

**Life of Christ**  
from the gospel of  
**John**

**Lesson 12**

**On Trial!**

**John 18:15-40**

Mission Arlington • Mission Metroplex Curriculum • 2010

Created for use with young, unchurched learners • Adaptable for all ages including adults

# Life of Christ

On Trial!

John 18:15-40

## Younger Verse

The Lord has placed on His Servant the sins of all of us.

Isaiah 53:6 (NIRV)

## Older Verse

All of us are like sheep. We have wandered away from God. All of us have turned to our own way. And the Lord has placed on His Servant the sins of all of us. Isaiah 53:6 (NIRV)

## 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.

Who remembers where we are in the story of Jesus from the book of John? We jumped ahead a bit and have found ourselves walking along with Jesus the night before He was crucified. Jesus and His disciples crossed over a valley and went into a garden, the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus was arrested and taken away.

Jesus was taken from the garden to the home of Caiaphas, the high priest, a very important man in Israel. His house, and many other houses back then, was built in the shape of a rectangle, around a courtyard. The courtyard was open to the sky with the walls of the house all the way around it. Caiaphas' courtyard is where the people gathered as Jesus was taken in to talk with the high-priest and others. Simon Peter and John, two of Jesus' disciples, had followed Jesus and the soldiers. The slave girl who was guarding the door as they entered asked Peter, "Aren't you one of Jesus' disciples?" Peter could have told her the truth, but he did not. Instead, Peter said, "No, I am not." As Peter stood huddled around the charcoal fire outside warming himself, one of those who was also keeping warm around the fire asked if he had walked with Jesus, if he were one of Jesus' disciples. Again, Peter answered, "No, I'm not."

Inside Caiaphas' house, the high-priest asked Jesus many questions. By doing this he was breaking the rules he talked so much about following. The rules said it was wrong to have a trial after dark. The high priest did not care about the rules if it meant getting rid of Jesus. Jesus wanted to know why they were questioning Him.

As the trial took place inside, there was another slave outside who had seen Peter in the garden. He was a relative of the man whose ear Peter cut off. He was also standing around the fire and asked Peter, "Didn't I see you in the garden with Jesus?" Peter lied again. Then Peter heard a rooster crowing, "Cock-a-doodle-doo!" How awful! Earlier that same night, Peter had said he was ready to fight and even die for Jesus. And now, he wouldn't even speak

### Teachers:

We have jumped ahead here in preparation for Easter. In Lesson 15 we return to John 4.

## Lesson Goals

Explain that there is forgiveness for sin.

See Jesus as King.

Understand that each of us choose whether Jesus will be in control of our lives.

up and say he knew Jesus!

From Caiaphas' house, Jesus was taken to a Roman building called the Praetorium (pray-**tor**-i-um). He was taken before the Roman official, Pilate. The made up crimes about Jesus were not Pilate's jurisdiction, but the Jewish officials wanted Jesus to die by crucifixion, by being nailed to a cross. They didn't think of this on their own. Jesus knew what would happen from the very beginning. These men, these leaders of the church, thought they were in control of Jesus. They were wrong!

Pilate questioned Jesus. 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. When Pilate let the people choose between Jesus, who had done nothing wrong, or a man named Barabbas, a robber, they shouted for Barabbas!

In our lesson, we have seen two different kinds of trials. Jesus was on trial before the Jews and Pilate. He was questioned by them and sentenced to death even though He was innocent. Peter was also in a trial, of sorts. He was also questioned. Peter did an awful thing when he lied about knowing Jesus. Peter was guilty! He knew Jesus; he had walked with Him and learned from Him for three years. Peter is the one in our lesson who deserves to be punished. But an amazing thing happened. The One who was innocent took the punishment of the guilty one.

Peter did an awful thing, but there is something even worse than knowing Jesus and saying you do not. It is worse **not** to know and follow Jesus at all. Peter made a big mistake, but Jesus forgave Peter because Peter really did know Jesus. If you do not know Jesus and follow Him, you don't have the friendship with Him, yet, that allows you to communicate with Him. The only way to start that is to tell Him that you know you have done lots of bad things; the Bible tells us everyone has. You are guilty just as Peter was. Tell God that you believe Jesus was punished for you. And tell Him that you want Him to take all of that away and come into your life. Tell Him that you want to follow Him and obey Him. If you do this, believing, you will begin a sweet friendship with Jesus that will never end!

Review the memory verse and try to learn it. Encourage your students to illustrate the verse in some way. Discuss the memory verse with your students.

**Memory Verse  
Activities**

**Preparing for Next Week—EASTER LESSONS**

Lesson 13  
Jesus is Beaten, Crucified, and Buried  
John 19:1-42

# Preschool Lesson

## On Trial!

What do you remember from our lesson last week? What happened to Jesus? Some men and soldiers came to the garden where Jesus and His friends were. Those soldiers tied Jesus up and carried Him away.

