

## The Arrest, Trial, and Crucifixion of the King

### Materials I Need:

### Legend:



= Option 1, Appropriate for 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

= Option 2, Appropriate for 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

### Memory Work:


“Jesus answered, You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me” (John 18:37).

### Aim Questions:

1. Why did Jesus ask two times of those who came to arrest Him, “Whom do you seek?”
2. What did Peter fail to understand when he tried to fight the Roman guards?
3. Why was Jesus’ trial unfair?
4. What was Pilate’s plan that backfired on him?
5. Why did Jesus have to die?

### Hook:




**False Accusations/Staged Role-play (*Demonstration*).**  Plan a role-play situation before class where either one of the teachers is falsely accused of doing something wrong (perhaps setting up the chairs backwards), or the students are accused (be careful that you don’t scare them). Make a big scene at the beginning of class, and then debrief immediately afterwards. You don’t want the students feeling ashamed throughout the entire morning. Ask them how they felt. Were the accusations justified? How did you feel when you saw someone else getting in trouble for something they did not do? Have they ever been accused of something they did not do? How did they feel? Has a friend ever been accused of something unfairly? What did they do? In this morning’s Bible Adventure, we will hear about the most unfair accusation ever. We will hear how an innocent person was accused wrongly, and how terrible the punishment was. We will also see the ultimate example of how we are to respond to those who falsely accuse us of something.





**From the First Garden to the Last (*Discussion/Activity*).** Review the events in the Garden of Eden using pictures from the Genesis curriculum, **JHN10.GF1 Pg.1-2**. Ask the students to tell you the events that occurred in the Garden with Adam and Eve. Try mixing the events and asking the students to put them in order as they occurred in the story. This morning we will hear about another garden--the Garden of Gethsemane--and something that happened there, which finished what began in the Garden of Eden.



**Old Testament Prophecy – Introduction (*Worksheet*).** Help the students look up the following O.T. verses on **JHN10.GF2** and discuss what their fulfillment may have looked like from the perspective of the O.T. Later on during the Look time, use this worksheet to see how these O.T. prophecies were ALL fulfilled in Jesus Christ.


 **False Accusations (Drama/Discussion).** Act out the following scenario: Teacher #1 gets the class's attention and begins to tell them that today they will hear a very exciting Bible adventure. Just as he/she finishes the sentence, Teacher # 2 interrupts. He/she angrily accuses Teacher # 1 of calling a few students unkind names and of hitting another student (use the student's names)! Teacher #2 says he/she saw and heard this happen right then. (You may decide to use some other unfair/harsh and untrue accusation, but make sure that everyone has seen that this is **not true** and totally out of character for Teacher #1.) Teacher #3 joins in the accusations saying that Teacher #1 should be punished! He/she tries to get the students to join in. You want to make an impact but do not drag this out too long. The students will be concerned about what has happened and will not know how to react! Teachers # 2 and 3 should now immediately join Teacher #1 while #1 explains that he/she wasn't really accusing #2 of anything but only play-acting. Teacher #2 could explain that they wanted the students to think about false accusations. Teacher #3 could ask the students how they felt and how they thought Teacher #2 must have felt. Was it right? Was it fair or deserved? **Make it clear to the students that all of the teachers were a part of the play-acting.** Ask the students how they felt if they've ever been falsely accused. Finally, Teacher #1 tells the students that today's Bible adventure is very exciting, as he/she started to say before, and that they will hear how Jesus was falsely accused and condemned.


 **Hammers and Nails (Activity).** **This Activity must be well supervised.** Bring several pieces of 2x4 boards, large (4 inch) nails (nails already just started in the boards are necessary for younger students) and several hammers. Have the students find a place on the floor a safe distance from one another. Let the students hammer the nails into the boards. Warn students to be careful not to hammer into the floor, not hammer their fingers, and especially not hammer the nail into their hand! Wouldn't that hurt! They sure wouldn't want that to happen would they?


 **O.T. Sacrificial System (Discussion).** Do you remember when we studied the Tabernacle? What did the high priest do once a year on the Day of Atonement? That's right! He took the blood of a sacrificed lamb or goat and sprinkled it on the Mercy Seat which covered the Ark of the Covenant. That blood represented a "covering" for the sins of the people. Since they had violated God's laws and broken them, God's anger towards their sin was now appeased by that blood. In the same way, when Jesus, whom John the Baptist called "the Lamb of God," died and shed His blood, His blood now covers the sins of forgiven sinners. No longer is God angry with us for our sin! We can praise God that He has shown us His mercy and grace in the death of His Son by taking our sins away!



### Book:

 **Map Work and Timeline (Timeline/Map).** Use **JHN10.GF3** give each student a map and pencil or crayon. Use an overhead projector to show the map on the white board. As you tell the Bible adventure, use dry erase markers showing where Jesus was taken. Have the students follow along using their maps. You want the students to recognize not only that Jesus was innocent and chose to give up his life but also the corruption of his accusers, so bring out the time line aspect of the night as you tell the story.

 **Nailed (Object Lesson).** During the Bible Adventure, show a 7" railroad spike, a tent stake or other huge nail when you tell of Jesus being nailed to the cross. If you used the hammer/nail activity for hook time remind the students of their thoughts about how much being hammered with a nail would hurt. Jesus willingly suffered this pain (and much more) because of His great love for us.

 **Mock Trial of Christ (Role-Play).** To present the Bible lesson, you can do a drama presentation and have different teachers and students role-play different characters from the Bible lesson. Have the children read the verses and their lines and act out the narrative using John's chronology. Here are a list of "actors" needed:

- Jesus

- Peter and the other disciples
- Malchus, the High Priest's slave
- Roman guards
- Annas, the father-in-law of the High Priest
- Caiaphas the High Priest
- Pontius Pilate
- Barabbas

#### **Presentation Ideas –**

**Jesus With His Disciples in the Garden (*Illustration*).** John 18:1-11, **JHN10.GF4.**

**Jesus' Arrest in the Garden (*Illustration*).** John 18:1-11, **JHN10.GF5.**

**Jesus and Barabas before the Crowds (*Illustration*).** John 18:39-40, **JHN10.GF6.**

**Jesus' Scourging (*Illustration*).** John 19:1-5, **JHN10.GF7.**

**Jesus' Crucifixion (*Illustration*).** John 19:16-37, **JHN10.GF8.**

#### **Bible Adventure –**

How do you react when someone treats you unfairly? Do you get angry and even try to get back at whoever is mistreating you? That's our natural, human response when we are under attack. Being in the pressure chamber of abuse can show what we are really like inside.

In the history of man, there is no one person who has gone through the kind of suffering that Jesus Christ did. Men dished out to Him the deepest trial and misery they could manage; yet through it all, Jesus remained calm and gentle. In the midst of it all, He managed to put others ahead of Himself.

We've learned that Jesus met with His disciples for a special meal together during Passover Week. During that time, Jesus revealed to all of them the evil plan of Judas Iscariot to betray Him. After Judas left them, Jesus began to comfort His disciples, knowing He would soon be separated from them. After the meal, they journeyed together toward the Garden of Gethsemane. Along the way, Jesus prayed both for Himself and for His disciples, revealing His deep love for them.

They crossed the Kidron ravine into the Garden. The Gospel of Matthew tells us more about what happened there. Jesus predicted His disciples would scatter after His arrest. Matthew also recorded Jesus' time of prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane. As Jesus poured out His heart to God, the disciples were fast asleep. Three times Jesus came and tried to get them to stay awake and pray, but they did not. After the third time He tried to get them to pray, other people arrived in the Garden. It was Judas, along with the Jewish leaders, and at least 200 Roman soldiers and the temple guard. It is at this point that the Gospel of John picks up the story again.

Having traveled with Jesus and observing His habits, Judas knew right where to go to find Him. He had agreed with the Jewish leaders that he would go up to Jesus and give Him a kiss, so they would know for certain which of the men He was. In the face of such a horrible betrayal by someone He had numbered among His closest friends, Jesus did not become shaken or upset or even think about Himself. His main concern was for the other disciples, that they might end up being arrested along with Him. As the crowd of men came toward Him, He asked, "Who is it you want?" When they answered, "Jesus of Nazareth," Jesus said to them, "I am He." Instantly, that great crowd of men fell backward to the ground! The power in the name of God alone was awesome to see! Jesus asked them again, "Who is it you want?" and again they answered, "Jesus of Nazareth." Then Jesus said something to them that showed His incredible love and care for His friends: "If you are looking for me, then let these men go." Jesus protected those who belonged to Him from arrest and prison, possibly even death, knowing they were not ready yet to go through such things. Facing death Himself, His thoughts were only for those He loved.

At this point, Peter, who was carrying a sword, took it and cut off the ear of the high priest's servant.

Jesus ordered Peter to put the sword away. He told Peter He had come to this world to die in obedience to His Father's plan. In the Gospel of Luke, we read that Jesus then miraculously reattached the wounded man's ear. His power was clearly demonstrated in this act and in the reaction of the crowd to His speaking His name. He definitely had the power to get Himself out of this situation, but the Bible makes it clear that He was not taken by force, but willingly gave Himself up.

