the pictures of the people in the story. Notice their facial expressions. What do the people look like?

Activity:

Say: Next week, we are going to get to tell the gospel story in church. But we're not just going to tell the story, we are going to act it out in a puppet show! Our class is going to help by being the crowd in the story. So, we are going to make puppets that look kind of like these guys here (point to the people in the crowd in the picture on page 474). Next week we'll learn what we are going to say... but this week we are going to concentrate on making our puppets.

Show students how to make a puppet and let them draw their own faces/ decorate as they desire.

Snack: Mystery Flavor Skittles

(These are Skittles whose color and flavor don't match) Say: **People thought that they knew who Jesus was. But Jesus turned out to be different than they expected. They thought Jesus was a trouble maker or a liar. But Jesus was telling the truth! Jesus is God!**

Upper Elementary Middle School & High School

Materials Needed:

- Large Smoothfoam Balls (6" or larger preferably)
- Dowels
- Fabric for puppet clothes
- Large wiggly eyes
- Markers, yarn, and other art supplies as desired
- Poster board
- Any resources you have available such as a Bible Handbook for kids that would show typical clothing in Bible times and would describe the roles of chief priests and Pilate, and to give some more background information on the setting
- Map of Jerusalem

Before the Students Arrive:

Get together with other teachers in this age group to talk about whether or not your classes will meet together for these two weeks as you work on the puppet show project or if you will divide up the parts that will be assigned to each class and meet separately.

Experiencing the Story:

After everyone has entered the room and is seated, say: **So you remember from our lessons the last couple of weeks that Jesus was in trouble. He went and raised Lazarus from the dead even though he knew it was walking right into the middle of the mess in Jerusalem where everyone was angry at him. He was arrested and betrayed by the very people who had promised to follow him anywhere. Things were not looking good for Jesus. What would you do if you were accused of a crime you didn't commit? (Maybe hire a good lawyer!) Jesus didn't try to run. He didn't argue. He said that this was why he came into the world. What a strange thing to say! In fact, the whole scene kept getting more and more strange. Let's read about it.**

Read John 18:28-19:16.

Activity

Say: It's hard to imagine someone loving us so much that he was willing to die, but that's just what Jesus did.

The story that we just read is what we are going to be hearing about in church today and next week. We have a chance to help tell this story, for the younger kids in church as well as for the adults who will be coming to worship. Here's how we're going to do it.

We're going to do a little investigating today about the people who were involved in this story and where it took place. And then we're going to pick parts and make puppets to represent each of the characters. We'll also need some kind of stage and backdrops for when we tell this story in church next week.

Divide parts up however you see is best for the kids in your church's groups. (Please note that the youngest grades will play the crowd. They will be learning the parts to shout "Barabbas" when the crowd is asked about who to release and "Crucify him" when they are asked what should be done with Jesus.) You might decide to read straight through the text having the kids act it out with their puppets as it is read, or you may decide that you would like the kids to write their own script to tell the story.

Encourage the kids to do some research about their character before designing their puppet.

Kids who really are not wanting to speak can be asked to help design the set. Please be sure, though, that all kids are involved somehow.

Don't stress about finishing everything today. You will also have next week's class period to finish up any last minute set designs and to rehearse.