He was taken away from the garden to the home of a very important man who wanted to ask Him a lot of questions. The man's name was Caiaphas. Caiaphas was in charge of the church and kind of like a judge. Caiaphas' house was built in the shape of a rectangle, around a patio. The patio was open to the sky with the walls of the house all the way around it, like an opened box!

While Jesus was there, Caiaphas asked Him 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. Even though Jesus knew this, He answered Caiaphas.

While Jesus was being questioned, many people were out in Caiaphas' patio. Two of Jesus' disciples, Simon Peter and John, had followed Jesus and the soldiers. When they arrived, the slave girl guarding the door asked Peter, "Aren't you one of Jesus' disciples?" Peter said, "No!" Then, one of the people around the fire where they were warming themselves asked if he had walked with Jesus. Again, Peter answered, "No." There was someone else there who remembered seeing Peter in the garden when Jesus was arrested. He asked, "Didn't I see you in the garden with Jesus?" Peter lied again.

Then, the men who had been questioning Jesus took Him from Caiaphas' house to the Romans. The Romans were the leaders of many countries and lands. The Roman leader in Jerusalem was named Pilate. Pilate also asked Jesus many questions. Pilate could see that Jesus had done nothing wrong. He 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 instead!

Who had done wrong in our story, Peter or Jesus? (Peter. He lied about knowing Jesus.) Who was punished? (Jesus.) Not only did Jesus take the punishment for the wrong things Peter had done, He also took the punishment for all the wrong things **you** do. Let's tell Him "thank you."

Pray: Thank you, God, that Jesus did not run away from the soldiers who came to arrest Him. Thank you, Jesus, for dying in my place.

# Activities

- Provide coloring pages and word puzzles that will enhance what you have taught today, including coloring pages of Roman columns, the Praetorium, the Colosseum, etc.
- 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 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.
- Provide each student with several un-lined index cards. Have them illustrate today’s lesson, frame by frame. End with the memory verse. Connect the pages, making a book.
- Make origami roosters or beak-shaped folded paper finger puppet roosters.
- Reenact the story. Bring robes, a stuffed rooster, a fake camp fire, etc. Let your students tell the story. Play court and re-create Jesus’ trial. Assign “actors” to be Jesus, Caiaphas, Pilate, Peter, the servant girl, etc. If desired, allow your students to act as you “narrate” the story from your Bible.
- Make masks of Peter, John, Malchus’ relative, the slave girl, etc. Choose students to represent each of the characters. Read a line from the story or say what one of the character’s might have said. Allow your students to choose the correct character. For example: for John, say, “My friend, Peter, is outside. Can you please let him in.”
- Dig Deeper: Read the memory verse in its context. Read Isaiah 53:1-12. Discuss this in light of the lesson and memory verse.
- Dig Deeper Still: Peter and Jesus were both “on trial” in our lesson. Look up verses that talk about trials. Make a list of the things you learn about “trials.” (John 16:33, 1 Peter 1:6, James 1:2,12, Romans 5:3)

**The Lord  
has placed on His Servant  
the sins of all of us.  
Isaiah 53:6**

**All of us are like sheep.  
We have wandered away from God.  
All of us have turned to our own way.  
And the Lord has placed on His Servant  
the sins of all of us.**

**Isaiah 53:6**

Word Search  
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On Trial!

L F U M X A G S P S C I A L J  
K I M K Q W S U B A I E R P U  
T E V O A D E S N H O J E S D  
M R M I I A M E G P A U C U H  
H I I N N M I J E A X Q A B A  
S F H D X G T T R I A L L V U  
E L Y M T Z E L C A I C P N B  
R A F W O R E S O C N R L E J  
R O I A R R R I U S N Q A D C  
A C C Y C I H W R E O X I R Y  
J R U V H A T U T E C R C A T  
B A R R A B A S Y S E T E G H  
O H C W S R D F A N N I P J K  
X C X L D M U I R O T E A R P  
M L R O M I P H D Q U T G T M

