

# Adventure Number 68

## John 12:12-46 and Zechariah 9:8-9

**Story Line: An enthusiastic crowd welcomed Jesus when He arrived in Jerusalem.**



### 1) Study the Lesson (before class)

- A large crowd had gathered in Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover. Previously, Jesus had rejected the role of a political reign, but as Jesus entered Jerusalem, the crowd began to think that this might be the time that His reign would begin. They shouted “Hosanna” which means “*please save*” or “*save now*.”
- If Jesus wanted to raise the suspicions of the Romans, He would have ridden into Jerusalem on a war horse. However, when He rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, he disarmed the Romans. A king riding on a donkey would pose no threat. The entry of Jesus into Jerusalem was prophesied by Zechariah hundreds of years earlier.
- “*Daughter of Zion*” (verse 15) is a poetic way of referring to the people of Jerusalem.
- When these events happened, the disciples did not grasp them as they were happening. However, when Jesus rose from the dead, they understood.
- Eyewitnesses to the raising of Lazarus from the dead added more energy to the already enthusiastic crowd. The Romans realized that this large crowd was getting out of control.
- The kernel of wheat illustration that Jesus taught was a prophecy of His coming death. His death would bring a great harvest.
- Then, Jesus issued another prophecy. He said that He would be “*lifted up from the earth*.” This prophecy in verse 32 indicated that He would die and rise from the dead.

The teacher’s guide is divided into five key segments. Each part of the teaching process is important and all five should be followed for effective teaching. Chronological Bible teaching is a great way to evangelize and disciple children. As children come to know the stories of the Bible, they will understand the God of the Bible and how to respond to Him by faith.

Each of the five steps to teaching these lessons is a vital part of the lesson. Preparation before the lesson is extremely important and takes place in the days leading up to class. Then when class time starts, introduce the lesson with ideas or methods that will encourage students to become involved in the learning process. Teaching the story will take on several forms: through telling, through singing, through Scripture memory, and through activity. Be sure to review the lesson as well as previous lessons. Last, and probably most important, give your class something to apply or live out as a result of the lesson.



## 2) Begin the Lesson

<u>Time Period</u>	<u>People</u>	<u>Event</u>
Beginnings	God	God made all things.
Beginnings	Adam and Eve	Sin
Beginnings	Noah	Worldwide flood
Beginnings	wicked people	Confused languages
Beginnings of a Nation	Abraham	Special promises by God
Beginnings of a Nation	Moses	Plagues
Possessing the Land	Joshua	Enter Promised Land
Possessing the Land	Gideon	Cycles of sin
United Kingdom	David	A special King forever
Divided Kingdom	Elijah and Elisha	Special prophets in Israel
Taken from Home	Jeremiah, Daniel, Ezekiel	Israel sent to Assyria
Return to Home	Nehemiah and Ezra	Israel returned to land
Return to Home	Daniel	400 years of change
Early Life of Jesus	Mary and Joseph	the birth of Jesus
Ministry of Jesus Christ	12 disciples	Jesus called 12 apostles
Ministry of Jesus Christ	Jesus	Miracles of Jesus
Ministry of Jesus Christ	Blind man	Healing power of Jesus
Betrayal and Death	Jesus Christ	Entry into Jerusalem

### Teacher Helps

#### Begin the Lesson Activity: Match Time Periods, People, and Events

The teacher should form three stacks of paper. One stack should be the “time period” stack. 18 different eras should be underneath this “time period” piece of paper. Do the same thing for “people” and “event.” Then mix them up and have the children arrange them so that they have the correct time period with the correct people with the correct event. For instance, when matched correctly, Beginnings, God, and God made all things should all be in the same group.



## 3) Teach the Lesson

At this point in time, Jesus was very popular. If you were going to have a “Popularity Contest” in your class, what are some things that make people popular?

What are some good things about being popular?

What are some bad things about being popular?



## Tell the Story

The plot to kill Jesus and Lazarus grew and grew. The main Jewish leaders did not like it that so many of the Jews were becoming followers of Jesus. The next day, at the Feast of the Passover, the crowd heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So, they gathered palm branches as Jesus entered the city of David and they shouted “Save now!” Earlier, at the request of Jesus, the disciples secured a donkey for Jesus to ride into Jerusalem. They did not know it at the time but this was fulfilling a prophecy that Zechariah wrote hundreds of years earlier.

Jesus was becoming a very popular person. Many people thought that He was going to set up His kingdom at this time. He had rejected this idea in the past but now seemed like a good time. The Jewish religious leaders were afraid because Jesus had become so popular that they were losing many of their followers. The Romans were worried because this “Jesus movement” was getting out of hand. On one hand, so many of the people were greatly enthused about the popular Jesus. But, not everybody felt that way, especially the Jewish religious leaders and the Roman government.

Once inside Jerusalem, Jesus declared two prophecies that most people missed ... maybe everybody missed them. He told the people that a kernel of wheat had to fall into the ground and die before it could yield a great harvest. He spoke this because He knew He was about to die, even though He was very popular at the time. Jesus also told the people that He would be lifted up from the earth. He spoke this to tell of His coming resurrection after His death. The disciples understood all of this after the resurrection but when it happened, they were clueless. They had no idea.

Some Greeks wanted to see Jesus so they sent word through several of Jesus’ disciples. Jesus responded to them that the time for Him to be glorified was here. Upon saying that, a voice from heaven reinforced what Jesus had just told the disciples. The voice said, “I have glorified my name and I will glorify it again.” When the crowd heard this voice, they grew even more thunderous.

After Jesus said these things, He withdrew from the crowd and hid Himself. He was wildly popular amongst the crowds, yet they did not believe in Him. They loved His popularity but they did not know who He really was. Isaiah wrote about this 700 years earlier when he wrote, “*Lord, who has believed our report and to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed?*” Now, Jesus knew He was in His final days on earth. His death was quickly approaching.

### Teacher Helps

#### **Tell the Story** **Activity: A Kernel of** **Wheat**

The teacher should bring a kernel of wheat to class. When this kernel of wheat is planted, it appears to die. But, after it germinates and grows above the ground, many more seeds are produced. They can be used to plant again or used for bread.

Emphasize to the class that a kernel of wheat is small. It must first be buried in the ground before it can reproduce itself many times over.



## Memory Verse

John 12:24 (ESV) - Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.



## Praise and Worship

Praise and Worship styles vary greatly around the world. It is the intent of this curriculum that praise and worship songs be selected that best fit the content of this lesson. Recommendations for praise and worship are given and this music can generally be located at [www.itunes.com](http://www.itunes.com). However, the teacher can feel free to select a similar praise and worship song.

“Arise My Love” by Newsong is recommended for this lesson.



## Bible Activity

“Digging Deeper”

If possible, bring a small hand-held trowel to class to use as a visual help in this activity. The teacher should make a statement, and if you can “dig deeper” to find the greater meaning, raise your hand and you can hold the shovel as you give us all the answer.

1. Jesus asked his disciples to bring a donkey for Him to ride on into Jerusalem. (This was a fulfillment of a prophecy written by Zechariah hundreds of years earlier. The donkey was a poor person's way to ride, not a king.)
2. Jesus said a kernel of wheat had to fall to the ground and die to produce a harvest. (He was speaking of His own death.)
3. The crowds of people waved palm branches and praised Him as He rode into Jerusalem. (They loved the miracles, but didn't truly believe or know Who He was.)
4. Jesus said He would be lifted up from the earth. (He was talking about His resurrection after He would die.)