After tying Jesus up with ropes, they took Him to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest. Annas had no great love for Jesus, since he was part of those who made the Jews coming to the temple, pay outrageous prices for the animals they were going to sacrifice. You can bet Annas was not too pleased the two times Jesus drove the sellers out of the temple. Now he had his enemy right where he wanted him. Jesus was about to go through the first of several trials.

Annas asked Jesus about His disciples and about His teaching. Jesus answered by saying that He had not taught in secret but always in public, in the synagogues and in the temple. He asked why Annas did not question those who had heard Jesus teach. Annas was breaking the Jewish law he pretended to honor in questioning Jesus. It was not legal for him to ask Jesus to defend Himself. The law stated that the accusers must supply witnesses for their case. Jesus was subtly reminding Annas of that fact. An officer heard what Jesus had said and hit Him, accusing Him of showing disrespect for Annas. This show of violence did nothing to help Annas in his questioning of Jesus. In the end, realizing he would get nowhere with Him, Annas sent Jesus to his son-in-law, Caiaphas the high priest. His reason for doing this was simple--if they were going to have Jesus executed by the Romans, the high priest must bring the accusation before the Roman government. Caiaphas and the Sanhedrin had no problem doing this. They accused Jesus of blasphemy and sentenced Him to death; then early Friday morning, took him to the Praetorium, the headquarters of Pilate, who was the Roman governor at that time.

The Sanhedrin would not go into the Praetorium, believing it would make them unclean, even though their evil hearts had plotted the murder of God's own Son! In the end, Pilate had to come out to them to hear their accusations against Jesus. He then brought Jesus in for questioning.

Pilate's concern was whether or not Jesus was any threat to the Roman government. After questioning Him and realizing that Jesus was not a threat, Pilate returned to the Sanhedrin and told them he could not find Jesus guilty of anything. The Sanhedrin convinced Pilate to try again, accusing Jesus of stirring up trouble wherever He went. In Luke's Gospel, we learn that Pilate then sent Jesus to Herod Antipas, who listened to the false charges, questioned Jesus, and sent Him back to Pilate.

Now Pilate came up with what he thought was a perfect plan. He remembered that the Romans had a custom each year at Passover, where they would release a criminal from the death penalty. Having found Jesus innocent himself, he thought there was no way the crowds would condemn Him. This way, he would be off the hook, for it would be the crowds who would deny the Sanhedrin's request that Jesus be put to death. Sadly, Pilate underestimated the extreme hatred of the Sanhedrin for Jesus. They stirred up the crowds until, in a mindless rage, they demanded to have Barabbas the robber released, and the innocent Lamb of God to be killed!

The Sanhedrin lost all sense of right and wrong during this trial, doing anything they could to have Jesus executed. They falsely accused Him, broke Jewish laws for a fair trial, and when stirring up the crowd, shouted, "We have no king but Caesar!" They turned their backs on God so that they might crucify His Son! Through all of this Jesus was calm, and He never once struck back in His defense. The Sanhedrin thought they had Him where they wanted Him, but it was Jesus Himself who was in control, offering Himself to fulfill God's perfect plan to save man.

Finally, Pilate gave in to the awful pressure of the Jewish leaders. He decided to have Jesus crucified. Before he did this, he ordered that Jesus be scourged. Scourging was an incredibly painful method of beating. It was done with a whip called a scourge, not an ordinary whip. The scourge was made of leather braids. Many of the braids had iron balls or pieces of bone attached to the end. If you've ever been hit with a whip you know how painful that is. But with the iron balls and bone pieces added, a scourge had the ability to rip skin and flesh away from the body. As they beat Him, the Roman guards mocked Jesus, wove a crown made of thorns and put it on His head, and put a purple robe on His back. Through all this, Jesus did not become angry, but gave us the perfect example of how we should

respond when we are treated unfairly by others. Is it easy? No, but in Christ we have all the resources we need to love those who abuse us.

Very weak from pain and loss of blood, Jesus was then forced to carry His cross to Golgotha to be crucified. For Jews, this was a shameful way to die. It was also painful and torturous beyond belief. A seven-inch spike was hammered into both Jesus' ankles, and into both wrists. Then the cross was lifted up, and Jesus was left there to die. Below Him, Roman soldiers gambled for His clothing, little knowing they were fulfilling the prophecy of Psalm 22:18.

Just minutes away from death, Jesus showed His love and care for His mother, Mary. He asked the apostle John to be responsible for her. Soon after that He lowered His head and said, "It is finished!" Jesus had taken upon Himself all of the wrath and anger of God that each one of us deserves because of our sin. The Lamb of God was sacrificed once and for all, given up freely and willingly by Jesus Himself.

The day Jesus was crucified just happened to be preparation day for the Passover, and the Jewish religious leaders were eager to hurry along the deaths of Jesus and the two other men hanging there. So they asked the Roman soldiers to break the legs of the men hanging on the three crosses. When they came to Jesus, they found He was already dead. To make sure that He truly was gone, a soldier pushed his spear deep into Jesus' side, and immediately blood mixed with water came out, a sign that Jesus truly had died. This fulfilled other Old Testament prophecies that the Messiah would be pierced (Zechariah 12:10), and that not one of His bones would be broken (Psalm 34:20). Joseph of Arimathea asked for the body of Jesus so that He could be properly buried. Along with Nicodemus, they took Jesus' body, prepared it for burial and laid it nearby in a brand new tomb.

The betrayal, arrest, crucifixion and death of Jesus Christ is the most horrible event in all of history; but it is also the most joyful because it gives us hope. By taking the blows of His enemies on Himself and allowing Himself to be killed on the cross, Jesus became our substitute, taking the punishment we should have had and making a way for all men to be saved. Are you a Christian? Rejoice in God for His great mercy and glory that was displayed on the cross! Do you not know Him personally yet? Jesus came to finish the work of saving man from sin, once and for all. Only those who believe in the death and resurrection of Jesus can escape the punishment that must be paid for sin. Cry out to God that His anger for your sin could be placed on His Son and taken care of forever. Then you can rejoice along with those who have given their lives to this great and loving Savior!



### Look:



**Jesus Willingly Gives Up Everything for Us (*Discussion*).** Jesus was fully God and fully man-- He was without sin, and yet He willingly gave it up for our sake. He was God, and could have prevented any portion of the suffering He endured if He chose to do so. Instead He took upon Himself all the wrath of God, deserved by each one of us. Why did He do this? Because He loves us that much. Spend a few minutes reviewing all the signs and miracles we have learned about in the book of John. Jesus was all-powerful, and could do anything He wanted to. He could have zapped the Jewish leaders and the 200 Roman soldiers when they came to the garden. He could have disappeared and gone somewhere else. He could have saved Himself from the horrible punishment if He wanted to, but He didn't. Instead, He fulfilled His Father's plan of redemption for all mankind by becoming the sacrifice for us.



**The Cross Words (*Wordsearch Puzzle*).** Using **JHN10.GF9** find the words in the puzzle which are represented in Christ's death on the cross.



**Story or Coloring Book (*Craft/Coloring Book*).** Use hole punch and ribbon or staple together to make story/coloring book. Give each student (1) of each of the following pages, and put in the same order as listed below:


**JHN10.GF10 Pg.1-2** for the front cover on colored paper;


**JHN10.GF10 Pg.3** OT/NT Prophecy worksheet;

**JHN10.GF10 Pg.4** map and timeline;


**JHN10.GF10** Jesus With His Disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane **Pg.5**, Jesus and Barabas before the crowds **Pg. 6**, Jesus' Scourging **Pg.7**, Jesus' Crucifixion **Pg.8**.

**JHN10.GF10 Pg. 9** back cover.

 **Scourging and Crucifixion (Discussion).** This discussion is more appropriate for the older children (grades 2<sup>nd</sup> and above). Ask them, "Do you know what Jesus went through during His trials and crucifixion? Explain to them the following written on **JHN10.GF11**. (Please read this beforehand to make sure it is appropriate for your students.)

 **Old Testament Prophecy – Fulfilment (Worksheet).** The students may have completed the first part of this worksheet during the Hook time. Now you can use this worksheet to see how these O.T. prophecies were ALL fulfilled in Jesus Christ.


**Debrief:** By seeing how God's promises in the Old Testament were completely fulfilled in Jesus Christ, we can understand that Jesus was and is the Son of God and that God was in total control of the events surrounding His crucifixion and death, **JHN10.GF2**.

 **How does Jesus' death take away our sin? (Object Lesson).** You'll need 3 hearts cut out, one with black paper and the other two with red paper. The black heart should be pre-glued using a glue stick. Ask your students, "How does Jesus' death take away our sins?" Have them respond. Hold up the black heart and talk about sin and how God hates our sin. Tell them that God cannot allow anyone to enter into His kingdom who has even one sin. Ask them, "In what ways have you sinned?" Let them respond. Let them know that because they are sinners, there is no way for them to enter into God's kingdom.

Then hold up one of the two red hearts and talk about God's love for us. He knew that we could do nothing and are helpless, so He had to do something. Tell them that God loved us so much, that He sent His Son, Jesus Christ to die on our behalf. Then paste the black heart to the red heart.


