

THE EASTER STORY

Part 1: The Crucifixion

Bible Reading: The story about Jesus on trial before Pilate and the events that led to His death on the cross.

Taken from Matthew 27:11-44, Mark 15:1-41, Luke 23:1-49, and John 18:28-19:37

The chief priests and teachers of the law believed Jesus was a criminal and needed to be punished. So, early Friday morning they took Him to Pilate, who was the governor at the time. Pilate came out from his palace and asked the people, "What did this man do wrong?"

The people replied, "He doesn't pay taxes to Caesar! He stirs up trouble with all His teachings. He even claims to be the Christ!"

Pilate looked at Jesus and asked, "Is it true what the people are saying? Are you the King of the Jews?"

"My Kingdom is not of this world, but yes, I am a king," Jesus answered.

Pilate thought about that for a while. Then, he turned to look at the crowd and said, "I don't find this man to be a criminal. He has done nothing wrong!"

But the people insisted. "He is a criminal. He must be punished by death!"

Later that morning, Pilate called all the people together again and said, "I have studied the situation well. I still find that Jesus has done nothing wrong. Nevertheless, I will punish Him for you, and then let Him go."

Upon hearing this, the people demanded that Pilate release another prisoner instead. "Release Barabbas!" they said.

"Then what should I do with Jesus?" Pilate asked.

The people all shouted, "Crucify Him!" Louder and louder they yelled, "Crucify Him, crucify Him, crucify Him!"

Finally, Pilate took Jesus into the palace. He didn't want Jesus to be put to death. He didn't believe Jesus did anything wrong. However, he also didn't want to make things worse by disagreeing with so many people. He could still hear the people shouting, "Crucify Him!" Pilate had his soldiers beat Jesus with whips. They made a crown of thorns and put it on His head. The soldiers yelled repeatedly, "Hail king of the Jews!" as they struck Jesus in the face.

Then, the soldiers led Jesus to a place called Golgotha. A large crowd followed, many weeping for Jesus. The soldiers made Him carry a heavy wooden cross. Jesus grew tired and weak. The cross was so heavy He fell to the ground. The soldiers grabbed a man named Simon and made him carry the cross part of the way.

When Jesus finally got to the place called Golgotha, the soldiers offered Him a drink of wine mixed with something to ease the pain, but Jesus refused to drink it. They nailed Jesus to the cross, and crucified Him along with two other criminals. There was one to the right and another to the left.

Jesus looked up and said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

The soldiers made fun of Jesus saying, "If He is the Christ, let Him save Himself!" But Jesus didn't come to save Himself. He came to save us.

Just before noon, darkness came over the whole land. The sun actually stopped shining. It was dark for several hours. Then, Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Father, I give to you my spirit," and He took His last breath. Suddenly, the curtain in the temple ripped from top to bottom and there was a large earthquake. Everyone was terrified. One of the soldiers who watched everything said, "Surely He was the son of God."

The Bible says, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16 NIV) The story of Jesus' death is very sad, but it is also very important. Jesus didn't do anything wrong. He died on the cross for us. When we do something wrong, we should ask Jesus to forgive us, and He will.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why did the crowd want to punish Jesus? *(They thought He was a criminal, but that was not true. Jesus never did anything wrong.)*
2. Did Pilate think Jesus was a criminal and needed to be punished? *(No, he could not find that Jesus did anything wrong.)*
3. What did the crowd shout repeatedly when Pilate tried to release Jesus? *(Crucify Him!)*
4. How did the soldiers treat Jesus? *(They treated Jesus badly.)*
5. When the soldiers led Jesus to Golgotha, what did they make Him carry? *(A cross.)*
6. How do we know that Jesus was not upset at the people for what they did? *(He said, "Father forgiven them for they know not what they do.")*
7. What are some of the things that happened as Jesus died? *(There was darkness, a torn curtain in the temple, and an earthquake.)*
8. For whom did Jesus die on the cross? *(Everyone who asks for His forgiveness.)*

- Coloring page for this portion – Jesus Carrying the Cross

Part 2: The Resurrection

Bible Reading: Luke 24:1-12 (CSB)

Resurrection Morning

24 On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they^[a] came to the tomb, bringing the spices they had prepared. **2** They found the stone rolled away from the tomb. **3** They went in but did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. **4** While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men stood by them in dazzling clothes. **5** So the women were terrified and bowed down to the ground.

“Why are you looking for the living among the dead?” asked the men. **6** “He is not here, but he has risen! Remember how he spoke to you when he was still in Galilee, **7** saying, ‘It is necessary that the Son of Man be betrayed into the hands of sinful men, be crucified, and rise on the third day’?” **8** And they remembered his words.

9 Returning from the tomb, they reported all these things to the Eleven and to all the rest. **10** Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them were telling the apostles these things. **11** But these words seemed like nonsense to them, and they did not believe the women. **12** Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. When he stooped to look in, he saw only the linen cloths.^[b] So he went away, amazed at what had happened.

- Coloring page for this portion: He is Risen

Activity:

You can then have the kids re-tell the story using the Resurrection Eggs story book printout (included below.).

Video:

Watch short Easter Story video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HL8R158Ujp4>

Feel free to take a picture of their art work and post it on our FaceBook page or share it on GroupMe.