## Teacher Helps

### Memory Verse Activity: Scripture Scrambler

Write the words to a verse on the top of a paper. Then number the paper, one number for each word in the verse. Beside the numbers, write a scrambled word to the verse. Challenge your children to unscramble each word to the verse in its correct order.

#### Example:

- |   |        |        |
|---|--------|--------|
| 1 | lyrtu  | truly  |
| 2 | ssnleu | unless |

### Bible Activity

This story is full of things that were full of meaning beyond what was easy to see. Just like a worker in a gold mine, or coal mine has to dig down deep to get the gold, coal, or whatever they are looking for, we also have to dig deep into God's word to find out what He wants us to know.



## 4) Review the Lesson

Based on the lives of those who followed Jesus, rate yourself on this grid:

• Following Jesus' example	1	2	3	4	5	6
• Understanding God's Word	1	2	3	4	5	6
• Faith in Jesus	1	2	3	4	5	6
• Ready to deny selfish desires	1	2	3	4	5	6
• Give glory to God	1	2	3	4	5	6
• Stay away from bad relationships	1	2	3	4	5	6
• Respond to God's leading	1	2	3	4	5	6
• Overall commitment to God	1	2	3	4	5	6

## Teacher Helps

### Review Activity: Grid for Growth

The teacher should instruct the class of children that the example of Jesus should help us evaluate our own lives.

Children should fill out this chart (1 = low; 6 = high).



## 5) Apply the Lesson

Some people followed Jesus because He was popular. Some people followed Jesus because they had put their faith in Him.

Have you put your faith completely in Jesus Christ? Are you following Him because of what He can do for you or because of your faith in Him?

**Story Line: An enthusiastic crowd welcomed Jesus when He arrived in Jerusalem.**



# Adventure Number 69

## Matthew 23:37 - 24:31

**Story Line: Two days after Jesus' triumphal entry, He taught about future events.**



### 1) Study the Lesson (before class)

- Jesus entered the city of Jerusalem with great sorrow. He knew He would be rejected. However, there would come a time when He would be welcomed (Zechariah 12:10). When Jesus said, *"Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord,"* He was referring to Psalm 118:26. This is probably a reference to the beginning of His millennial rule on earth.
- As Jesus left the temple area, He told the disciples that not one of these temple stones would remain. This prompted a discussion with the disciples. Two direct questions were asked of Jesus. 1) When will this happen? and 2) What will be the sign of Your coming and the end of the age?
- The first response of Jesus to these questions was that the disciples should not let anyone mislead them. Looking for signs could easily lead to deception. This period will be characterized by people claiming to be Jesus Christ, and by wars, famines, and earthquakes.
- The signs of Matthew 24:4-8 correspond with the seven seals in Revelation 6.
- The *"abomination of desolation"* spoken of by Daniel (9:27) and referred to here by the Lord could be referring to the time when the antichrist will enter the temple, set up an image of himself, and direct everyone to worship it (2 Thessalonians 2:4; Revelation 13:14-15).
- Immediately after this time of distress, the Lord will return to earth accompanied by great signs from heaven. Christ's coming will be obvious to everyone.

### Teacher Helps

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*Timeline:  
Betrayal and Death*



## 2) Begin the Lesson

There are eight basic concepts that are emphasized throughout all of the Bible. We have studied these truths in previous lessons. Ask the children if they can name them and tell a little bit about each one. They are:

1. God. In the beginning, there was a very powerful God. (Lesson 1: The Eternal God; Lesson 27: The Exodus; Lesson 40: The Reign of David)
2. Man. God created many things. He created man and woman to be His special friends. (Lessons 3: Creation of the Universe; Lesson 4: Creation of People; Lesson 24: Moses Leads His People)
3. Sin. Man and woman disobeyed God. They did not do what He told them to do. (Lesson 7: Beginning of Human Sin; Lesson 33: Unbelief at Kadesh; Lesson 43: The Divided Kingdom)
4. Death. God punished man and woman for their disobedience. Death, in the Bible, refers to separation. (Lesson 8: The Origin of Death; Lesson 16: The Tower of Babel; Lesson 46: The Exiles of Israel and Judah)
5. Christ. God sent His one and only Son, His unique Son, who lived a perfect life. (Lesson 9: Promise of a Victor Over Satan; Lesson 45: Prophecies of a Coming Messiah; Lesson 52: Birth of Jesus Christ)
6. Cross. Jesus died on the cross for the sins of the world. (Lesson 11: Provision of Coverings; Lesson 32: The Day of Atonement; Lesson 45: Prophecies of a Coming Messiah; Lesson 56: Announcement by John)
7. Faith. If anyone places their faith in Christ, God welcomes them. (Lesson 13: Cain and Abel; Lesson 34: The Bronze Serpent; Lesson 58: The Religious Leader; Lesson 61: Jesus Has Power Over a Stormy Sea)
8. Life. God gives eternal life to those who put their faith in Him. (Lesson 5: Life in Paradise; Lesson 38: Bright Lights in an Era of Darkness; Lesson 56: Announcement by John the Baptist)



## 3) Teach the Lesson

Are you ever troubled by what will happen at the end of time? The disciples were troubled also and asked Jesus about the end times.

### Teacher Helps

#### Review Activity: Eight Basic Gospel Truths - One Complete Story

The teacher should emphasize these eight gospel concepts throughout Scripture. They are foundational to telling children the one story of redemption found in the Bible. We will emphasize these eight truths regularly.

Ask the children if they can think of how these eight gospel principles are emphasized in the first 68 lessons that we have studied.



## Tell the Story

### Teacher Helps

On the Mount of Olives, Jesus looked over the city of Jerusalem with His disciples; He wept. He was so burdened for the people. He wanted the people of Jerusalem and all of Israel to welcome Him and worship Him. In fact, He came to His own and His own did not receive Him.

When Jesus left the temple area, He commented to His disciples that not one stone of the buildings in the temple area would be left standing on the other. This might have been hard to believe because Solomon's Colonnade or long sequence of columns was 1562 feet long (476 meters). There were 160 columns that stretched a 921 foot (281 meters) length. Surely, if this was destroyed, something really went wrong. This statement aroused their curiosity about the future again. So, one of the disciples asked Him, "*When will this happen?*" Another question came to Him, "*What will be the sign of Your coming and of the end of the age?*"

Immediately, Jesus told them to watch out for deceivers. That was His first response. There would come people who claimed to be the Christ but were really imposters. Everyone should watch out for these imposters. The next thing He told them was that there would be wars, rumors of wars, famines, and earthquakes. There will be lots of hatred. But, the good news of the kingdom will be preached around the world and then the end would come.

Then, He told them to be ready to run to the mountains when they saw the desolation of the temple. It would be a very troublesome time. Probably, the antichrist would enter the temple, put up an image of himself, and force everyone to worship him. The antichrist is the exact opposite of Jesus Christ only he will force people to worship Him. Jesus referred to words that Daniel spoke hundreds of years earlier. The apostle John would write about these same events also.

In the end times, there was going to be trouble like never before. If these days were not cut short, no one would survive. So, Jesus left them with an encouraging word. Because of those who would become believers, the perilous times at the end of the age would be cut short.

Jesus closed with this illustration. He told His followers that the Master was going to show up. He would not show up when they expected it but He would show up. They should be ready for His arrival, whenever that would be. Anyone who claimed to be a follower of Christ should always be ready and always be vigilant. Jesus, the Master, would come back.