Then hold up the other red heart. Talk about how Jesus bled and died on the cross. While holding the other pasted hearts (black side up) in one palm, take the remaining red heart and cover the black heart and paste them together. Jesus' blood now covers our sin completely! With a clean heart, God no longer sees our sin, but sees the blood of His Son covering our sin. Ask them, "What happened to the black heart?" It's completely gone, just like a person's sin is gone when Jesus' blood covers them. This is how Jesus' death takes away our sin!


(Use this opportunity to further share the Gospel message with the children.)

 **Passage Review Questions (Worksheet).** This booklet contains many questions from the scripture passage covered in today's lesson. Students may work on them in class and complete them during the week at home, **JHN10.GF12**.



### Took:

 **Take and Tell (Activity).** Have you ever shared the Gospel with someone else? Request extra sets of Gospel Presentation with Bead Cross, **JHN10.GF13** and provide them for the students to take home. Practice with each other what they will say, and how to share the Gospel with others. It is our responsibility as believers to go and tell others about the sacrifice that Christ made on our behalf. Make a "Wordless Book" and practice telling each other. Make friendship bracelets with the colored beads that explain the Gospel. Look up and list verses that walk someone through the Gospel presentation.

 **Role-play (Skits).** Give each table a few minutes to come up with a skit that shows someone being lead to Christ through the presentation of the Gospel. Take turns performing these in front of the

class for the other students.



**Are You Committed to Christ and Standing For Truth? (Worksheet/Discussion).** Pilate knew Jesus was innocent. He had the authority to set Jesus free. He didn't want to anger the Sanhedrin or 'make waves' by standing for what was right. What do the students think of this? Is this a man of integrity or courage? Pilate didn't want to take responsibility so he left things to be decided by the emotions of the people...and Jesus was crucified. When the students are confronted with a situation where they have to take a stand for Jesus, do they? Not standing for Jesus is standing against Him just as Pilate did. What is the right thing to do? What are the consequences of standing for Him/not standing for Him? **JHN10.GF14.**

# Adam and Eve in the First Garden



Adam and Eve Leaving the Garden

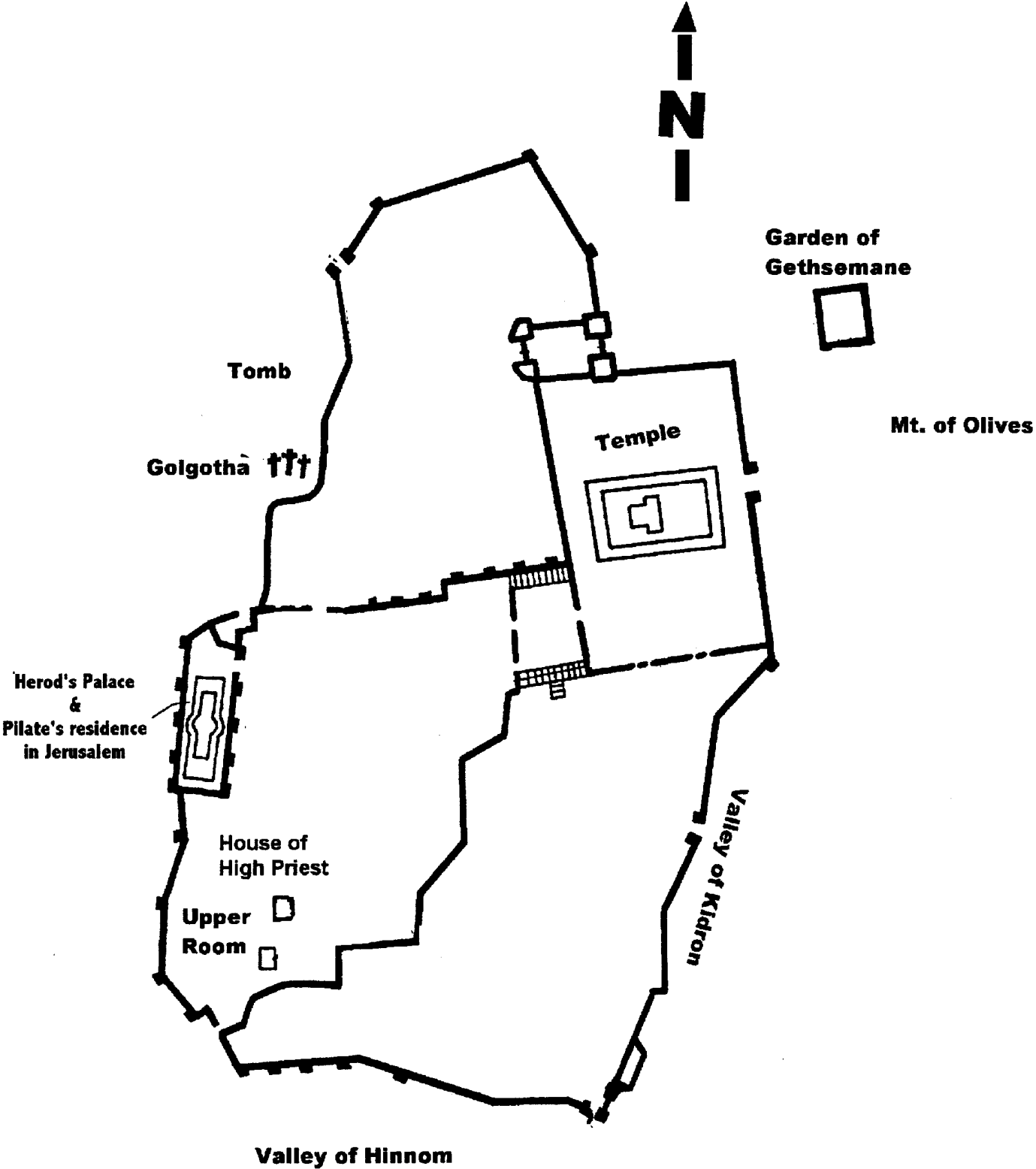


# Prophecies Fulfilled

Instructions: Look up the following O.T. prophecies concerning Jesus Christ in the left-hand column and write a brief description of what the prophecy was about. Then look up the verses in the right-hand column and draw a line from the O.T prophecy to the N.T fulfillment.

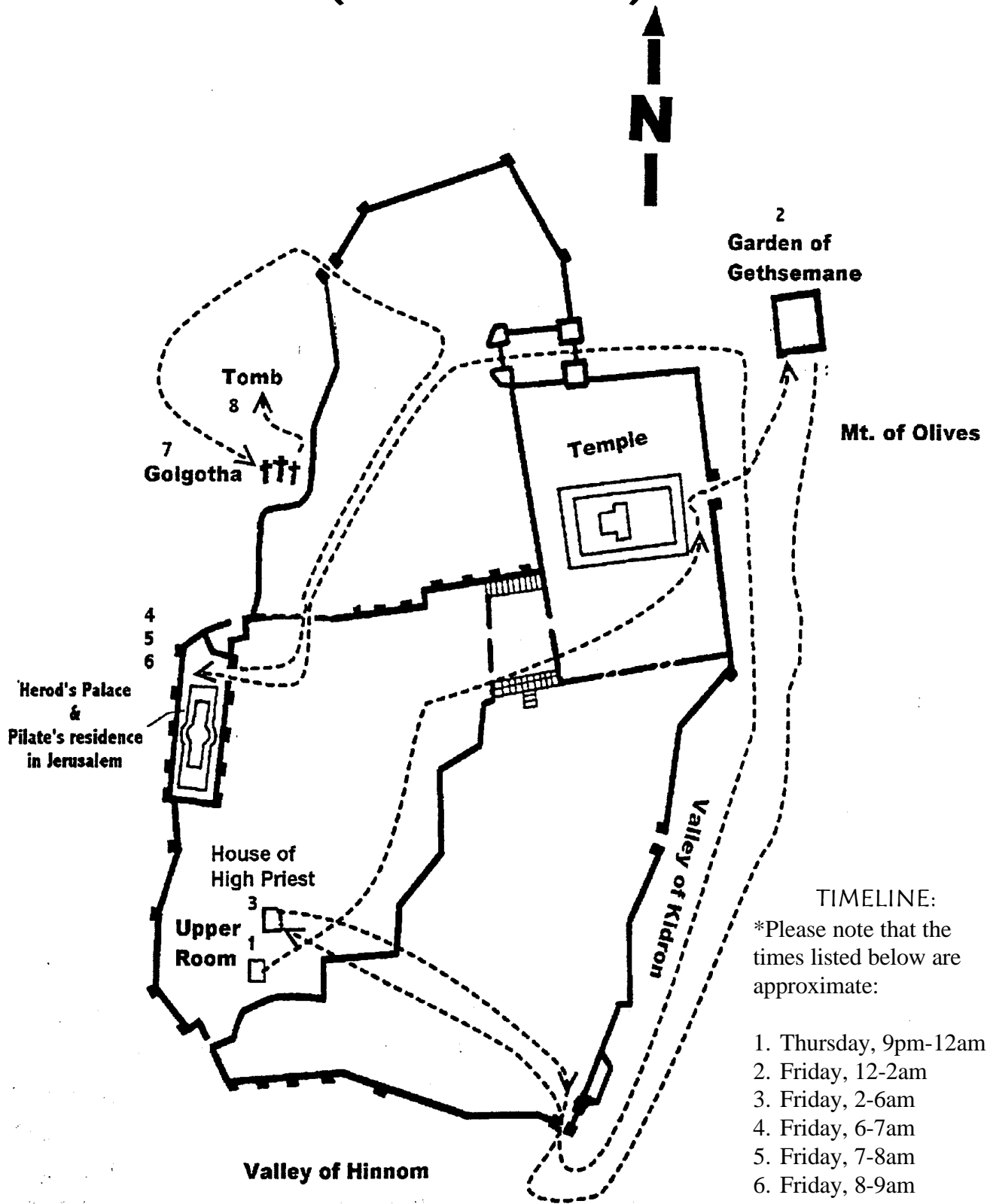
<u>O.T. Prophecy</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>N.T. Fulfillment</u>
Genesis 12:3		Acts 3:25
Psalms 22:1		Matthew 27:46
Psalms 22:16		John 19:28-30
Psalms 22:18		Matthew 27:35-36
Psalms 34:20		John 19:32-33, 36
Psalms 41:9		John 13:18
Psalms 69:21		John 20:25, 27

