

# Life of Christ

## Jesus is Questioned

John 18:19-24, 28-40

### Younger Verse

"I was born into this world to tell about the truth." John 18:37b (CEV)

### Older Verse

"I was born into this world to tell about the truth. And everyone who belongs to the truth knows my voice." John 18:37b (CEV)

### Bible Story

The following is a summary of the Bible story to help supplement your preparation. In your personal study time, use this summary as a guide, and make notes to help you remember your plans for the lesson. Please do **NOT** read to the children.

Think back with me over our lessons the last couple of weeks. We have talked about a lot of things that all happened in one night! They were pleasant things like a supper together and a foot washing, and even walking through the city together! Who remembers what night it was? It was on a Thursday! And as Thursday night turned into Friday morning, the nice evening turned sad and difficult. Jesus was arrested; Peter denied ever knowing Him, and Jesus was taken to Caiaphas' house. Caiaphas was the high-priest that year. The high-priest was in charge of the church and kind of like a judge.

At Caiaphas' house, the high-priest asked Jesus many questions. Caiaphas asked Jesus about His followers. Caiaphas asked Jesus about the things He had taught. By doing this, though, the high-priest and other men from the church were breaking the rules that they talked so much about following. Their rules said it was wrong to have a trial, or question people about a crime after dark. They did not care about the rules they loved so much if it meant getting rid of Jesus.

Jesus knew this meeting was wrong. Jesus knew the questioning was wrong. Jesus answered the high-priest by saying that He had done nothing secretly. Everything Jesus' had taught, he taught in the churches, where there were always many people. Jesus wanted to know why they were questioning Him. He even suggested that they question the people who had listened to His teaching. They knew the things Jesus had said. But when He said that, someone hit him in the face! The men didn't like not receiving the answer they wanted from Jesus. They thought He was speaking rudely to the high-priest, but Jesus hadn't been rude and He hadn't told a lie. He did not deserve to be slapped in the face.

### Lesson Goals

To see Jesus as King.  
To understand that each of us choose whether Jesus will be in control of our lives.

From Caiaphas' house, Jesus was taken to a place called the Praetorium (pray-**tori**-um). The Praetorium was an important building for the Romans. It was where the Roman officials lived and or ruled from. Jerusalem was a Jewish city, but it was now part of the Roman Empire and the Roman official ruling this part of the Roman Empire was named Pilate. It was really early in the morning when Jesus and the other men arrived. Pilate came out to see what the men were accusing Jesus of. They said, "If he were not a criminal, a bad man, we wouldn't have brought Him to you." At this, Pilate told them to take Him back with them and decide what to do with Him, to judge Jesus by their own laws. But, they had already decided what to do with Jesus. They wanted Jesus to die by crucifixion, by being nailed to a cross. They said this, not on their own, but because it was what Jesus knew would happen from the very beginning. These men, these leaders of the church, thought they were in control of Jesus. They were wrong!

Someone else also thought He was in control of Jesus. When Pilate heard them speak of crucifixion, he took Jesus with him into the Praetorium. Pilate, like the high-priest, asked Jesus questions. Pilate asked Jesus if He were a King of the Jews. Jesus agreed that He was a King, but not the kind of king Pilate was thinking about. Jesus told Pilate that He had been born for this, that He came to tell the truth. Pilate didn't understand Jesus. He didn't know what truth was. Jesus came to be King, to rule and reign, over our hearts, if we will let Him. Pilate, who found nothing wrong with Jesus, decided to let the people choose. He did not want to feel responsible for Jesus. Pilate told the people to choose. They could choose Jesus, who had done nothing wrong, or they could choose a man named Barabbas, a robber. The people shouted for Barabbas!

Maybe you have the same question that Pilate had, "What is truth?" Do you remember one of our memory verses from several weeks ago, John 14:6? What does it say? "Jesus said to him, 'I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father but through me.'" What is truth? Jesus is the Truth! Jesus, the King, left heaven and came to earth to tell the truth and to die for me and for you. He did this because He is the Way to get to God. He is the only Way to get to God! Will you choose Him to rule and reign in your heart and life today?

**Memory Verse  
Activity**

Make a manger with a baby ornament. Use craft sticks, craft foam, construction paper, etc. Write the memory verse on the side of the manger.

**Preparing for Next Week**

Lesson 42  
Jesus is Beaten  
John 19:1-16

# Preschool Lesson

## Jesus is Questioned

**Sing:** “My God is So Big”

**Teach:** The last couple of weeks we have talked about a lot of things that happened all in one night! A dinner. A foot washing. Walking through the city together! It all happened on a Thursday! But on Friday morning, Jesus was arrested; His friend, Peter, said he never knew Him, and Jesus was taken to Caiaphas’ house. Caiaphas was in charge of the church and kind of like a judge.

Caiaphas asked Jesus many questions. Caiaphas asked Jesus about His followers. Caiaphas asked Jesus about His teachings. But Caiaphas and the other men were not doing things the right way and Jesus knew it. They were not supposed to ask questions like this at night while the people of the city were asleep! They were trying to hide what they were doing by doing it at night. Even though Jesus knew this, He answered Caiaphas. But Jesus did not answer the questions the way they wanted Him to. Jesus was not rude or mean, but the men did not like what He said. Someone even slapped Him in the face!

The men took Jesus from Caiaphas’ house to a place called the Praetorium (pray-tori-um). The Praetorium was an important building for the Romans. It was where the Roman officials lived and/or ruled from. The Romans were the leaders of many countries and lands. The Roman leader in Jerusalem was named Pilate.

It was really early on Friday morning when Jesus, still tied up, arrived with the other men. Pilate also asked Jesus many questions. Pilate even asked Jesus if He were a King. Jesus said that He was a King, but not the kind of king Pilate was thinking about. That was why Jesus had been born. He came to tell the truth. Pilate didn’t understand Jesus, but He knew Jesus had done nothing wrong. Pilate could have let Jesus go free, but He didn’t. Pilate asked the people who they wanted to free - Jesus, who had done nothing wrong, or a mean robber named Barabbas. Who do you think deserved to go free? The people did not choose to free Jesus, they picked the mean robber Barabbas! What could they be thinking?

The people did not understand Jesus. Pilate didn’t understand Jesus. They didn’t know what truth was. Jesus is the Truth and Jesus came to be King, King of our hearts!

**Pray:** Thank you, God, for sending Jesus to be born.

# Activities

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- Provide coloring pages and word puzzles that will enhance what you have taught today.
- Provide coloring pages of Roman columns, the Praetorium, the Colosseum, etc.
- Make globe mobiles. Print the memory verse on a strip of paper. Hang this from a string. Attach another string to the bottom of the memory verse strip. Make a globe and attach it to the loose string.
- The Romans played games with dice. Make your own dice. Make cubes and label each side with the appropriate dots. Be creative and use small stickers or unusual shapes in place of the dots.
- Play court and re-create Jesus' trial. Assign "actors" to be Jesus, Caiaphas, Pilate, etc. If desired, allow your students to act as you "narrate" the story from your Bible.
- Play Tic-Tac-Toe. The Romans played "Terni Lapilli" which is considered to be identical to modern Tic-Tac-Toe. For an added challenge, make a Tic-Tac-Toe board with chalk on a sidewalk, with tape on the floor, or with marker on poster board. Cut out and laminate X's and O's playing pieces. Play by asking questions from the lesson.