### **Tell the Story** **Activity: A Replica of** **the Temple**

The teacher should create a replica of the temple or show a picture of the temple area.





## Memory Verse

Matthew 24:24 (ESV) - For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible.



## Praise and Worship

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## Bible Activity

“Get Ready!” We are going to play an imaginary game today. Everyone close your eyes and imagine this: You mother and father have gone out to the store to buy food for the family. They will be gone for several hours, and they have left you a list of jobs to do before they get home. We will imagine 2 different attitudes and actions that you might choose.

1) You decide that you will lay around or play games for a long time, because you don't need all the time to do the jobs. You watch your favorite TV program, then you fall asleep. When you wake up, you realize that your mom and dad could be home at any moment, and you haven't even started the jobs! Oh no!! How do you feel? (allow children to respond – possible answers: afraid, hurrying, trying to take shortcuts so you can finish, hoping you don't get caught, ashamed that you might disappoint them)

2) You decide to do the jobs first thing, and you have plenty of time to do all the jobs really well. Actually, when you have finished the list, you notice that there are some weeds that need to be pulled up in the garden, so you do that extra job, to surprise your mom and dad. Soon it is almost time for them to be home, how do you feel? (possible answers: happy, glad that you will make your parents happy, can't wait to see them and show how you have obeyed)

## Teacher Helps

### Memory Verse Activity: Scripture Log

Make a page for children to take home that shows down the left column: Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

Across the top, put practice times and review times.

Children should work on this memory verse each day and mark on their log when they practiced this verse and when they review this verse. Bring this log to class with you next week.

This type of activity will encourage Scripture memory and obedience throughout the week, not just as part of the lesson.



## 4) Review the Lesson

The teacher should divide the class up into two teams.

- One team could be the “red” team and receive red cards or pieces of paper. The other team could be the “yellow” team and receive yellow cards or pieces of paper.
- Each team has the responsibility of writing out 3 to 5 questions that they want the other team to answer.
- Each question has to pertain to the lesson today.
- After questions are written out, the other team has five to seven minutes to answer the questions. The “yellow” team will answer the questions from the “red” team and the “red” team will answer questions from the “yellow” team.



## 5) Apply the Lesson

Jesus knew what the future held. Name two things that you are concerned about regarding the future. Now, commit those to Jesus and trust Him for the things that concern you about the future. He knows the future and He is concerned about the future of the world as well as your personal future. Pray to Him and ask Him to give you peace and confidence in Him.

**Story Line: Two days after Jesus’ triumphal entry, He taught about future events.**

### Teacher Helps

#### Review Activity: Two Team Review

After an appropriate time, the teacher will gather up the cards or pieces of paper and reward points to the best questions and best answers from each team.

It is highly advisable to have 2 adult teachers in every classroom for kids. If there are 2 adults, then one adult should be the leader of each team.

# Adventure Number 70

## Luke 22:7-20 and John 14:1-27

**Story Line: Jesus gave His disciples valuable instructions and comforting promises.**



### 1) Study the Lesson (before class)

- The last meal that Jesus ate with His disciples is referred to as the Passover meal. Yet, John refers to the time when Jesus died as the exact time that lambs were slain for the Passover meal (John 19:14). Probably, the Passover was an eight day celebration. It was really Passover week.
- It would be traditional for women to carry the water so when a man was carrying water, he must have stood out. It was at this man's house that the disciples and Jesus would have this last meal. Evidently, the man was a believer. Even in preparation for His death, Jesus was doing miraculous signs.
- The Passover celebration commemorated the escape of Israel from Egypt when a lamb was slain and the blood of the lamb was placed on the doorposts of each believing family.
- Jesus taught the disciples that the eating of bread and the drinking of the wine were the symbolic beginning of the New Covenant. The symbolism showed that the body and blood of Jesus were necessary for the beginning of the New Covenant.
- The wine and the bread were symbolic of the broken body and shed blood of the Lamb of God who would take away the sins of the world. Jesus declared to the apostles that this was His last meal with them.
- The New Covenant provided for the regeneration of the Jewish nation as well as those who came to faith in the Lamb of God. Believers in the church age also participate in this.

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## 2) Begin the Lesson

### Adventure Number 67: The Power of Jesus Over Death

1. What did Jesus mean when He said He was the resurrection?
2. Read John 11:25.
3. Jesus Christ has power over death.
4. Thank God that Jesus conquered death.

### Adventure Number 68: The Triumphal Entry of Jesus

1. Why did Jesus ride into Jerusalem on a donkey?
2. Read Zechariah 9:8-9.
3. An enthusiastic crowd welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem.
4. Pray to follow Christ, even when it is not popular.

### Adventure Number 69: A Prophetic Talk on the Mount of Olives

1. What future events did Jesus tell His disciples about?
2. Read Matthew 24.
3. Two days after His triumphal entry, Jesus talked to His disciples about future events.
4. Pray that we would recognize His ability to know future events.



## 3) Teach the Lesson

Have you ever felt afraid of the future? What are some events that make you feel fearful? This lesson will let us see that Jesus Christ has very comforting things to say about the future.

### Teacher Helps

#### **Begin the Lesson** **Activity: Ask, Read,** **Talk, Pray**

A good review strategy from 3 previous lessons will focus on four main elements.

- 1) Ask a question.
- 2) Read the Bible.
- 3) Talk about it.
- 4) Pray to God.



## Tell the Story

### Teacher Helps

#### Tell the Story Activity: Celebration

The teacher should bring in a special meal or snack for a celebration. Let the children eat the snack or meal before telling the story. Then, tell the story about Jesus' last supper with the apostles.

It was a great time of celebration in Jerusalem. Many people were in town for the week-long celebration of the Passover. Lots of people were excited to see Jesus and they were hoping He would do some special miracle for them. But, not everybody was excited to see Jesus. The Jews were still trying to figure out a way to kill Jesus. That is when it happened ... Satan entered Judas, one of the twelve apostles. So, Judas left the other apostles and conferred with the religious leaders who were trying to kill Jesus. They could not believe this ... one of Jesus' own followers was betraying Him! He was so popular that they never thought it would happen like this.

The day came to eat the Passover lamb. This reminded everybody when Israel was in Egypt and they escaped. By faith, they put the blood of a lamb on the doorposts and the angel passed over every home that had the blood of the lamb on the doorposts. Jesus told Peter and John to prepare the meal and they immediately wanted to know where they were going to eat the meal. Jesus told Peter and John that they would see a man carrying a jug of water and they should ask him if they could use his house. In those days, it would be very unusual to see a man carrying a jug of water. Women did this almost all the time.

Well, they found the man and he showed them a large room on the second story of his house. They could eat the Passover meal there. When all the apostles and Jesus arrived to eat the meal, Jesus told them how much He was looking forward to eating this meal with them. Taking bread, he blessed it, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, *"This is my body, given for you. Eat it in my memory."* He did the same with the cup after supper, saying, *"This cup is the new covenant written in my blood, blood poured out for you."*

Then, Jesus warned them that one of them would betray Him. The betrayer was present at the table. Immediately, the apostles began quizzing each other and they became suspicious of each other. They thought, "Which one of us would betray Him?" Jesus told Peter that He was praying for him and Peter responded back to the Lord and told Him that he would do anything for Jesus. Jesus told him that before the rooster crowed three times, that Peter would have denied Jesus three times.