# Map Work and Timeline



# Map Work and Timeline

(Teachers Aid)



## TIMELINE:

\*Please note that the times listed below are approximate:

1. Thursday, 9pm-12am
2. Friday, 12-2am
3. Friday, 2-6am
4. Friday, 6-7am
5. Friday, 7-8am
6. Friday, 8-9am
7. Friday, 9am-3pm
8. Friday, 3-5pm

# Jesus With His Disciples in the Garden



# Jesus' Arrest in the Garden



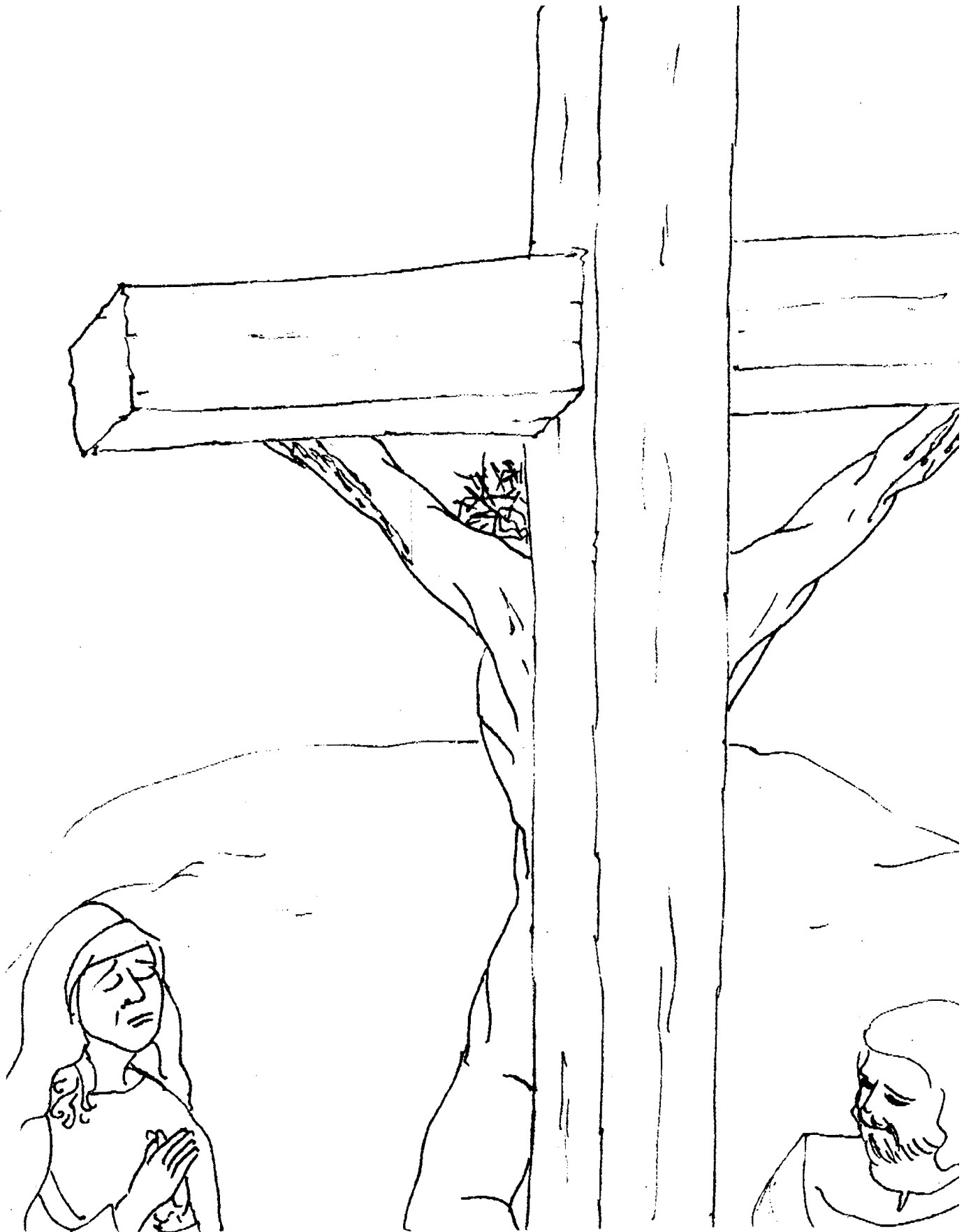
