

Bible background

Matthew 26:57-67; Matthew 27:1-50; Luke 23:34

Aim of lesson

To show Jesus' bravery and love in accepting ill treatment and death.

Preparation required

Bearing in mind the children in your class, decide how you are going to tell the story. You could decide not to do the lesson if you think it might be too upsetting.

You will need colouring materials.

Suggested outline of lesson

1. Ask the children what they would do if enemy soldiers were coming to capture and kill them. Would they run away? Would they hide? Would they get some weapons ready to attack when the soldiers came?
2. Tell the class how soldiers came to capture Jesus. Jesus knew they were coming but he did not hide or run away. He knew the rulers would have him killed, but he also knew that his Father, God, wanted him to be brave and let them kill him, so that we could be forgiven and live for ever in his kingdom. Jesus trusted that his Father knew best and that he would make him alive again after he had died.
3. Give the children the activity sheet and have them colour the scene of Jesus praying in the garden and the soldiers coming to arrest him. Then have them trace the path with a colour to the next scene at the high priest's house. Bring out the cruel treatment Jesus received at each place, and his bravery in accepting it when he had enough power to destroy them all. Bring out Jesus' great kindness in praying for those who treated him so badly.
4. You may like to use the song 'Not a word' to stress Jesus' acceptance of bad treatment without complaining.

Alternative activities

1. For the youngest children, you may prefer to combine this lesson with lesson 99, as it will probably be inappropriate to go into too much detail about the events leading up to the crucifixion.
2. Draw or stick a sad face on one side of a circle of card or a paper plate and a happy face on the other. Attach to dowel or a strip of stiff card. Recap the story and get the children to show the appropriate face at each stage.

Relevance to the children's lives

Ask the children who treats them badly. Do they have brothers and sisters or friends at school who fight or are nasty. Ask what they should do when someone is cruel to them.

Prayer

Ask what they could pray about for those who treat them badly.

Verse

'When he was insulted, he did not answer back with an insult.' 1 Peter 2:23.

Song

Not a word



- v.1 They crucified my Lord
But he never said a grumbling word.
They crucified my Lord
But he never said a grumbling word.
Not a word, not a word, not a word.
- v.2 They spat upon his face
- v.3 They whipped him on his back
- v.4 They made a crown of thorns
- v.5 They nailed him to a cross
- v.6 He bowed his head and died

Music and Words: Traditional.