While in the upper room, Jesus also told His apostles about the peace that He would leave with them. He told them that He was going to prepare a special place for them where they could be with Him. He also told them that He was the only truth, the only way, and the only way to find life.





## Memory Verse

John 14:6 (ESV) - Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."



## Praise and Worship

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## Bible Activity

"Jesus' Last Supper with His Disciples"

Well guess what? For those of us that have Jesus as our Savior, we are going on a really big trip one day! We will be going to heaven!! If you were going on a special trip here on earth, you could find out what it will be like in many ways. Maybe you have been there before. Maybe you know someone who has been there, and you could ask them about the place. If not, you could look on the internet to find out what it is like. For our trip to heaven, we have some clues about what it will be like from God Himself! He has told us in the Bible that it will be so wonderful that no one can even imagine how great it is. He tells us that He is preparing it for us. God is preparing it for us!! Let's see how many other things we can think of that God's word has told us about heaven. The teacher should allow time for responses: streets of gold, gates of pearl, perfect, no sin, no tears, no death, always with Jesus, etc. Make a list for all to see of what God's word says about heaven. Jesus knew he was going to suffer and die, and He also knew that He was going to be in heaven soon. It gave Him great peace, and it can give us great peace also.

### Teacher Helps

#### Memory Verse Activity: Hop It

In large letters, write phrases of the verse on sheets of paper. On the floor, tape the papers in a mixed up fashion, but close enough for succeeding words to be reached in a step. Children should step on one word at a time in the proper order to quote the verse. Let each child have a turn of hopping on the verse.

#### Bible Activity: Jesus' Last Supper with His Disciples

Have you ever gone on a big trip? It is so exciting to think about how wonderful it will be! Maybe you are going to visit a friend or relative. Maybe you are going for a special holiday.



## 4) Review the Lesson

Agree/Disagree Statements (If you disagree, why do you disagree?)

1. The Passover was normally a week long celebration. (Agree.)
2. It was customary for men to carry water in this time. (Disagree. Normally, women carried the water.)
3. The Passover was done as a remembrance of crossing the Red Sea. (Disagree. It commemorated when the Israelites placed the blood of a lamb on the doorposts and escaped death.)
4. Jesus told Peter and John to prepare the Passover Meal. (Agree.)
5. When Jesus told the apostles that one of them would betray Him, they all knew it was Judas. (Disagree. They were all suspicious of each other.)



## 5) Apply the Lesson

Imagine a big house ... a very big house ... a very big house that is lavishly prepared. Now, imagine that this house is prepared just for you. Jesus told the disciples that He was going to prepare a very special place for them.

What can you do to prepare to enter this place that Jesus has prepared?

**Story Line: Jesus gave His disciples valuable instructions and comforting promises.**

### Teacher Helps

#### Review Activity: Agree and Disagree Statements

Kids will have fun disagreeing or agreeing with these statements. You may want to make up some statements of your own for them to agree or disagree with.

# Adventure Number 71

## Matthew 26:1-56

**THEME: Judas betrayed Jesus.**



### 1) Study the Lesson (before class)

- There was a deliberate plot to kill Jesus. Without this plot, there would have been no charges brought against Jesus.
- Matthew and Mark record this story to have happened right after the last supper. The contrast is obvious: the devotion of Mary and the betrayal by Judas.
- Judas probably betrayed Jesus because he expected a political overthrow of the Roman government. Judas was the treasurer for the group of disciples. When he realized Jesus would not establish His kingdom as Judas expected, Judas chose to betray Jesus for 30 pieces of silver, the redemptive price of a slave.
- Judas betrayed Jesus with a kiss in the garden, a sign to the Roman soldiers that this was Jesus whom they should arrest.
- Judas pointed out Jesus not because it was hard to recognize Jesus but because Judas would become the formal accuser in a trial of law.
- Peter cut off the ear of a servant of the high priest, Malchus. Peter was trying to prevent defeat. However, Peter did not realize that Jesus had to die to gain victory.
- The kingdom of God was not to go forward with swords but with faith and obedience.
- The religious leaders could have arrested Jesus anytime but they chose to do it at night because the crowds were usually gone at night.
- The Jewish council recommended death which was approved by the Romans.

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Each of the five steps to teaching these lessons is a vital part of the lesson. Preparation before the lesson is extremely important and takes place in the days leading up to class. Then when class time starts, introduce the lesson with ideas or methods that will encourage students to become involved in the learning process. Teaching the story will take on several forms: through telling, through singing, through Scripture memory, and through activity. Be sure to review the lesson as well as previous lessons. Last, and probably most important, give your class something to apply or live out as a result of the lesson.



## 2) Begin the Lesson

Let's review the time periods that we have studied so far:

- In order, what are these eras or time periods? (Beginnings, Beginnings of a Nation, Possessing the Land, United Kingdom, Divided Kingdom, Taken from Home, Return to Home, The Early Life of Jesus Christ, and The Ministry of Jesus Christ)
- Who are some of the people that we met in each time period?
  - 1) Beginnings: Adam and Eve, Lucifer, Cain, Abel, and Noah
  - 2) Beginnings of a Nation: Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Rebekah, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, and Pharaoh
  - 3) Possessing the Land: Joshua, Gideon, and Samuel
  - 4) United Kingdom: Saul and David
  - 5) Divided Kingdom: Jeroboam, Elijah, and Elisha
  - 6) Taken from Home: Daniel and Ezekiel
  - 8) Return to Home: Ezra and Daniel
  - 7) The Early Life of Jesus Christ to Home: Anna, Simeon, Mary, Joseph, and Jesus
  - 8) The Ministry of Jesus Christ: Satan, John the Baptist, the disciples, Nicodemus, the woman at the well, and Jesus Christ
  - 9) Betrayal and Death of Jesus Christ: Jesus Christ, His disciples, and Judas

### Teacher Helps

#### Begin the Lesson Activity: Ball Toss

Gather your class of children in a circle with a small ball. Have children take turns rolling the ball gently to each other. When a child catches the ball, have each child answer one part of the question. At this point, do not correct children if they give a wrong answer. Let each child that wants to participate and then roll the ball to another person in the class for the next question.



## 3) Teach the Lesson

Think of a friend who has betrayed you. You trusted them and then they turned on you. You thought they were your friend, but when you needed them, they left you and even told lies about you.

Jesus Christ also had a friend like that.



## Tell the Story

On Wednesday, Jesus told the disciples about the last times. He had told them that in the end of time, some would be bound for the fires of hell and some would be live in the happiness of heaven. Those who believe and do acts of mercy would be the kind of people that would be headed for heaven. He was telling them that you do not have to have money and you do not have to have some kind of special abilities. You just have to see deep spiritual and physical needs and meet them. Those people, He taught, are the kind that will be in heaven.

After He had finished telling them this, He told them that He would be betrayed and crucified. Then, a woman put a lot of expensive perfume on the feet of Jesus. The disciples were furious. They thought that this perfume could have been sold and the money used to feed the poor. Jesus rebuked the disciples and told them that He would not be with them much longer. At about that time, Judas was looking for just the right time to betray Jesus. He had agreed with the Pharisees on a price to betray Jesus ... 30 pieces of silver.

On Thursday, they began to look for a place to have supper for the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Jesus told them of a place that would host this special dinner. So, that night, all the disciples and Jesus met together for the last meal. Jesus told them about His body which would be broken and His blood which would be spilled out on the ground. He passed around a loaf of bread which symbolized His broken body. Everyone ate. Then, He passed around a cup of wine which symbolized His blood which would be spilled out on the ground. Everyone drank. Then, Jesus told the disciples that one of them would betray Him. Judas asked if it was he.