# Jesus and Barabab before the Crowd



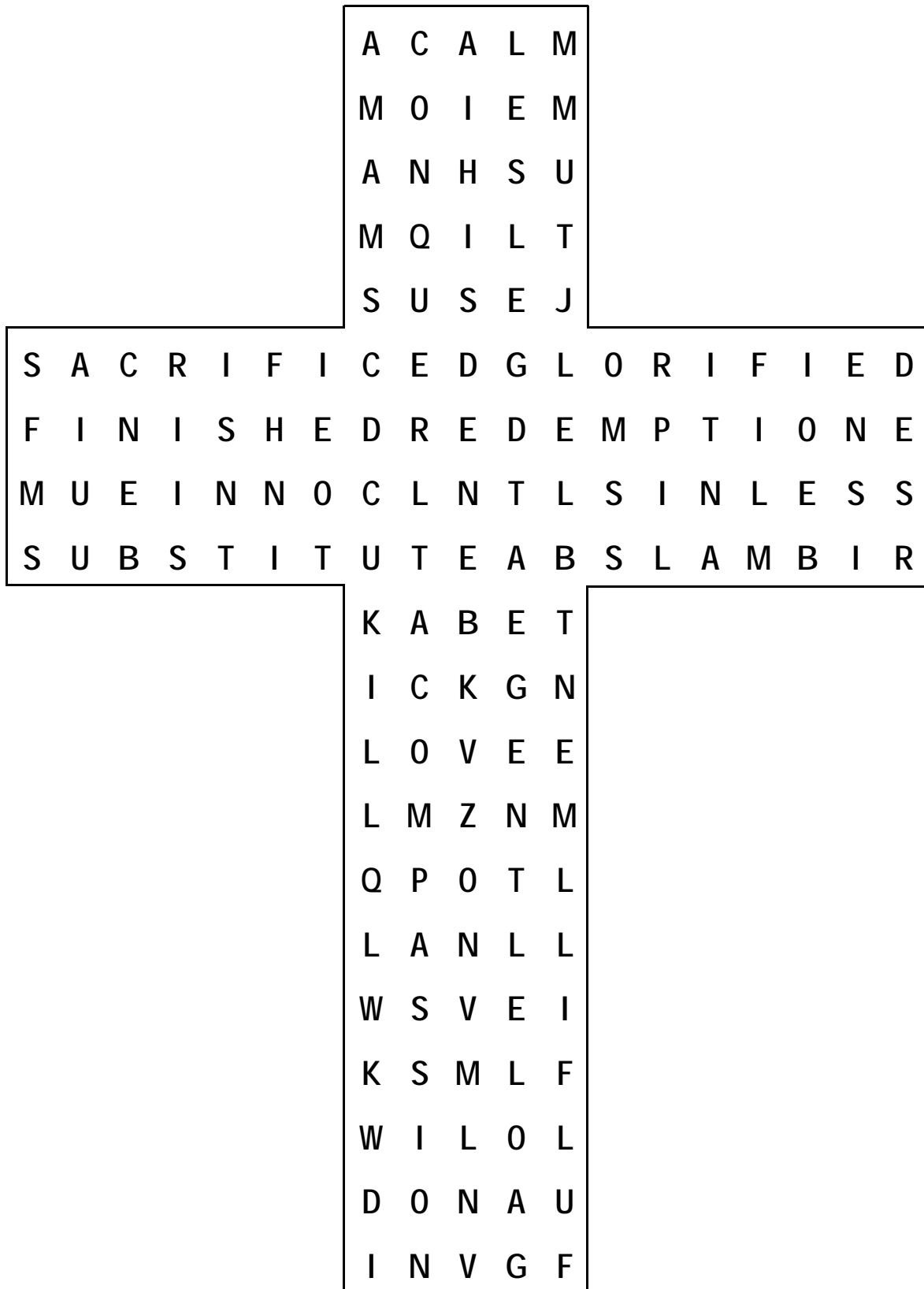
# Jesus' Scourging



# Jesus' Crucifixion

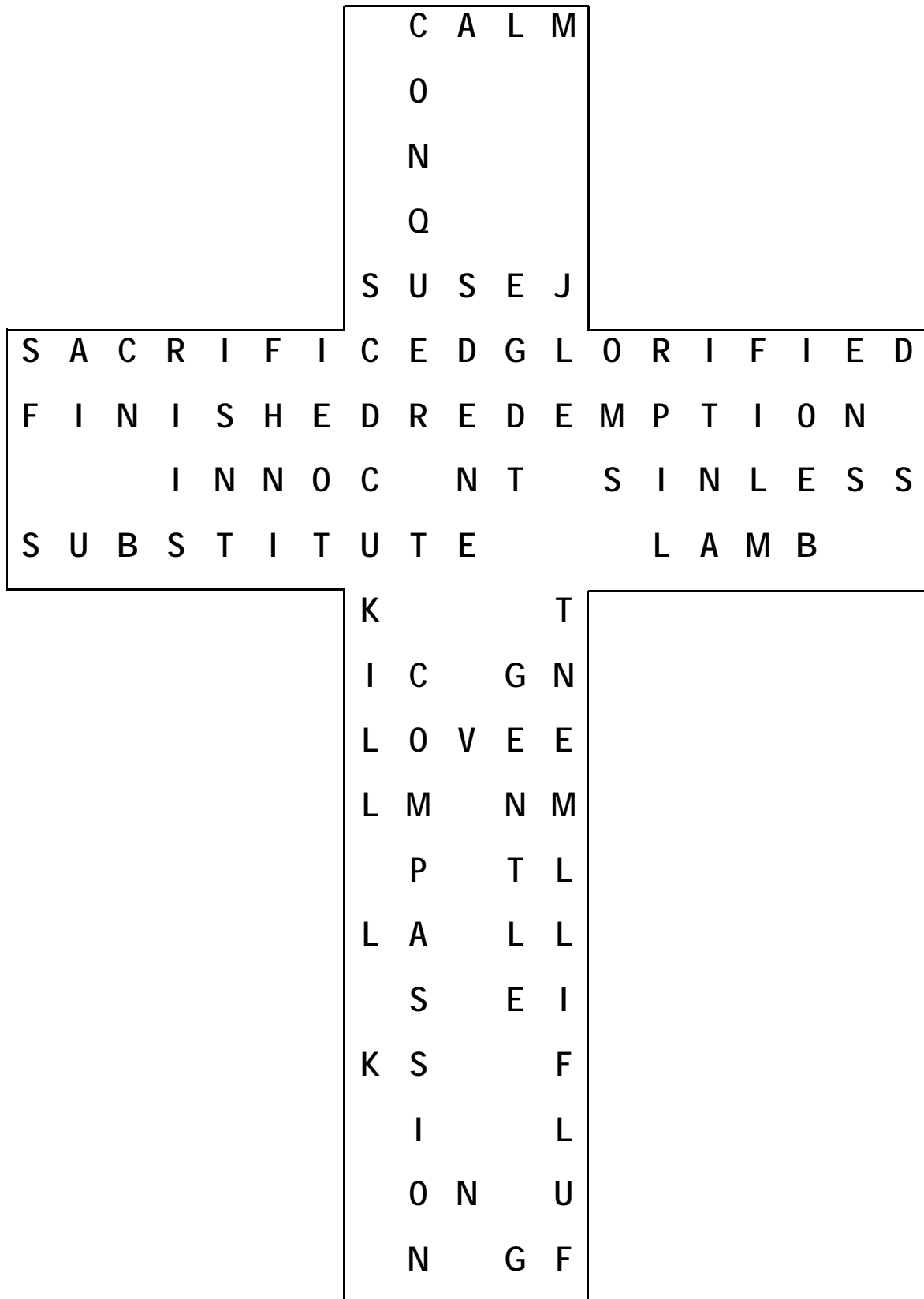


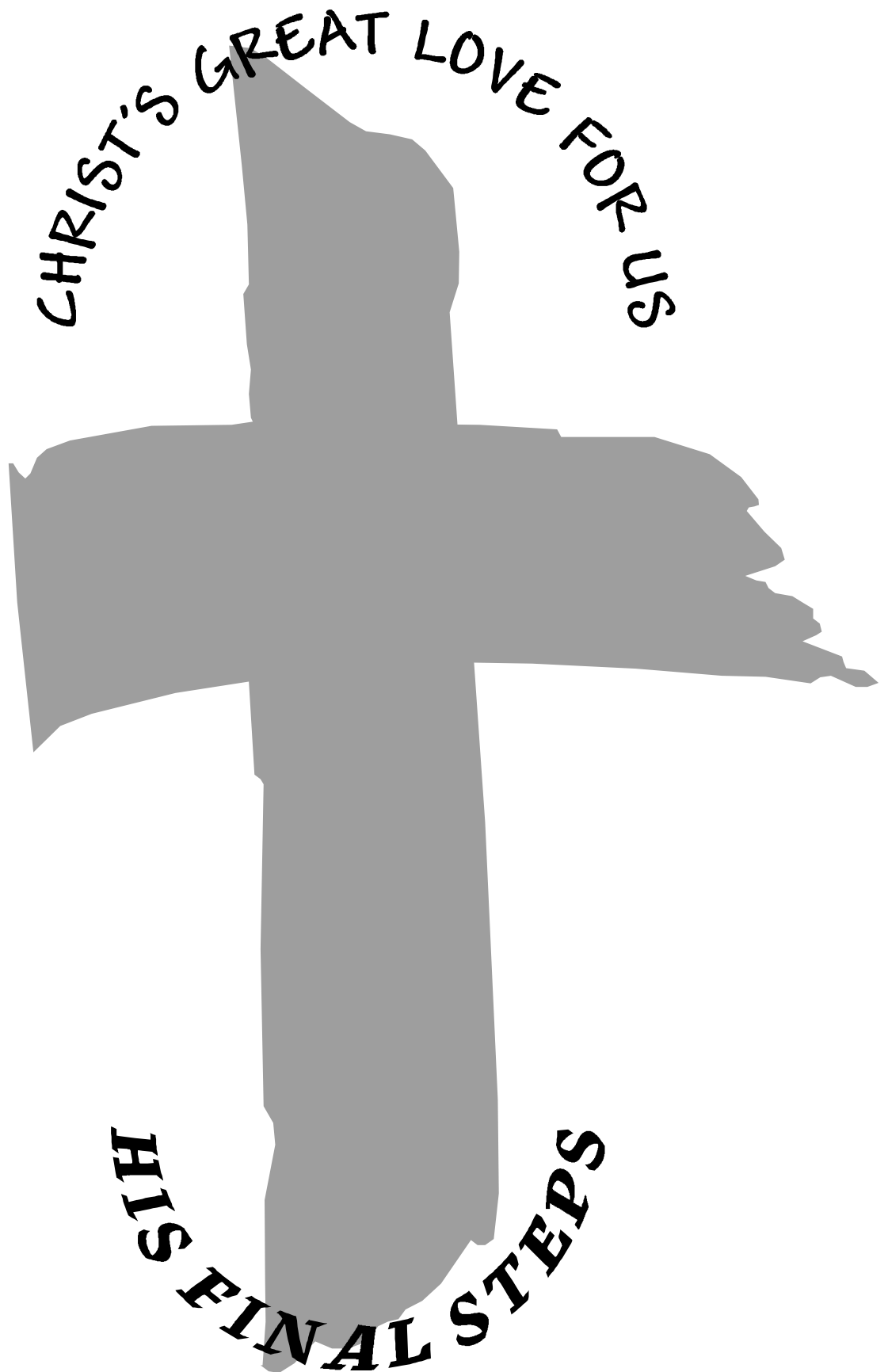
# The Cross Words



# The Cross Words

(Answer Key)





"You are right in saying I am a King.

In fact, for this I was born,

And for this I have come into the world,

To testify to the truth.

