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SERIES: JESUS AND THE JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

# The Trial of Jesus

[PursueGOD.org](http://PursueGOD.org)

## Lesson Overview

Today we're starting a new series that's all about Jesus and some important things he had to go through before he went to the cross to die for us. In this lesson, we're going to learn 5 things you need to know about the trial of Jesus. Did you know that some mean people took Jesus to court and accused him of doing things he had never done? They did it because they didn't like Jesus or his teachings so they wanted him to be killed. Even some of Jesus' friends turned against him. But Jesus wasn't discouraged. He knew all of this yucky stuff had to happen because it was part of God's plan. Jesus knew that even though he was perfect, and had never done anything wrong, he had to go through it to get to the cross. The plan all along was for Jesus to die to pay for our sins on the cross. Even though the mean people meant to do harm to Jesus, God had a bigger purpose for it all-to save us!

### Big Idea

*Jesus was mistreated before he went to the cross.*

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### Key Question

*Why did Jesus suffer so much for us?*

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### Memory Verse

*Isaiah 53:7 | He was oppressed and treated harshly, yet he never said a word.*

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## Classroom Agenda

- (5 min) PLAY: Let kids start working on Activity Page #1.**
- (5 min) WARM UP: What are your top 5 favorite foods? What are your top 5 least favorite foods?** (Tip: It's fun to make top 5 lists of the things we love and the things we don't love. We're going to make a top 5 list about Jesus in our lesson today.)
- (5 min) PREVIEW: Write out the Big Idea, Memory Verse, and Key Question on a whiteboard.** Have the kids copy it down on Activity Page #1 (if applicable).
- (20 min) LARGE GROUP: Gather for songs and videos with other kids.** Then return to class to finish this guide.
- (2 min) RECAP: Read the Lesson Overview (see above).**
- (3 min) KQ: Answer the Key Question.** (Answer: **Because he loves us and wants a relationship with us.** (When we learn all that Jesus went through for us, we realize just how much he loves us. Jesus knew that coming to live among us would be hard. He knew that people would mistreat him, mock him, and ultimately kill him. But he went through all of it because he came to save us from our sins. Jesus fixed our sin problem which means we can have a relationship with God and live in heaven with him some day.)
  - Bonus Questions:** What are some hard things Jesus went through for us? Why did Jesus die for us? **4-5th:** What does it mean to you that Jesus suffered a lot for your sake? Why is having a relationship with God important?
- (5 min) EXPLORE: Read 2 Corinthians 5:21. What does this verse say about Jesus? What does this verse say that Jesus did for us?** (Answer: God sent Jesus for the purpose of dying on the cross to pay for our sins. Jesus was perfect. He never sinned or did anything wrong. That's why only he could pay for our sins. Because He's God and he is perfect.)
- (10 min) PLAY: Choose a group activity from Activity Page #2.**
- (5 min) CLOSE: Share prayer requests and pray as a class.** Encourage kids to use the Family Guide at home with their parents - and remind them to go online to [pursueGOD.org/kids](http://pursueGOD.org/kids) to find this week's lesson video.

**Teacher instructions:** Choose an activity for your classroom.

## OPTION 1: JESUS DOOR HANGER

### Instructions:

- Give each kid a Door Hanger Template (page 5).
- Have kids color in the letters that spell "Jesus" and decorate the rest of the door hanger.
- As the kids work, remind them that Jesus suffered through a lot because he loves each and every one of them.

### Supplies needed:

Door Hanger template (pg. 5, precut, 1 per kid), Crayons

### Bonus Activity: "Bible Hangman"

Words or Phrases: Jesus, Cross, God loves everyone

## OPTION 2: FAST FACTS FACE OFF GAME

### Instructions:

- Divide the class into two teams. Start the game by having one kid from each team come up for a face off. Give each kid a bell or ringer.
- Ask a question from below, first to ring in gets a chance to answer. If correct, that team gets a point. Continue the game allowing different kids to come up for the face off.
- Team with the most points wins.

### Questions:

1. Who died for our sins? (Jesus)
2. What book is full of God's truth? (Bible)
3. Who took Jesus to court? (mean people/Jews)
4. T or F: Jesus was falsely accused. (T)
5. From what book is our memory verse found? (leader guide)

6. Which friend was afraid to stand with Jesus? (Peter)
7. Where did Jesus die for us? (cross)
8. T or F: Jesus defended himself in court. (F)
9. What's the Big Idea today? (leader guide)
10. T or F: Jesus is perfect. (T)

### Supplies needed:

Bells or ringers

### Bonus Activity: "Find the Book"

Have kids break into pairs. Give each pair a Bible. Have them race to find the books below. First to find has to say if it's in the OT or NT.

**Books:** Genesis, Mark, 1 Thessalonians

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**Jesus was on \_\_\_\_\_ even though he \_\_\_\_\_ do anything wrong**

Everyone in the court – even the people in charge – were against Jesus. But those mean people couldn't find any real reason to punish him. That's because Jesus never did anything wrong.

**Peter stayed \_\_\_\_\_ even though he was Jesus' best friend**

Whenever you're in a scary situation you want someone there to make you feel better, right? I'm sure Jesus did too, but his best friend Peter didn't even go inside to help him during the trial. Peter was scared! He thought he would get in trouble because he was a friend of Jesus. So he stayed outside. I bet that made Jesus pretty sad.