After dinner, the disciples and Jesus went a short distance to the Mount of Olives to pray. But, Judas got the Roman soldiers so that he could betray Jesus and get that money. While Jesus was praying in a garden on the Mount of Olives, His disciples could not stay awake. Even after Jesus told them several times to stay awake, they still went to sleep. That was until Judas came with the Roman soldiers who took Jesus away. Judas had told the Roman soldiers that the one whom Judas kissed was Jesus. Then, the soldiers would definitely know who they were supposed to take into custody. Jesus did not resist their arrest but Peter took a sword and cut off one of the servant's ears. In mercy, Jesus healed the ear of this servant of the high priest. When the Roman soldiers arrested Jesus, the rest of the disciples ran away and deserted Jesus.

### Teacher Helps

#### Tell the Story Activity: Chronology of the Last Week in the Life of Jesus Christ

The teacher should divide the class up into two teams. The goal of each team is to give the correct order of events in the last week of Jesus before His crucifixion.

- Jesus raises a friend in Bethany from the dead.
- The disciples get a donkey from Bethphage, just like Jesus told them.
- Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a donkey.
- Jesus tells His disciples about end times.
- A woman puts expensive perfume on the feet of Jesus
- Last Supper
- Jesus and His disciples go to pray on the Mount of Olives.
- Judas betrays Jesus.





## Memory Verse

Matthew 26:56 (ESV) - But all this has taken place that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled. Then all the disciples left him and fled.



## Praise and Worship

Praise and Worship styles vary greatly around the world. It is the intent of this curriculum that praise and worship songs be selected that best fit the content of this lesson. Recommendations for praise and worship are given and this music can generally be located at [www.itunes.com](http://www.itunes.com). However, the teacher can feel free to select a similar praise and worship song.

“Arise My Love” by Newsong is recommended for this lesson.



## Bible Activity

If possible, bring a dictionary to class. Also bring at least six small treats, but keep that part a secret! Before class, write each of the following words on a separate piece of paper or card: betray, humility, treasurer, agony, darkness, submit. Ask for volunteers to choose a card, then look up the word that is on the card. They should then read the definition to the class. The teacher (or student if they are able to do this) should write the definition of each word on its respective card. After defining these words, say: we are going to listen for each of these words (or ideas) during the story today. When you hear one of these words either said, or described, hold up the card with that word on it. Once the story is finished, go back and talk about each of these key words and concepts.

### Teacher Helps

#### Memory Verse Activity: Around the Class

Have the children sit in a circle while music is playing. Pass around a phrase of the memory verse. When the music stops, whoever is holding the phrase of the memory verse should try to quote the verse. Do this until all phrases are memorized. Then, do the same thing for the whole memory verse.



## 4) Review the Lesson

Volunteers from the class should list on a board or big piece of paper that everyone can see, the 5 Most Important Things To Know from this lesson.

For instance:

1. Jesus warned people about going to hell on Wednesday.
2. On Thursday, the disciples and Jesus had their Last Supper at a special place designated by Jesus.
3. Judas betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver.
4. The disciples could not stay awake in the garden when they were supposed to be praying.
5. Jesus did not retaliate with violence when He was arrested by the Roman soldiers.



## 5) Apply the Lesson

In Lesson 45, we learned that Jesus would be betrayed. In what ways was Jesus betrayed by Judas and the other disciples? The teacher should read Isaiah 53 and remind the class that this part of Scripture was now going to be fulfilled. Isaiah wrote this 700 years before Jesus was born. The betrayal of Jesus was something that God knew would happen.

**THEME: Judas betrayed Jesus.**

### Review Activity: 5 Scribes

Have five different volunteers come to the front of the class to write one of the five most important things to know from this lesson. Ask the class why these are important.

# Adventure Number 72

## Matthew 27:1-24

**Story Line: Jesus was innocent but the crowds shouted, "Crucify Him!"**



### 1) Study the Lesson (before class)

- The Jewish religious leaders had to convince the Roman authorities to crucify Jesus because they did not have the authority to do it themselves.
- To be sentenced to die, Jesus had to be brought before the Roman governor, Pilate. Pilate governed from Caesarea but happened to be in Jerusalem for a special occasion. Pilate had one accusation brought against Jesus, that He claimed to be the King of the Jews. The Jews arrested Jesus for blasphemy but that charge meant nothing to the Romans. If Jesus called Himself a King, then the Romans would act.
- Judas realized that he was wrong to betray Jesus but by that time it was too late. He decided to get rid of the money which only reminded him of his sinful actions.
- Neither Pontius Pilate, the governor of the Roman province of Judea, nor Herod Antipas, the Jewish ruler of the region of Galilee, found any guilt in Jesus. But to satisfy the Jews, Pilate delivered Jesus to be crucified.
- When Pilate asked Jesus if He was the King of the Jews, the answer came back positive. Pilate realized that this King was no threat to the Roman empire and tried to release Jesus. However, the crowd would have nothing to do with that.
- Because it was Passover, it was a custom to release a criminal. A notorious criminal named Barabbas and Jesus were the possibilities for a release. Pilate thought the Jewish people would pick Jesus whom they loved. However, the crowd wanted nothing to do with that and shouted "Crucify Him!" When Pilate wanted further confirmation from the crowd, they only shouted louder "Crucify Him!"

### Teacher Helps

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*Timeline:*

*Betrayal and Death*



## 2) Begin the Lesson

Remind your class that you are learning the one story of the Bible. While there are many stories in the Bible, they are linked to one major theme or story in the Bible. It is a story of hope. So, to help your class know that story and be able to put all the lessons together, we are going to review the lessons from the past. Ask, **“What are the main events that we have studied in the Bible?”**

- God always existed and He is very powerful.
- God created the earth and everything in it.
- Lucifer, or Satan, deceived Adam and Eve.
- God spared Noah and his family because Noah was a righteous man.
- God made special promises to Abraham.
- Jacob wrestled with the angel of God and got a new name, Israel.
- God led the Israelites out of Egypt.
- God established a moral code called the Ten Commandments
- God chose David to be king. He will one day send someone to be King forever.
- The kingdom was divided in two because of the sins of Solomon.
- Israel and Judah were exiled to Assyria and Babylon.
- The Jews returned from exile to build the temple and the walls.
- Between the Old and New Testaments, a lot changed.
- Jesus was born.
- Early events in the life of Jesus marked Him as a special Person.
- Jesus chose 12 men to become His committed followers.
- Jesus showed His great power over a storm and demons.
- Jesus entered Jerusalem with shouts of praise from the crowds.
- Judas betrayed Jesus.



## 3) Teach the Lesson

Some people are very demanding. They want things and they want them now. Have you ever met someone who was very demanding? How did that make you feel to be around them?

Some people in Jerusalem were very demanding. They even wanted the death of Jesus, even though He did nothing wrong.

### Teacher Helps

#### Begin the Lesson Activity: The Main Events

Review is a significant part of learning. Nineteen events are listed here. Write each event on a slip of paper or poster board and have children put them in chronological order. Let them work together in small teams 2 or 3. Time how long it takes each team to put these events in the right order. Winner gets a prize.