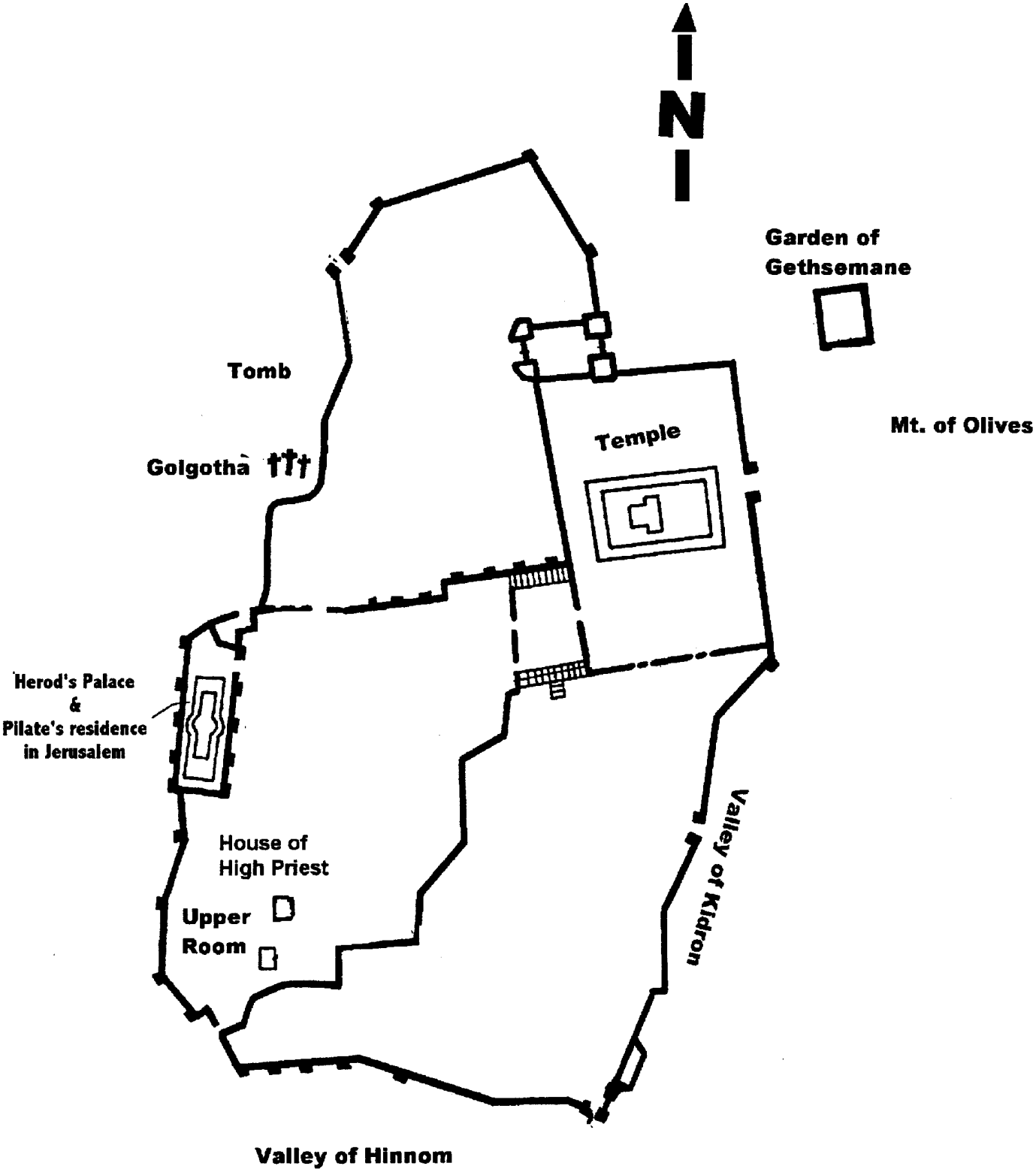
Everyone on the side of the truth  
listens to me."  
(John 18:37)

# Prophecies Fulfilled

Instructions: Look up the following O.T. prophecies concerning Jesus Christ in the left-hand column and write a brief description of what the prophecy was about. Then look up the verses in the right-hand column and draw a line from the O.T. prophecy to the N.T. fulfillment.

<u>O.T. Prophecy</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>N.T. Fulfillment</u>
Genesis 12:3		Acts 3:25
Psalms 22:1		Matthew 27:46
Psalms 22:16		John 19:28-30
Psalms 22:18		Matthew 27:35-36
Psalms 34:20		John 19:32-33, 36
Psalms 41:9		John 13:18
Psalms 69:21		John 20:25, 27

# Map and Timeline



# In the Garden of



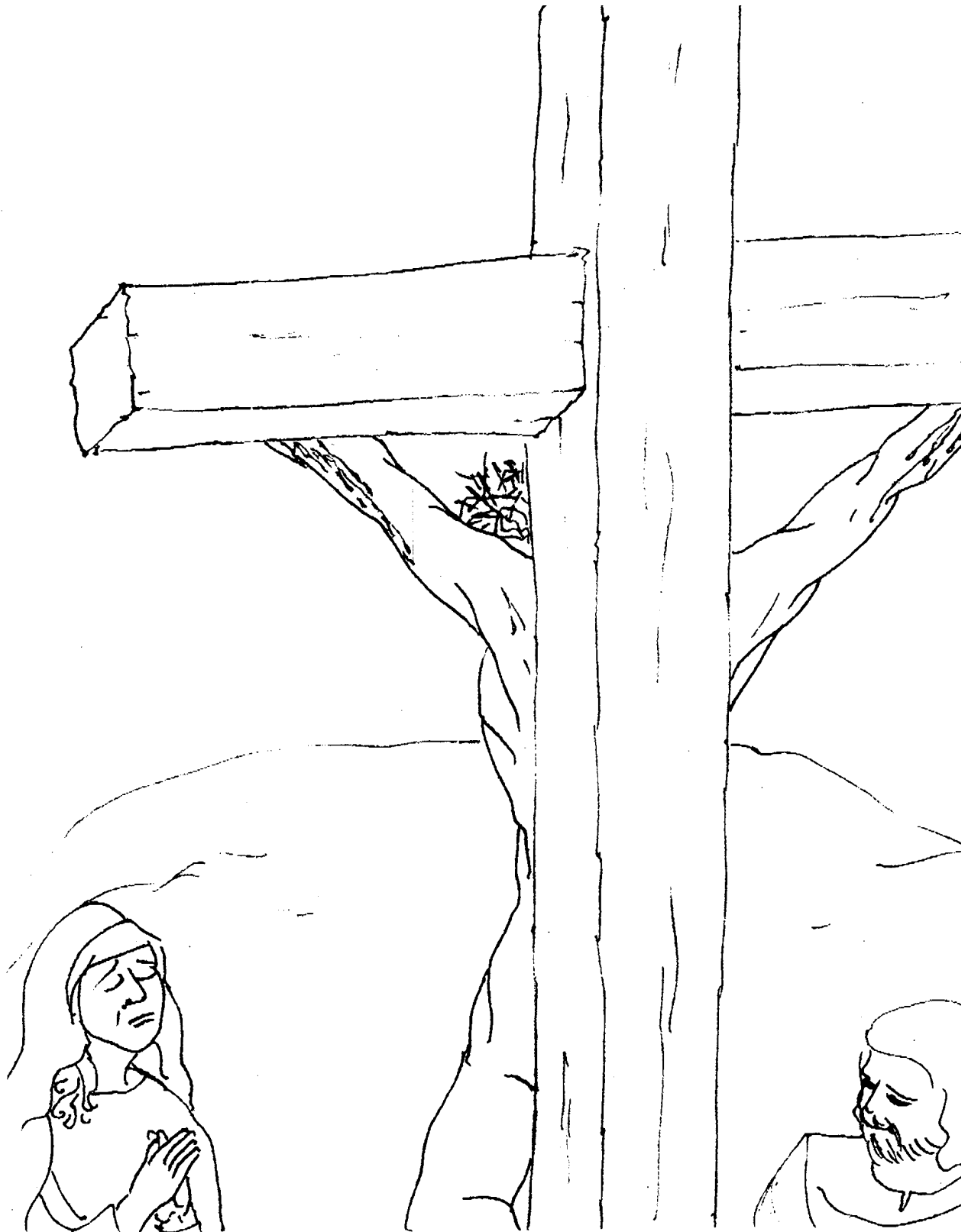
# Jesus and Barabas Before the



# Jesus' Scourging



# Jesus' Crucifixion



# The Tomb is EMPTY!!



## "The Medical Account of the Crucifixion" by C. Truman Davis, M.D., M.S.

In this article, Dr. Davis discusses some of the physical aspects of the passion of Jesus Christ. The article traces the physical sufferings of Christ from Gethsemane, through His trial, His scourging, His path along the Via Dolorosa, to His last dying hours on the cross. The article first focuses upon a study of the practice of crucifixion. Dr. Davis writes:

This led me first to a study of the practice of crucifixion itself; that is, the torture and execution of a person by fixation to a cross. The upright portion of the cross (or stipes) could have the cross-arm (or patibulum) attached two or three feet below its top ~ this is what we commonly think of today as the classical form of the cross (the one which was later named the Latin cross).

However, the common form used in Our Lord's day was the Tau cross (shaped like the Greek letter Tau or like our capital T). In this cross the patibulum was placed in a notch at the top of the stipes. There is fairly overwhelming archaeological evidence that it was on this type of cross that Jesus was crucified. The upright post, or stipes, was permanently fixed in the ground at the site of execution and the condemned man was forced to carry the patibulum, apparently weighing about 110 pounds, from the prison to the place of execution.

Roman historical accounts and experimental work have shown that the nails were driven between the small bones of the wrists and not through the palms. Nails driven through the palms will strip out between the fingers when they support the weight of a human body. The misconception may have come about through a misunderstanding of Jesus' words to Thomas, "Reach here your finger, and see My hands" (**John 20:27**). Anatomists, both modern and ancient, have always considered the wrists as part of the hand.

The physical passion of Christ begins in Gethsemane. Of the many aspects of this initial suffering, I shall only discuss one of the physiological interests ~ the bloody sweat. It is interesting that the physician of the group, St. Luke, is the only one to mention this. He says, "And being in agony He was praying very fervently; and His sweat became like drops of blood, falling down upon the ground" (**Luke 22:44**).

