

Life of Christ

Jesus is Beaten

John 19:1-16

Younger Verse

He was whipped, and we were healed! Isaiah 53:5 (NLT)

Older Verse

He was wounded and crushed for our sins. He was beaten that we might have peace. He was whipped, and we were healed! Isaiah 53:5 (NLT)

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.

We ended our lesson last week talking about Pilate, the Roman leader in Jerusalem. After talking with Jesus, Pilate believed Jesus had done nothing wrong. A crowd gathered at the Praetorium and Pilate offered them a choice. Pilate would free one prisoner. Jesus or Barabbas? Barabbas was a thief, but the crowd chose to free him!

That seems so backwards. Jesus had done nothing wrong. But the more He taught the people, healed them, talked about being from God, and the more people followed Him, the Jewish leaders grew angrier and angrier. Now, in their anger, all they could think of was making sure that He would die.

Pilate decided to try something before sending Jesus to die. Maybe the leaders would change their minds once they saw Jesus punished. Pilate sent Jesus away to be beaten. The Roman soldiers had special whips they used to beat prisoners with. Have you ever seen a whip, maybe one used for horses or even animals at the circus? Those whips have a handle with one cord attached to it. The Roman whips were also made from cords, but one handle would usually have many cords attached to it. Those cords would also have very sharp things woven into them, like glass or stones or metal. The Roman soldiers used these whips to punish people who had disobeyed the law. They also used it to punish Jesus, who had done nothing wrong.

After Jesus had been beaten, the soldiers decided to make fun of Him. If He said He were a King, they would dress Him like one. They took a vine with long thorns and twisted it into a circle that looked like a wreath and they pressed it into Jesus' head as a crown. Then they threw a purple robe around Him. Purple is a color used for kings. The

Lesson Goals

To realize that Jesus suffered for us, the punishment we deserve.

soldiers did not stop there. They continued to ridicule Jesus by coming up to Him and saying, “Hey, King of the Jews!” Then, they would slap Jesus in the face. After this, they took Him back to Pilate.

Pilate was sure that Jesus’ beating would be enough for the crowd. Pilate brought Jesus out to them and said, “Here He is.” Pilate reminded the crowd that he found no reason to have Jesus killed. The crowd didn’t care what Pilate thought. They yelled back, “Nail Him to a cross!” over and over again. Pilate spoke with Jesus once more. Jesus wouldn’t answer Pilate this time, though and Pilate asked Him, “Don’t you know that I can set you free or have you killed?” Jesus answered Pilate this time by saying, “You can only do what God lets you!” Pilate still did not want to send Jesus to be crucified, but the crowd yelled and screamed for His death. Jesus was sent from there to be crucified.

The crowd did not want to see and understand that Jesus is the Son of God and that He did come to be a King. He wanted to be King in the hearts of these people who said they followed God. Jesus did not deserve to wear a crown of thorns. What Jesus deserved was to wear a beautiful crown of gold! There is a verse in the Old Testament, the first part of the Bible, that explains this.* A man named Isaiah first shared this message from God hundreds of years before Jesus was even born. Isaiah said of Jesus, “But the servant was pierced because we had sinned. He was crushed because we had done what was evil. He was punished to make us whole again. His wounds have healed us.”* Jesus didn’t do anything wrong; you did and I did. But Jesus suffered the punishment you deserve and the punishment I deserve. And because He suffered your pain and my pain, we can be made well of the sin that controls us. Jesus’ punishment for you made that possible. Will you trust Him today? Do you want to be made well? Let’s talk . . .

*Isaiah 53:5 (NIRV)

Memory Verse Activity

Braid three cords of equal length into bracelets. Explain that each cord represents what happened to Jesus and a part of our memory verse. He was **wounded and crushed** (1st cord) . . . for our sins. He was **beaten** (2nd cord) . . . that we might have peace. He was **whipped** (3rd cord) . . . and we were healed! (Cords can be twine, leather, plastic, etc.)

Prayer Time

Be sensitive to those students who are unusually attentive or who have lots of questions. If possible, pull them aside now for questions and prayer. Pray with the larger group, thanking God for sending His One and Only Son to take our punishment.

Preparing for Next Week

Lesson 43
Jesus is Crucified and Buried
John 19:17-42

Preschool Lesson

Jesus is Hurt

Sing: “Shake a Friend’s Hand”

Teach: Last week we talked about the Roman leader in Jerusalem. His name was Pilate. After He talked with Jesus, Pilate believed Jesus had done nothing wrong. A big crowd was waiting to see what Pilate would do. He had an idea! Pilate would free one prisoner. Who would it be, Jesus or Barabbas? Remember, Barabbas was a thief. Even though Jesus had done nothing wrong, the crowd chose to free Barabbas instead of Jesus!

Pilate did not want to send Jesus to die so he decided to try something. Pilate sent Jesus away to be hurt. Maybe the leaders would change their minds once they saw Jesus had been punished. The Roman soldiers had special whips, or handles with long cords, that they used to hit their prisoners with. The Roman soldiers used these whips to punish people who had disobeyed the law. They also used it to punish Jesus. But, Jesus had done nothing wrong.

After they had hurt Jesus, the soldiers decided to make fun of Him. They dressed Him up like a king. Instead of a gold crown, the soldiers took a vine with long thorns and twisted it into a circle that looked like a wreath. They pressed it into Jesus’ head as a crown. Then they threw a purple robe around Him. Purple is a color used for kings. The soldiers also slapped Jesus in the face. Then, they took Him back to Pilate.

Pilate hoped that Jesus’ beating would be enough for the crowd. The crowd didn’t care what Pilate thought. All they wanted was for Jesus to be nailed to a cross! The crowd did not want to see and understand that Jesus came from God and that He came to be King. He wanted to be King in their hearts. He loved them so much and wanted them to choose to love Him back.

Jesus did not deserve to wear a crown of thorns. Jesus did not deserve to be beaten. Jesus never did anything wrong, but He loves you so much that He was ready to be punished for all the bad things you have done. He did this so that we can be His friend!

Pray: Thank you, God, for Jesus. Thank you for loving me enough to want to be my friend.

Activities

- Provide coloring pages and word puzzles that will enhance what you have taught today.
- We have talked about the events of the last week of Jesus' life. Much of it took place amidst Roman officials. Make calendars. For a twist, use the Latin names of the months when you label them and write them in Roman style letters. (January - Januarius, February - Februarius, March - Martius, April - Aprilis, May - Maius, June - Junius, July - Julius, August - Augustus, and September, October, November, and December, which have not changed)
- Jesus wore a crown of thorns for us! Make crowns like Jesus should have been wearing. Decorate them with jewels, sequins, glitter, etc.
- Make a chart on poster board or a chalk board by dividing it in two. Label one side "Jesus was . . ." and the other "I . . ." Review Isaiah 53:5, giving your students an opportunity to hear and read the verse several times. Help your students understand that Jesus was "pierced" (side one) because I "had sinned" (side two). Continue until you have exhausted the verse.
- Look for opportunities throughout the time with your students to make the point of punishment deserved. Be willing to take that punishment for them.