

Aim of lesson

That the class may appreciate all that Christ suffered for them.

Bible background

John 18 and 19

Outline of lesson

How many things he suffered

Ask the class if they have ever been unjustly accused of something, or punished for something that they did not do. Ask how they felt and how they reacted.

Get them to use the first page in the workbook to search through the two chapters, making a note of the different things that happened to Jesus. After each one, point out how difficult we would find it, not to nurse resentment and then to flare up in anger and retaliation when the next thing happened.

Read and use the quotation from 1 Peter 2:21-23 at the top of the workbook page to contrast the attitude of Jesus. Remind the class that just because he did not sin, it does not mean that Jesus found it easy. He was tempted to sin just as we are, and that night and morning would have been a series of the most difficult temptations – especially since he had the power to walk away from it all.

Why did Jesus die?

On the second page of the workbook, give each of the class one of the verses or let them work in small groups. After they have read them ask each, in turn, to say what their verse says about why Jesus died. Each member of the class should collect the thoughts inside the “crown of thorns”.

This section does not attempt to answer why the death of Christ accomplished our salvation, only to clarify the fact that it did.

Digging deeper

Jesus in the Psalms

This section looks at the prophecies of the crucifixion in the Psalms, and their fulfilment.

the prophecy in	is fulfilled in
Psalm 41:9	John 13:21,26-27
Psalm 22:1	Matthew 27:46
Psalm 22:7	Matthew 27:41
Psalm 22:8	Matthew 27:43
Psalm 22:16	John 20:25-27
Psalm 22:18	John 19:23-24
Psalm 69:21	John 19:29
Psalm 34:20	John 19:31-33
Psalm 31:5	Luke 23:46

Relevance to our lives

Ask the class to notice how many times during the week they find it hard not to retaliate either in words or actions. How does “entrusting yourself to the one who judges justly” help?

Prayer

Thank you Father, for giving us your Son, even when you knew he would be rejected and killed. Thank you, Lord Jesus, for dying for our sins, so that we can be forgiven and reconciled to God.

Other suggestions for activities

1. The class could each choose to be one of the minor characters in John 18 or 19, and write about that day from their point of view. For example, a servant of Pilate, Mary his mother, Malchus or the girl at the door.
2. The class could take Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12, write a part each in their own words and then put it together noting how this passage describes the suffering and crucifixion of the Lord Jesus.