Every attempt imaginable has been used by modern scholars to explain away this phrase, apparently under the mistaken impression that this just doesn't happen. A great deal of effort could be saved by consulting the medical literature. Though very rare, the phenomenon of *Hematidrosis* or "bloody sweat," is well documented. Under great emotional stress, tiny capillaries in the sweat glands can break, thus mixing blood with sweat. This process alone could have produced marked weakness and possible shock.

After the arrest in the middle of the night, Jesus was brought before the Sanhedrin and Caiaphas, the High Priest. It is here that the first physical trauma was inflicted. A soldier struck Jesus across the face for remaining silent when questioned by Caiaphas. The palace guards then blindfolded Him and mockingly taunted Him to identify them as they each passed by, spat on Him, and struck Him in the face.

In the morning, Jesus, battered and bruised, dehydrated, and exhausted from a sleepless night, is taken across Jerusalem to the Praetorium of the Fortress Antonia, the seat of government of the Procurator of Judea, Pontius Pilate.

It was then, in response to the cries of the mob, that Pilate ordered Barabbas released and condemned Jesus to scourging and crucifixion. Preparations for the scourging are carried out. The prisoner is stripped of His clothing and His hands tied to a post above His head. It is doubtful whether the Romans made any attempt to follow the Jewish law in this matter of scourging. The Jews had an ancient law prohibiting more than forty lashes. The Pharisees, always making sure that the law was strictly kept, insisted that only thirty-nine lashes be given. (In case of miscount, they were sure of remaining within the law.)

The Roman legionnaire steps forward with the flagrum (or flagellum) in his hand. This is a short whip consisting of several heavy leather thongs with two small balls of lead or bone attached near the ends of each.

The heavy whip is brought down with full force again and again across Jesus' shoulders, back and legs. At first the heavy thongs cut through the skin only. Then, as the blows continue, they cut deeper into the subcutaneous tissues, producing first an oozing of blood from the capillaries and veins of the skin, and finally

spurting arterial bleeding from vessels in the underlying muscles.

The small balls of lead or bones first produce, large, deep bruises which are broken open by subsequent blows. Finally the skin of the back hangs in long ribbons and the entire area is an unrecognizable mass of torn bleeding tissue. When it is determined by the centurion in charge that the prisoner is near death, the beating is finally stopped.

The half-fainting Jesus is then untied and allowed to slump to the stone pavement, wet with His own blood. The Roman soldiers see a great joke in this provincial Jew claiming to be a king. They throw a robe across His shoulders and place a stick in His hand for a scepter. They still need a crown to make their travesty complete. A small bundle of flexible branches covered with long thorns, commonly used for firewood, are plied into the shape of a crown and this is pressed into His scalp. Again there is copious bleeding (the scalp being one of the most vascular areas of the body). After mocking Him and striking Him across the face, the soldiers take the stick from His hand and strike Him across the head, driving the thorns deeper into His scalp.

Finally, they tire of their sadistic sport and the robe is torn from His back. This had already become adherent to the clots of blood and serum in the wounds, and its removal, just as in the careless removal of a surgical bandage, causes excruciating pain almost as though He were again being whipped, and the wounds again begin to bleed.

In deference to Jewish custom, the Romans return His garments. The heavy patibulum of the cross is tied across His shoulders and the procession of the condemned Christ, two thieves and the execution detail of the Roman soldiers, headed by a centurion, begins its slow journey along the Via Dolorosa.

In spite of His efforts to walk erect, the weight of the heavy wooden cross together with the shock produced by copious blood loss, is too much. He stumbles and falls. The rough wood of the beam gouges into the lacerated skin and muscles of the shoulders. He tries to rise, but human muscles have been pushed beyond their endurance. The centurion, anxious to get on with the crucifixion, elects a stalwart North African onlooker, Simon of Cyrene, to carry the cross. Jesus follows, still bleeding and sweating the cold, clammy sweat of shock.

The 650-yard journey from the fortress Antonia to Golgotha is finally completed. The prisoner is again stripped of His clothes except for a loin cloth which is allowed for the Jews. The crucifixion begins. Jesus is offered wine mixed with myrrh, a mild analgesic mixture. He refuses to drink. Simon is ordered to place the cross on the ground and Jesus is quickly thrown backward with His shoulders against the wood. The legionnaire feels for the depression at the front of the wrist. He drives a heavy, square, wrought-iron nail through the wrist and deep into the wood. Quickly, he moves to the other side and repeats the action, being careful not to pull the arms too tightly, but to allow some flexibility and movement. The patibulum is then lifted in place at the top of the stipes and the titulus reading, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews" (Matthew 27:37), is nailed in place.

The left foot is pressed backward against the right foot, and with both feet extended, toes down, a nail is driven through the arch of each, leaving the knees moderately flexed. The victim is now crucified. As He slowly sags down with more weight on the nails in the wrists, excruciating, fiery pain shoots along the fingers and up the arms to explode in the brain ~ the nails in the wrists are putting pressure on the median nerves. As He pushes Himself upward to avoid this stretching torment, He places His full weight on the nail through His feet. Again, there is the searing agony of the tearing through the nerves between the metatarsal bones of the feet.

At this point, another phenomenon occurs. As the arms fatigue, great waves of cramps sweep over the muscles, knotting them in deep, relentless, throbbing pain. With these cramps comes the inability to push Himself upward. Hanging by His arms, the pectoral muscles are paralyzed, and the intercostal muscles are unable to act. Air can be drawn into the lungs, but cannot be exhaled. Jesus fights to raise Himself in order to get even one short breath.

Finally carbon dioxide builds up in the lungs and in the blood stream and the cramps partially subside. Spasmodically, He is able to push Himself upward to exhale and bring in the life-giving oxygen. It was

undoubtedly during these periods that He uttered the seven short sentences which are recorded:

The first, looking down at the Roman soldiers throwing dice for His seamless garment, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." (**Luke 23:34**).

The second to the penitent thief, "Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise." (**Luke 23:43**).

The third, looking down at the terrified, grief stricken, adolescent John (the beloved Apostle), He said, "Behold, your mother!" and looking to Mary His mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" (**John 19:26-27**).

The fourth cry is from the beginning of the 22nd Psalm, "MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAST THOU FORSAKEN ME?" (**Matthew 27:46**).

Hours of this limitless pain, cycles of twisting joint-rending cramps, intermittent partial asphyxiation, searing pain as tissue is torn from His lacerated back as He moves up and down against the rough timber:

Then another agony begins. A deep crushing pain deep in the chest as the pericardium slowly fills with serum and begins to compress the heart.

It is now almost over. The loss of tissue fluids has reached a critical level; the compressed heart is struggling to pump heavy, thick, sluggish blood into the tissues; the tortured lungs are making a frantic effort to grasp in small gulps of air; the markedly dehydrated tissues send their flood of stimuli to the brain.

Jesus gasps His fifth cry, "I am thirsty." (**John 19:28**).

A sponge soaked in Posca, the cheap, sour wine which is the staple drink of the Roman legionnaires, is lifted to His lips. He apparently does not take any of the liquid. The body of Jesus is now in extremis, and He can feel the chill of death creeping through His tissues.

The realization brings out His sixth words, "It is finished!" (**John 19:30**). His mission of atonement has been completed. Finally He can allow His body to die.

With one last surge of strength, He once again presses His torn feet against the nail, straightens His legs, takes a deeper breath, and utters His seventh and final cry, "Father, INTO THY HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT" (**Luke 23:46**).

In order that the Sabbath not be profaned, the Jews asked that the condemned men be dispatched and removed from the crosses. The common method of ending a crucifixion was by crucifraction, the breaking of the bones of the legs. This prevents the victim from pushing himself upward; the tension could not be relieved from the muscles of the chest, and rapid suffocation occurred.

The legs of the two thieves were broken, but when they came to Jesus they saw that this was unnecessary. Apparently to make doubly sure of death, the legionnaire drove his lance through the fifth interspace between the ribs, upward through the pericardium and into the heart.

**John 19:34** records, "but one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately there came out blood and water." Thus there was an escape of watery fluid from the sac surrounding the heart and blood from the interior of the heart.

We, therefore have rather conclusive post-mortem evidence that Our Lord died, not of the usual crucifixion death by suffocation, but of heart failure due to shock and constriction of the heart by fluid in the pericardium.