Have a Blessed and Happy Resurrection Day with your family.

Until we can meet again –

Teacher Chrissy

WHAT IS JESUS CARRYING?

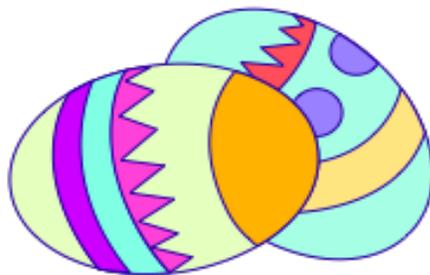




donkey



Resurrection Eggs



They brought the donkey and the colt. They placed their coats on them. Then Jesus sat on the coats. A very large crowd spread their coats on the road. Others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.
Matthew 21:7-8

Egg #1

silver coins



One of the Twelve went to the chief priests. His name was Judas Iscariot. He asked, "What will you give me if I hand Jesus over to you?" So they counted out 30 silver coins for him. From then on, Judas watched for the right time to hand Jesus over to them.

Matthew 26:14-16

Egg #2

passover cup



When evening came, Jesus was at the table with the Twelve. Then he took the cup. He gave thanks and handed it to them. He said, "All of you drink from it. This is my blood of the new covenant. It is poured out to forgive the sins of many.

Matthew 26:20, 27-28

Egg #3

praying hands



Jesus and his disciples went to a place called Gethsemane. Jesus said to them, "Sit here while I pray." He went a little farther. Then he fell to the ground. He prayed that, if possible, the hour might pass by him. ["Abba]," he said, "everything is possible for you. Take this cup of suffering away from me. But let what you want be done, not what I want." Abba means Father.

Mark 14:32, 35-36

Egg #4

leather whip



"Then what should I do with the one you call the king of the Jews?" Pilate asked them. "Crucify him!" the crowd shouted. "Why? What wrong has he done?" asked Pilate. But they shouted even louder, "Crucify him!" Pilate wanted to satisfy the crowd. So he let Barabbas go free. He ordered that Jesus be whipped. Then he handed him over to be nailed to a cross.

Mark 15:12-15

Egg #5

crown of thorns



29 Then they twisted thorns together to make a crown. They placed it on his head. They put a stick in his right hand. Then they fell on their knees in front of him and made fun of him. "We honor you, king of the Jews!" they said.
Matthew 27:29

Egg #6

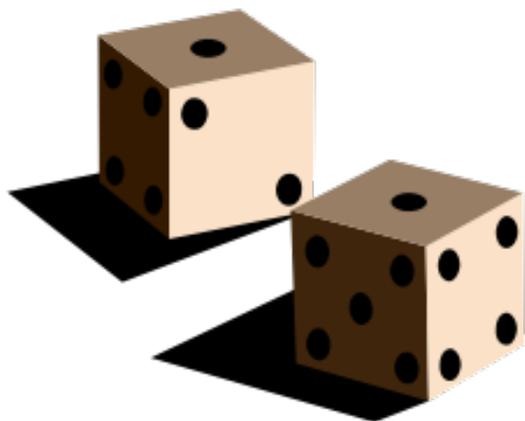
nails in the cross



Finally, Pilate handed Jesus over to them to be nailed to a cross.
Jesus Is Nailed to a Cross
So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. He had to carry his own cross. He went out to a place called The Skull. In the Aramaic language it was called Golgotha. There they nailed Jesus to the cross.
John 19:16-18a

Egg #7

dice for gambling



When they had nailed him to the cross, they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

Matthew 27:35

Egg #8

soldier's spear



But when they came to Jesus, they saw that he was already dead. So they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers stuck his spear into Jesus' side. Right away, blood and water flowed out.

John 19:33-34

Egg #9

linen wrapping



Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth. He placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock.

Matthew 27:59-60a

Egg #10

stone



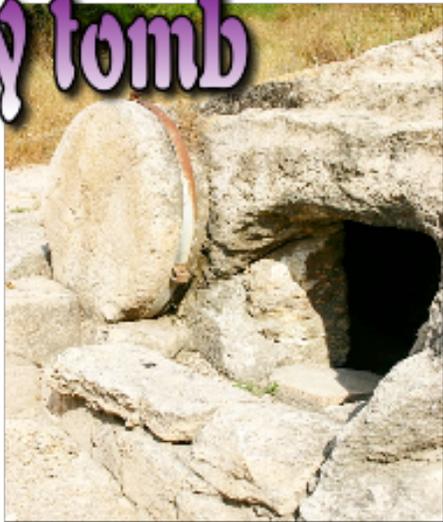
The Sabbath day was now over. It was dawn on the first day of the week. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

There was a powerful earthquake. An angel of the Lord came down from heaven. The angel went to the tomb. He rolled back the stone and sat on it.

Matthew 28:1-2

Egg #11

empty tomb



The angel said to the women, "Don't be afraid. I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here! He has risen, just as he said he would! Come and see the place where he was lying. Go quickly! Tell his disciples, 'He has risen from the dead. He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you." So the women hurried away from the tomb. They were afraid, but they were filled with joy. They ran to tell the disciples.

Matthew 28:5-8

Egg #12

He is Risen