## Tell the Story

### Teacher Helps

Thursday night was certainly eventful for Jesus. Jesus had the Last Supper with His disciples where He reminded them of His upcoming crucifixion. Judas betrayed Jesus. The disciples could not stay awake long enough to pray with Jesus. The Roman soldiers came to arrest the Christ. In fear, the disciples all fled. Then, the Roman soldiers took Jesus to several unfair judges.

The Roman soldiers were joined by the Jewish police. Together, they tied up Jesus and took Him to Annas, who had been the high priest. Peter followed from a distance to watch where they took Jesus. When someone identified Peter as a follower of Jesus, he immediately denied it. After Jesus appeared before Annas, the soldiers and police took Him to the current high priest, Caiphas, and the entire Jewish Council. There they tried to find charges against Jesus that would guarantee His death. One person after another brought false accusations against Jesus, but nothing was believable.

After that, the Roman soldiers and Jewish police took Jesus to Pilate, the governor of Judea. The accusations of the people focused on something that Jesus said earlier, that He was a king. The people thought this might incite the Roman governor. So, Pilate asked Jesus if He was a king to which Jesus responded, "You have said so." During the interrogation, Pilate found out that Jesus was from Galilee. After further questioning, Pilate told the Jewish leaders that he found no fault in Jesus Christ. Because Jesus was from Galilee, Pilate sent Jesus to Herod, the ruler of Galilee, who just happened to be in Jerusalem at the time. When Herod questioned Jesus, Jesus refused to answer Him. Now, the Roman soldiers were engaged in mocking Jesus and making fun of Him. They even put a royal robe on Him and pretended Jesus was a false king. Herod joined in on this mockery and eventually sent Jesus back to Pilate, the governor of Judea.

Now, while Jesus appeared the second time in front of Pilate, the people joined in the mockery. They told Pilate, "Put Him to death on a cross!" They were loud and forceful. They kept shouting, "Put Him to death on a cross!" Three times, Pilate told the crowd that he found no fault in Christ. But the people persisted and eventually their voices prevailed.

Pilate declared his own innocence and sent Jesus away to be put to death on a cross. Before Pilate sent Him away, Pilate had Jesus beaten and whipped. In mockery, the soldiers placed a crown of thorns on the head of Jesus. Then, they led Him away to Golgotha, where they would crucify Him.

### Tell the Story Activity: 5 Court Rooms

Between Thursday night and Friday morning, Jesus appeared before at least 5 different courts who judged Him:

- Annas  
(John 18:12-24)
- Caiphas  
(Matthew 26:57-64)
- Pontius Pilate  
(Luke 23:1-6)
- Herod  
(Luke 23:8-11)
- Pontius Pilate again  
(Luke 23:13-23 and  
Matthew 27:24-26)

### "Crucify Him"

When the crowd shouted, "Crucify Him," they were actually saying "Put Him to death on a cross."





## Memory Verse

1 Corinthians 5:7 (ESV) - For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.



## Praise and Worship

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“Arise My Love” by Newsong is recommended for this lesson.



## Bible Activity

Ask the children: **“Have you ever been accused of something that you didn’t do?”** (Allow time to respond) **How did that make you feel? When Jesus was accused of doing wrong, was He guilty? (No) Had Jesus ever done anything wrong? (No) Did He try to argue with His accusers? Why not? Let’s see what that might have felt like...** Choose one child that volunteers to be the “accused.” The teacher will lead the “accusing” of the volunteer. Tell the class that anyone who wants to may bring an accusation, but the volunteer is not to answer in his/her defense. Possible accusations: “Joe stole some food from the market” or “Mary got in trouble at school for hitting someone, and I think we should tell her parents” (Be creative, and get the other kids to join in on each accusation – such as “yes, I saw them do it!” or “that’s not all they did, I know something even worse!” After the volunteer has been accused of 2-3 things, ask for a different volunteer to be accused. Let several children have a turn. If you run short of volunteers, let the kids accuse you (teacher) of a few things. Emphasize that it is hard to not defend yourself when you know you have done nothing wrong.

Say: **“We were just playing a little game here, with no consequences.”** How much harder would it be if this had been REAL? What if you were accused and you knew you would get a really bad spanking if the teacher believed the story? Or what if you were on trial in a court and the punishment was death? That would be a different story!

## Teacher Helps

### Bible Memory Activity: Relay Race

Form two teams. Put the memory verse in large letters about ten yards away from the teams. Have children run to the memory verse and read the next word of the verse out loud so that everyone can hear. When each child has read his one word, go back to the team, touch the next person in line, and repeat the process until all words of the verse have been read.

### Bible Activity

Make a cross out of construction paper. Learn the Bible verse. The students will then need to sit in chairs in a circle. Everyone must close their eyes. Place the cross under a chair. That student then has a chance to say the verse. If the child can say the verse, he or she gets to place the cross under someone else’s chair. Continue until everyone gets a turn.



## 4) Review the Lesson

Divide the class into two teams. Give the teams one minute to write down as many statements as they can about the appearance of Jesus before unjust judges. Here are a few ideas:

- After the arrest of Jesus, the disciples all fled. Peter followed from a distance but still denied that he knew Jesus when someone asked him about his friendship with Jesus.
- Jesus first appeared before Jewish priests, Annas and Caiphas.
- Then, Jesus appeared before a Roman governor, Pilate.
- The Roman soldiers, the Roman governors, the Jewish leaders, and the Jewish people all mocked and ridiculed Jesus.
- Pilate declared his own innocence, but still had Jesus sentenced to die even though Pilate knew that Jesus had done nothing wrong.



## 5) Apply the Lesson

Does it seem fair to you that a guilty person, Barabbas, was acquitted and an innocent person, Jesus Christ, was declared guilty and sent to die? No, it does not seem fair. Justice would soon take place at the cross. It did not seem like justice was happening in these courts. Name one way that justice would soon occur.

**Story Line: Jesus was innocent but the crowds shouted, "Crucify Him!"**

### Teacher Helps

#### Review the Lesson Activity: One Minute List

The teacher should give two teams one minute each to list as many facts as they can about the lesson.

After the one minute has passed, compare lists and see who has more facts. Be sure that children remember that you are looking for facts.

#### Apply the Lesson Activity: Justice

Justice occurred when Jesus died on the cross and forgave sins; 1 John 1:9.

# Adventure Number 73

## Luke 23:26-38 and 1 Corinthians 5:7

### Teacher Helps

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**Story Line: Jesus died on a cross for our sins.**



### 1) Study the Lesson (before class)

- Crucifixion was a common way to put a criminal to death. However, it was a cruel and usually slow method. A Roman citizen could not be crucified. Crucifixion was reserved for the worst criminals.
- Simon, from northern Africa, was forced to carry the cross when Jesus could not.
- From the sixth hour, noon, until the ninth hour, 3 p.m., there was darkness on the earth.
- The curtain in the Temple torn in half, from top to bottom. This was symbolic, indicating that the common person now had free access to the presence of God.
- Luke verifies that Jesus gave His life, it was not taken from Him. Repeatedly, Luke affirms the innocence of Jesus. In one of the references, Pilate reported that Herod found Jesus innocent also. The centurion at the cross declared that Jesus was innocent.
- A Roman soldier called Jesus a righteous man and showed that Jesus was not guilty of the crimes He was charged with. The Roman soldier praised God.
- Luke notices that many people who observed the death of Jesus mourned for Him.
- No gospel writer records any instance of any woman who opposed Jesus.
- Jesus was crucified on Golgotha, probably a hill outside Jerusalem along a main road.
- The Roman poet Cicero wrote, "*Crucifixion is the most cruel and most hideous of tortures.*"

*Timeline:  
Betrayal and Death*



## 2) Begin the Lesson

Lay out a game board for review that looks something like this:

<u>Time Line</u>	<u>Story Line</u>	<u>Songs</u>	<u>Memory Verses</u>
100 points	200 points	300 points	400 points
100 points	200 points	300 points	400 points
100 points	200 points	300 points	400 points
100 points	200 points	300 points	400 points
100 points	200 points	300 points	400 points

Go back for each of the last 10 lessons and let the children name the time line for each lesson (100 points), the story line for each lesson (200 points), the song for each lesson (300 points), and the memory verse for each lesson (400 points).

