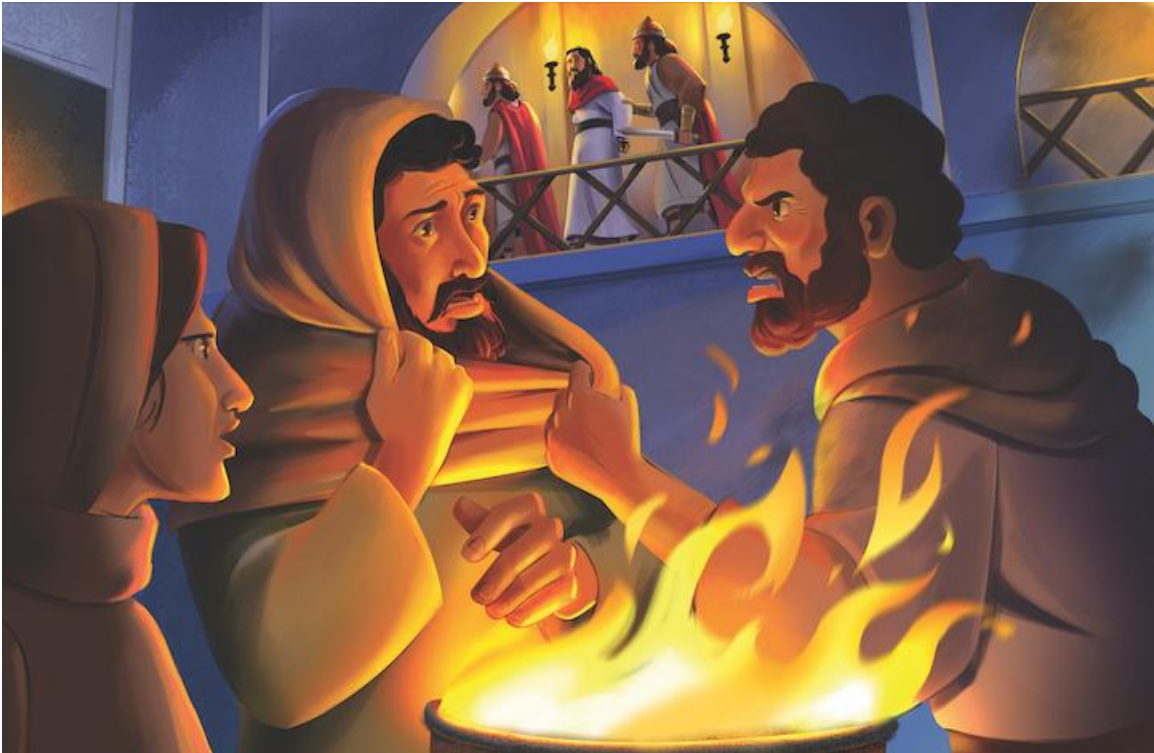


Unit 27, Session 1



Jesus Was Put on Trial

(Matthew 26–27; Mark 14–15; Luke 22–23; John 18)

Dear families,

All four Gospel accounts of Jesus' trial revealed the innocence of the Son of Man amid the injustice of the court's proceedings. From the plotting of the chief priests to the scoffing of those in the crowd, each detail revealed the reality of the Savior's choice to step forward as the substitute for our sins.

Why did this court case unfold in the manner that it did, with the religious leaders taking their troubles to the Roman courts? How do we see God at work amid Christ's suffering? The answers to this lay in the Old Testament prophecies and in Christ's fulfillment of all they entailed.

The unjust treatment of the innocent Son of Man cannot be understated throughout these accounts. The Scriptures report some people—Pilate, Herod, and Judas—testifying to Christ's innocence, all the while conspiring against Him and allowing the unfair verdict to proceed. Even still, Jesus' righteousness remained apparent as He continued on, allowing God's will to be done through His death for the sake of our eternal life. We truly see the Son obeying the Father to the point of death, as an innocent lamb led closer and closer to the slaughter.

Throughout these events in the Scriptures, we read that Judas and Herod, as well as Pilate and his wife, each acknowledged Jesus' innocence. The Bible reveals, too, that the religious leaders' only hope of execution was found through crafting inaccurate accusations of Christ's

wrongdoings through the Roman court. Despite the falseness of their fabrications, Jesus kept His composure through it all with eyes set on entering into His glory.

Led by a mob mentality that spurred on their scoffing, the people cried out that His blood would be not only on themselves, but their children as well (Matthew 27:25). In these moments, they failed to see the depth of the injustice they thrust upon the only sinless One.

Explain to kids that the mankind's sinfulness led to Christ's sacrifice and that this paradox establishes the gospel's great news—that only the perfect sacrifice of God's own Son could lead to our salvation. Despite our unworthiness, Christ remains worthy and invites us into His promise of everlasting life.

Check out *The Gospel Project At Home* for resources designed to help you lead a family worship experience as well as suggestions for morning and evening prayer times and family activities.

FAMILY TALKING POINTS

CHRIST CONNECTION

This is the big idea of how this week's Bible story points to Jesus.

- € **Babies & Toddlers:** Jesus died on the cross for our sins. Everyone who trusts in Jesus is forgiven.
- € **Younger Preschool:** Jesus never did anything wrong. He died on the cross for our sins. Everyone who trusts in Jesus is forgiven.
- € **Older Preschool:** Jesus never did anything wrong. He did not deserve to die on the cross, but He died for our sins and rose from the dead. Everyone who trusts in Jesus has forgiveness and life with God forever.
- € **Kids:** Jesus was unfairly sentenced to die although He did no wrong. Jesus was the perfect substitute for us, dying on the cross for our sins and rising from the dead. Everyone who trusts in Jesus has forgiveness and life with God forever.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION & ANSWER

This is an important biblical truth that your child will encounter each week of this unit.

- **Younger Preschool:** How is Jesus the perfect King? Jesus rules over everything.
- € **Older Preschool:** How is Jesus the perfect King? Jesus perfectly rules over everything.
- € **Kids:** How is Jesus the perfect King? Jesus perfectly rules over the universe as the King of kings.

KEY PASSAGE

This is a Bible verse that relates to what your child will encounter each week of this unit.

- € **Babies & Toddlers:** Everyone will worship God forever. Revelation 5:13
- € **Younger Preschool:** Every creature will worship God forever and ever. Revelation 5:13

- € **Older Preschool:** I heard every creature ... say, Blessing and honor and glory and power be to the one seated on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever! Revelation 5:13
- € **Kids:** I heard every creature in heaven, on earth, under the earth, on the sea, and everything in them say, Blessing and honor and glory and power be to the one seated on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever! Revelation 5:13

**** Next week:** Jesus Was Crucified (Matthew 27; Mark 15; Luke 23–24; John 19–20)