## **Passage Review Questions**

### **John Chapters 18-19**

1. When Jesus had finished praying, where did he and his disciples go? 18:1
2. Who did Judas bring with him to the garden? 18:3a
3. When Jesus said that he was the one they were looking for, what did they do? 18:6
4. What did Simon Peter have, and what did he do with it? 18:10a
5. What was the servant's name? 18:10b
6. What did Jesus command Peter to do? 18:11a
7. Who did they first take Jesus to? 18:13a
8. What were Simon Peter and another disciple doing while all this was going on? 18:15b
9. What did the girl who was guarding the door ask Peter, and how did he answer her? 18:17
10. This was Peter's f\_\_\_\_\_ denial.
11. When Jesus finished answering them, what did one of the officials do to Jesus for answering them this way? 18:22a

12. What did this official say to Jesus? 18:22b
13. Where then did Annias send Jesus and was Jesus still bound? 18:24
14. What was he asked, as Peter was warming himself at the fire? 18:25a
15. What did Peter do? 18:25b
16. This was Peter's s\_\_\_\_\_ denial.
17. What did Peter do at the moment the rooster crowed? 18:27
18. This was Peter's t\_\_\_\_\_ denial.
19. What did the Jews then do to Jesus? 18:28a
20. What time of the day was this? 18:28b
21. To avoid ceremonial uncleanness, what did the Jews not do? 18:28c
22. What did Pilate ask of Jesus in 18:33?
23. In what way did Jesus answer Pilate when he wanted to know what Jesus had done? 18:36
24. Did Jesus say that his kingdom was of this world? 18:36a

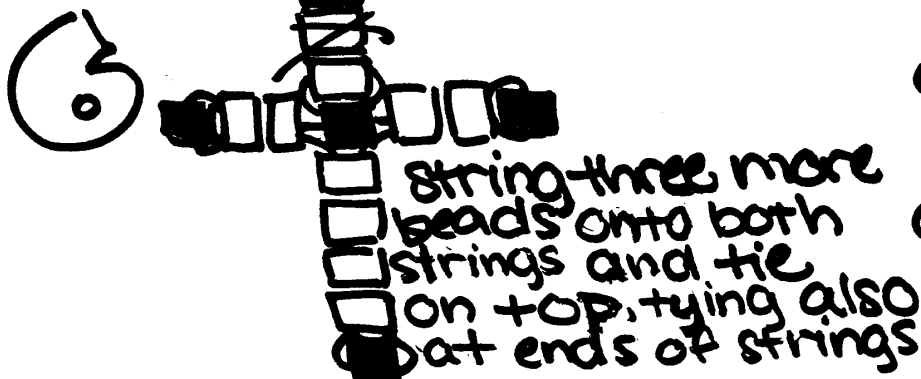
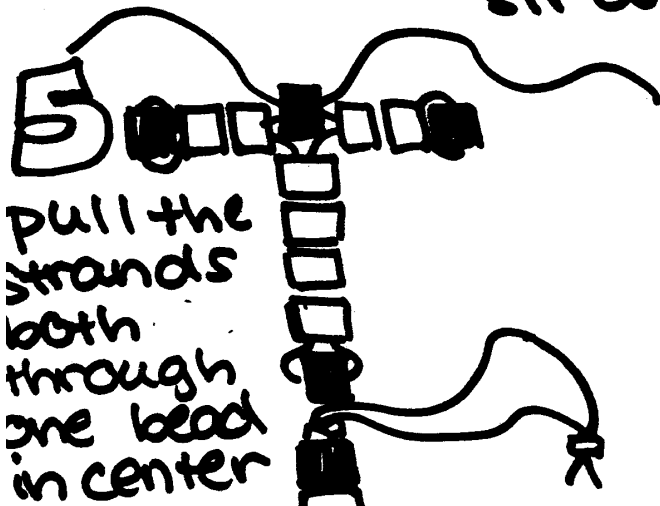
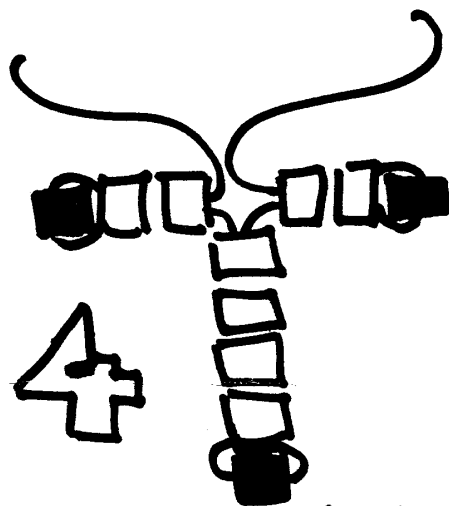
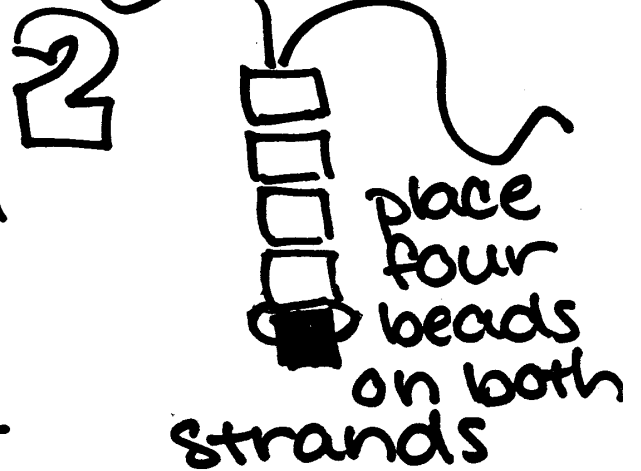
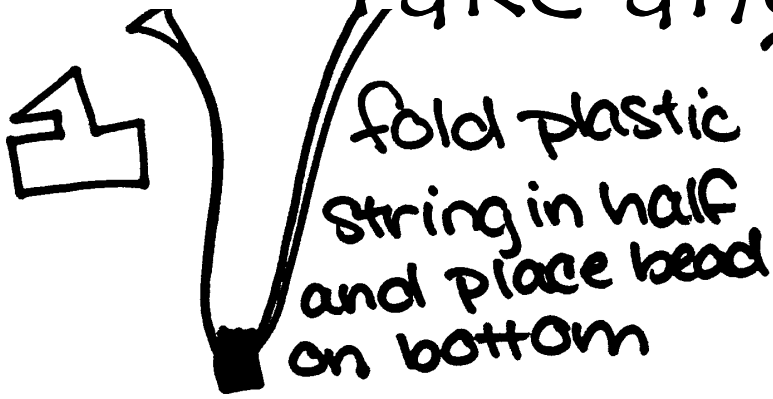
19:34

49. Who asked Pilate for the body of Jesus? 19:38a
50. Who accompanied Joseph, and what did he bring with him? 19:39
53. What did they do with Jesus' body? 19:40

36. What day and time did this happen? 19:14
37. Who took charge of Jesus in 19:16?
38. What did Jesus have to do? 19:17
39. Who was crucified with Jesus? 19:18b
40. What did Pilate have fastened to the cross? 19:19
41. In what language was this sign written? 19:20
42. What did the soldiers do with Jesus' clothes? 19:23a
43. How did the soldiers decide who would get the whole undergarment? 19:24a
44. Who stood near the cross of Jesus? 19:25
45. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, what did he say to them? 19:26-27
46. When Jesus received the drink, what happened? 19:30
47. When they came to Jesus, what did they find? 19:32-33a
48. What did one of the soldiers do, and what happened?

25. Pilate then went out to the Jews and said that he found no fault with Jesus. What did Pilate say to the Jews? 18:39
26. How did the Jews answer Pilate in 18:40?
27. Why was Barabbas in prison? 18:40
28. What did Pilate have done to Jesus? 19:1
29. What did the soldiers make for Jesus, and where did they put it? 19:2a
30. With what did the soldiers clothe Jesus? 19:2b
31. What else did they do to Jesus in 19:3?
32. What did Pilate do again? 19:4
33. When Jesus was brought out wearing the purple robe and crown of thorns, what did the chief priests and their officials cry out? 19:6a
34. What did Pilate tell the Jews to do and why? 19:6b
35. After Jesus said what he did to Pilate, what did Pilate try harder to do, and what did the Jews keep shouting at Pilate? 19:12

# Take and Tell



NOTE: each package contain 5 of one color 10 of the other. The darkened beads represent the 5 different colored beads.

# Are You Committed to Christ and STANDING FOR TRUTH?



**Pilate knew that Jesus was innocent of all charges against Him.**

**He had the authority to have Jesus set free.  
He didn't take a stand for Truth, therefore, he stood against it!**

Next to each verse below fill in what it says about truth:

Psalm 15:1-2 \_\_\_\_\_

Psalm 40:10 \_\_\_\_\_

Psalm 119:29-30; 41-47 \_\_\_\_\_

Proverbs 16:13 \_\_\_\_\_

John 14:6 \_\_\_\_\_

John 18:37 \_\_\_\_\_

2 Corinthians 4:13 \_\_\_\_\_

Ephesians 6:13-18 \_\_\_\_\_

2 Timothy 2:15 \_\_\_\_\_

2 Timothy 3:16 \_\_\_\_\_

**When confronted with a situation where you have to choose  
whether or not to stand up for the Truth, what do you do?**



# STANDING FOR TRUTH

(Answer Key)

**Pilate knew that Jesus was innocent of all charges against Him.**

**He had the authority to have Jesus set free.**

**He didn't take a stand for Truth, therefore, he stood against it!**

Next to each verse below fill in what it says about truth:

Psalm 15:1-2      Dwell with the Lord.

Psalm 40:10      Do not conceal God's Truth.

Psalm 119:29-30; 41-47      Choose Truth; Trust and Speak God's Word without shame.

Proverbs 16:13      Those who speak Truth are valued.

John 14:6      Jesus is Truth.

John 18:37      Jesus came to testify of Truth- those on the side of Truth Listen to Jesus.

2 Corinthians 4:13      Believe and speak the Truth.

Ephesians 6:13-18      Stand firm.

2 Timothy 2:15      Handle the Word of Truth unashamed.

2 Timothy 3:16      All Scripture is God breathed and useful for teaching, rebuking and training.

**When confronted with a situation where you have to choose**