A prize should be given to the winning team. Usually, competition is a fun thing for the children. So, keep them all involved. Depending on the size of your class, you may want to limit each child to only 1 or 2 answers. The reason for this is that a few children will answer all the questions, if you let them.

There will be a total of 10,000 points, 1000 points for each lesson (100 for the time line, 200 for the story line, 300 for the song, and 400 for the memory verse).



## 3) Teach the Lesson

People use the cross for different reasons. Some people use the cross for jewelry. Some people use the cross for religious reasons. Other people use the cross for protection from accidents.

What does the Christian cross mean to you?

What does the Christian cross mean to your friends?

### Teacher Helps

#### Begin the Lesson Activity: Bible Jeopardy

Divide the class evenly into two teams. The teams could be:

- 1) whoever has the most brothers and sisters
- 2) whoever has the fewest brothers and sisters

This game will be continued with the review at end of the lesson.



## Tell the Story

### Teacher Helps

On Thursday night and Friday morning, the pressure had mounted on Pilate to do something; either to release Jesus which would infuriate the Jews or he could crucify Jesus as the crowds now demanded. He chose the latter.

So, Jesus went from Pilate's judgment to a place just outside Jerusalem called Skull Hill or Golgotha. He had to carry his own cross which weighed about 100 pounds. He had been beaten and whipped with sharp glass, small pieces of bone, and metal. He had been disfigured so that no one could even recognize Him. He had been stripped of His clothes. On this walk from Pilate to Golgotha, Jesus was derided, belittled, and mocked.

When they arrived at Golgotha, Jesus was placed on this cross. It was now about nine in the morning on Friday. One Roman poet said that the cross was "the most cruel and most hideous of tortures." While Jesus was on the cross, the Roman soldiers divided up His clothes and gambled for them. They offered Jesus a mild painkiller but He refused it.

Usually, death on a cross was slow and took a long time. Sometimes it even took days to die. Some yelled to Jesus, "*Save yourself.*" Some mocked Him and said, "*He bragged about tearing the temple down in three days and now He cannot even save Himself.*" Others jeered Him and made fun of Him. From noon to 3 in the afternoon, the earth was completely dark. Then at 3 in the afternoon, Jesus groaned out loud, "*My God, My God, why have You abandoned Me?*" Then, He breathed His last breath. At that very moment, there was a great earthquake. Not only that, but the curtain in the temple ripped in two from top to bottom at the same time. One of the Roman soldiers who was guarding Jesus said, "*This has to be the Son of God.*"

Later in the afternoon, a man named Joseph went to Pilate and asked if he could take the body of Jesus and place it in a tomb. Pilate granted Joseph's request and so Joseph covered the body of Jesus with clean linens and placed the body in a tomb. It was a brand new tomb and they rolled a large rock in front of the tomb to protect the body of Jesus.

It was just like Isaiah had written 700 years earlier when he wrote about the death of the Christ, "*Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.*"

### Tell the Story Activity: People at the Cross

The teacher could interview volunteers in the class who would describe how it felt to be at Skull Hill or Golgotha:

- Mary, the mother of Jesus
- The disciples
- A Roman soldier
- A mocker in the crowd
- Simon
- Joseph (who asked Pilate for the body of Jesus)





## Memory Verse

1 Peter 3:18 (ESV) - For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit.



## Praise and Worship

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## Bible Activity

**“Show and Know.”** Bring in as many objects as you can to “show” the children, so they will “know” what really happened on the day of Jesus’ crucifixion. Example – 6” long nails, a crown of thorns made from a thorny bush such as a rose bush, dirty rags, a leather whip if you can find or make one, a hollow stick that could be used to beat a criminal.

**Optional Activity:** Make a “Punishment Substitution” chart. Explain to the class that they will sign this chart and take it home. At home they will explain it to their parents, and if it is acceptable with them, they will take turns bearing the punishment for anything that anyone else in their family does wrong. For example, if Johnny signs up for the first week, and his brother leaves a toy out in the rain and is grounded from TV for a week, Johnny has to take that punishment instead of his brother, even though he didn’t do anything wrong. Make a chart for each child, and put enough spaces on it for each person in the family to be the “sin substitute” for one week. Talk about the unfairness of the system, but that Jesus was not concerned about standing up for His own rights, He was concerned about making us right with God! He wanted us to be in heaven with Him one day! Encourage your students to sign up for the first week of this exercise themselves. Their family members can learn from them how it should be done.

## Teacher Helps

### Memory Verse Activity: The Telephone Game

Memorize this verse using The Telephone Game. Have your class form one line, then whisper into the first person in line a phrase of this verse, have that person repeat the phrase to the next person. Do this until all have quoted the first phrase. Then do the same thing with the second phrase, the third phrase, and so on until you have memorized the verse.

### Bible Activity: Punishment Substitution

Week 1 - \_\_\_\_\_

Week 2 - \_\_\_\_\_

Week 3 - \_\_\_\_\_

Week 4 - \_\_\_\_\_

Week 5 - \_\_\_\_\_

Week 6 - \_\_\_\_\_



## 4) Review the Lesson

Continue your review game for points that you began at the start of the lesson.

- For 100 points, who carried the cross of Jesus? (Simon)
- For 200 points, when was Jesus put on the cross? (9 a.m. on Friday)
- For 300 points, how many criminals were crucified with Jesus? (two)
- For 400 points, who asked Pilate for the body of Jesus after He died? (Joseph)
- Bonus question worth 500 points: What is the theme of this lesson? (Jesus died on a cross for our sins.)



## 5) Apply the Lesson

Jesus Christ bore our sins in His body on the cross. He was humiliated and tortured for everyone. The prophecies of the Old Testament (Isaiah 52, 53, and Psalm 22) all clearly were written about Jesus Christ hundreds of years before His actual death.

Next week, we are going to talk about the significance of His death. But, go home, think about it, and come back next week. Your assignment, should you choose to accept it: What is the significance of the death of Jesus Christ on the cross?

**Story Line: Jesus died on a cross for our sins.**

### Teacher Helps

#### Review the Lesson Activity: Bible Jeopardy

This review activity is a continuation of the review game at the beginning of the lesson.