CAIAPHAS

COURTYARD

JESUS

TRIAL

PETER

JOHN

CHARCOAL FIRE

THREE TIMES

PRAETORIUM

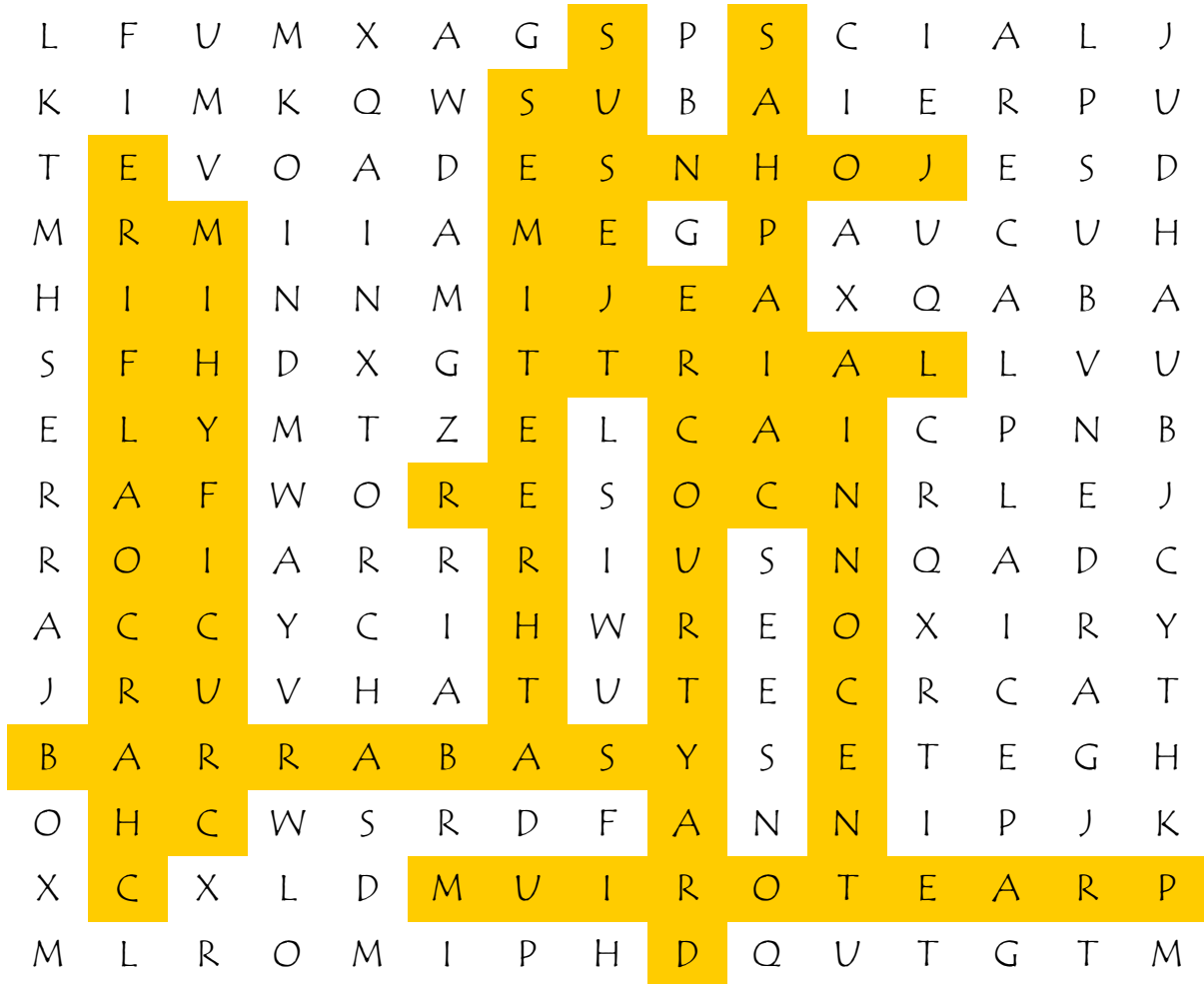
INNOCENT

CRUCIFY HIM

BARRABAS



# Word Search ..... On Trial!



CAIAPHAS

COURTYARD

JESUS

TRIAL

PETER

JOHN

CHARCOAL FIRE

THREE TIMES

PRAETORIUM

INNOCENT

CRUCIFY HIM

BARRABAS

Word Search  
.....  
On Trial!

S	P	C	A	I	A	P	H	A	S
Y	U	E	L	B	L	A	F	A	C
J	E	S	U	S	I	X	Q	D	B
F	V	G	E	A	E	D	M	U	N
Z	Y	O	M	A	L	I	E	U	S
S	U	H	C	L	A	M	L	E	O
P	U	N	I	S	H	M	E	N	T
S	S	P	V	F	J	U	D	A	S
U	T	U	N	O	W	R	O	N	G
W	H	P	E	T	E	R	D	L	K

JESUS  
LIE

CAIAPHAS  
PUNISHMENT

PETER  
NO WRONG

Word Search  
.....  
On Trial!

S	P	C	A	I	A	P	H	A	S
Y	U	E	L	B	L	A	F	A	C
J	E	S	U	S	I	X	Q	D	B
F	V	G	E	A	E	D	M	U	N
Z	Y	O	M	A	L	I	E	U	S
S	U	H	C	L	A	M	L	E	O
P	U	N	I	S	H	M	E	N	T
S	S	P	V	F	J	U	D	A	S
U	T	U	N	O	W	R	O	N	G
W	H	P	E	T	E	R	D	L	K

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