**The Jews \_\_\_\_\_ about Jesus even though that was against the law**

The people wanted to get Jesus into trouble so badly that they lied about him, even though that was against the law. It's one of the Ten Commandments!

**Jesus didn't save himself even though he was \_\_\_\_\_ enough to do it**

And Jesus is way stronger than people. He's God! He could have crushed everyone in that room that day, but he didn't. He just took it all, in silence.

**Sometimes life isn't \_\_\_\_\_, but God is still \_\_\_\_\_ in charge**

So, next time you feel like life is unfair, think about this story. Jesus had to deal with a lot of unfair things too. But God is always in control and we can always trust in his plan.

Answers: *trial, didn't, outside, lied, strong, fair, always* **Parent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Questions:

1. *What was your favorite part of the video? What is one thing you learned from the video?*
2. *What are your top five favorite foods? What are your top five least favorite foods.*
3. *Why do you think people didn't like Jesus?*
4. *Why do you think Peter was scared to stand with Jesus in court? Have you ever been scared to stand up for Jesus? Explain.*
5. *Why did Jesus have to go to the cross for us?*
6. *Read [2 Corinthians 5:21](#). What does this verse say about Jesus? What does the verse say Jesus did for us?*
7. *How will you apply this lesson to your life this week?*

**Instructions:** Color the picture.

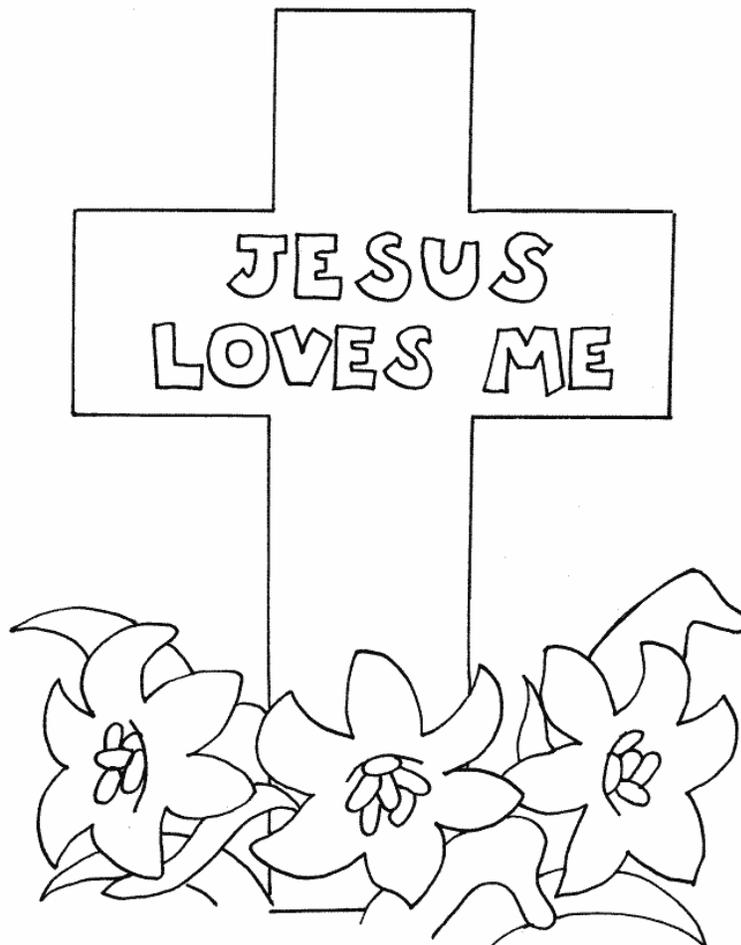
JESUS WAS  
MISTREATED  
BEFORE HE WENT  
TO THE CROSS

**Key Question**

*Why did Jesus suffer so much for us?*

**Memory Verse**

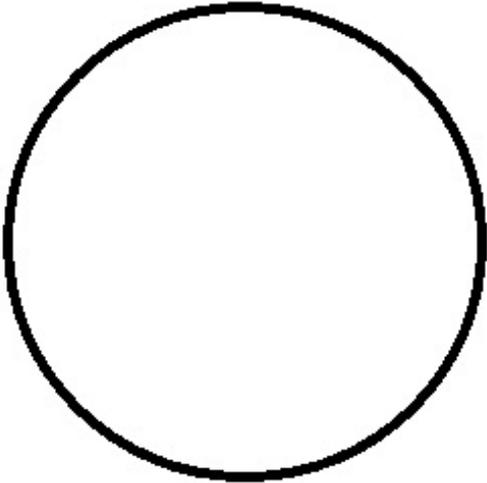
*Isaiah 53:7 | He was oppressed and treated harshly, yet he never said a word.*



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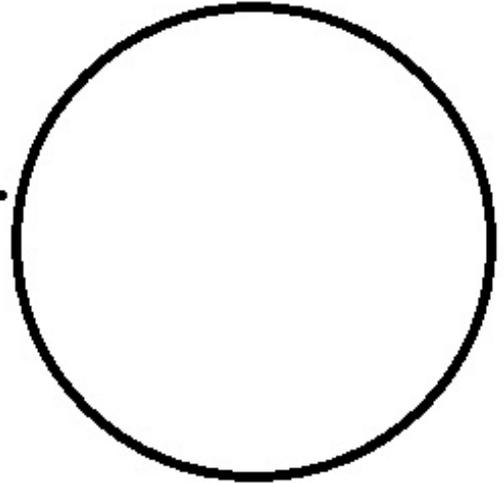
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JESUS

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