# Adventure Number 74

## Luke 23:39-47

### Teacher Helps

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**Story Line: Jesus Christ forgave a guilty man.**



### 1) Study the Lesson (before class)

- Luke's gospel contains the word "sinner" more than all the other gospels combined. It is found in Matthew five times, Mark also uses "sinner" five times, John uses it four times, but Luke uses the word "sinner" sixteen times. At the cross, there was a sinner who wanted forgiveness.
- Two sinners were nailed to crosses and Jesus was on a cross between them. One of the sinners hurled malicious insults at Jesus and blasphemed Jesus or reviled Him.
- The other sinner recognized that Jesus was God, Luke 23:40. That sinner, a thief, made a magnificent confession. And here, on the cross, Jesus could display that salvation does not happen because a person is good. Obviously, this sinner was not good.
- Jesus also showed that salvation is not a matter of doing good works. This sinner obviously had no time left for good works and could not earn the grace of God.
- Jesus immediately answered the thief on the cross. On that day, the thief would join Jesus in glory. Forgiveness was full and complete. It was not earned.
- Jesus offered His assurance that this would happen. It was not merely a kind response to a dying request. It was the assurance that God could and would offer forgiveness when anyone, such as a thief, would only ask and put his faith in Jesus Christ.
- Luke's record of the crucifixion contains imagery from the Psalms and Isaiah. Five such allusions exist (Luke 23:34 alluding to Isaiah 53:12, Luke 23:35 alluding to Psalm 22:6-7, Luke 23:36 alluding to Psalm 69:21-22, Luke 23:46 alluding to Psalm 31:5, and Luke 23:46 to Psalm 22:1).

*Timeline:*

*Betrayal and Death*



## 2) Begin the Lesson

The teacher should gather all the songs that have been used in the Adventures in the Bible's Big Story and play several of them.

The class should be able to sing along with the teacher the songs that they have previously learned in this curriculum.

After the teacher has played several songs and the class and sung them, play the game, "Name That Tune." "Name That Tune" is a game in which the students will attempt to match the song with the Bible adventure that best matches the song. The teacher should use extreme graciousness to encourage the class when an answer is given.

The purpose of this activity is for kids to associate music they have learned with events in the Bible. The teacher should stay focused on this primary purpose.



## 3) Teach the Lesson

Can it be that simple?

Suppose you were reading the Bible for the first time and you read about a very evil man who never performed good deeds, yet God promised to receive this man into God's wonderful paradise simply because the man uttered a brief and simple expression of faith.

What would you think?

### Teacher Helps

#### Review Activity: Name That Tune

The teacher should play songs that the class has learned for the previous Bible adventures. Children should guess which adventures in the Bible's big story best match the song that is being played or sung.

If time permits, the teacher could also ask if there are phrases or words in any of the songs that the children do not understand.



## Tell the Story

The place was Skull Hill. The time was shortly after noon on a Friday. The event was the crucifixion of three people, two criminals and Someone who had done nothing wrong. That Someone was Jesus Christ and His cross was located in the middle. A criminal was on either side of Him. All three were experiencing excruciating pain. That is what happens when someone dies on a cross ... pain that is unbearable. The Romans used this kind of death penalty to humiliate the worst of criminals.

While Jesus and the two criminals were hanging in unbearable pain on the cross, the two criminals began what probably would be their last talk, ever. They talked about the Christ who was between them. One criminal told Jesus, “Come down off the cross if You were really the Messiah. Save yourself and us too!” The other criminal told him to be quiet. He explained to the other criminal that they were both getting what they deserved, the death penalty. But Jesus had done nothing wrong.

Then, the criminal who defended Jesus turned to Jesus and said, “*Remember me when you enter your kingdom.*” Jesus simply responded, “*Today, you will be with Me in paradise.*” It was that simple ... a statement of “faith” by the repentant criminal and he was guaranteed by Jesus a place in paradise. He had done nothing to deserve this and he could do nothing in the future. Yet, Jesus saw his repentant heart and He heard his statement of faith.

Just a few simple words by an evil man. No act of righteousness, no position of religious responsibility, and certainly no merit of his own could earn this criminal a place in eternal bliss.

Simple faith ... that was all. It was just like in the days of Moses when Moses held up a bronze snake and those who had been bitten by poisonous snakes could be healed by faith if they just looked at the bronze snake that Moses held up.

Simple faith ... that was all. It was just like in the days of Abraham when Abraham believed God and it was credited to him as righteousness.

Simple faith ... that was all. It was just like in the days of Cain and Abel when Abel by faith brought his best offering and God accepted it.

Simple faith ... even from a criminal. Jesus Christ was looking for faith in Him and repentance from evil deeds. The one criminal had both ... paradise!

### Teacher Helps

#### Tell the Story Activity: Newspaper Reporters

The teacher could ask for three volunteers to write an article for the newspaper and submit his or her article for publication next week. The reporters should include interviews with:

- Jesus
- The two criminals

Next week, have children read their newspaper article and try to publish it somehow, if only for your own class.



## Memory Verse

Luke 23:42 (ESV) - And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”



## Praise and Worship

Praise and Worship styles vary greatly around the world. It is the intent of this curriculum that praise and worship songs be selected that best fit the content of this lesson. Recommendations for praise and worship are given and this music can generally be located at [www.itunes.com](http://www.itunes.com). However, the teacher can feel free to select a similar praise and worship song.

“Arise My Love” by Newsong is recommended for this lesson.



## Bible Activity

Bring in a variety of different keys, and (if possible) a lock that fits one of them. Have keys that look different from each other. Show the keys to the class, then ask the kids: **“What are some things that people think are the key to someday having a home in heaven?”** Possible answers: doing good things, being baptized, going to church, being a good person, giving money to charities, etc. Explain that just like a lock has only one key that will open it, the key to heaven is only one truth, which is found in God’s word, the Bible. Tell the first part of the story, about the thief on the cross being promised a home in heaven with Jesus. Refer back to the answers that were given at the beginning of class. “Did the thief on the cross do any good things (mention some good things they could relate to, such as visiting sick people in the hospital, helping feed hungry people, etc.) Hold up the first key and say: “That must not have been the key to heaven.” Did he go to church? No. Did he get baptized? No. Each time, hold up another key and say: **“That must not have been the key to heaven.”**

So then, if none of these things are the keys to heaven, what DID he do? Go back and re-read the passage and help the children see that it was his repentance and faith in Jesus that was the key to having a home in heaven. If you have a lock that fits one of the keys, show it at this time, and say: “Just like this key is the only one that will open this lock, repentance (being truly sorry for your sins) and faith in Jesus is the only thing that God will accept.”

### Teacher Helps

#### Memory Verse Activity: Graffiti

Graffiti can also be used to help children memorize this verse. Write each word of this verse on a separate piece of paper. Then have children put the words in order in groups of 2 or 3. When each group can put the verse together in order, they will probably have this verse memorized.





## 4) Review the Lesson

Review the lesson in small groups. What are seven main facts or ideas that come out of this lesson? One adult leader should join each small group of kids. Let the children do most of the discovering. Help them when necessary.

- Two criminals that were crucified with Jesus deserved death.
- Jesus had done nothing wrong and did not deserve this death penalty.
- The pain on the cross was unbearable.
- The two criminals began a discussion about Jesus Christ.
- One criminal mocked Jesus and told Him to come down off the cross.
- The other criminal turned to Jesus in faith.
- Jesus welcomed the repentant criminal into eternal paradise.



## 5) Apply the Lesson

Last week, the assignment was to determine what the significance of the death of Jesus Christ was. The teacher should discuss that with the class.

The significance of the death of Jesus Christ is this: He has the power and ability to welcome into eternal happiness those who come to Him by faith alone. Simple faith in Who He is and what He has done, that is it!

**Story Line: Jesus Christ forgave a guilty man.**

### Teacher Helps

#### Review the Lesson Activity: Seven Main Facts

The teacher should have the class break up into groups of 2 or 3. Have them tell each other about the 7 main ideas in the lesson which are listed to your left. For younger children, or non-readers, the teacher should help them.