

LESSON THIRTEEN | MARK 15-16

SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

WELCOME

What if Jesus had never been born?
2–3 mins.

DRILL TIME

The Lord's Supper
3–5 mins.

W.O.W!

Cross
3–5 mins.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Timeline
2–3 mins.

BIBLE INVESTIGATION

Mark 15-16
20–30 mins.

LESSON-AT-HOME

I Corinthians 1:18
3–5 mins.

OVERVIEW

Mark 15-16 present Mark's version (inspired by the Holy Spirit) of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. As with the rest of his Gospel, the action moves very quickly, leaving out information that we find in the other Gospels. Mark 15 opens with Jesus being hauled before Pilate who promptly turns over his decision to the Jews. They choose to have Barabbas the murderer released, and Jesus sent to the cross. Jesus is then led away to be beaten and mocked as the "King of the Jews."

The chapter continues with Simon of Cyrene carrying the cross to Golgotha where Jesus is crucified. Jesus continues to be tortured until He breathes His last. Darkness covers the earth and the temple curtain is torn in two. His body is removed from the cross and buried in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea.

Mark 16 opens with three women on their way to visit the tomb. They were amazed when the stone was rolled back and an angel was sitting in the tomb. They were so frightened that they told no one. Later, Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene who did tell the disciples that Jesus was alive. No one believed at first, so Jesus rebuked them, yet also commissioned them to go and spread the gospel. The chapter ends with Jesus ascending into heaven.

PREPARATION

Read and meditate on Mark 15-16 this week. **This lesson is a bit longer than usual, so plan accordingly.**

TEACHING ENCOURAGEMENT

Praise God for the cross of Jesus Christ! Without the cross, there is no salvation. No other religion can lead a person to God because none contain the cross of Christ. As familiar a part of Christianity as the cross is, make sure your children think about the fact that the cross is central. It is not just part of the gospel, it is the gospel! The only way to salvation is to be crucified with Christ on that cross. If they do not have their sins nailed to that cross, then there is no hope. It is all about the cross of Christ. While the cross is foolish to the rest of the world, we know it demonstrates God's power and grace. Praise God for the cross of Christ!



WELCOME

Greet the students. Welcome visitors.

Say: *What if Jesus had never been born? How would your life be different?* **Allow brainstorming.**

Jesus was not just a great prophet or a great teacher in the course of history. If Jesus had never been born, He could not have died for our sins. If Jesus had never been born, all human beings—including you and me—would be on our way to Hell. If Jesus had never been born, there would be no forgiveness of our sins. Aren't you glad Jesus was born? That's the Good News of the gospel. We'll read more Good News today.



DRILL TIME

But first, let's have our DRILL TIME—our weekly opportunity to review what we have learned in the past.

Today's questions: *Where did Jesus celebrate the Passover meal? What did He say that the broken bread represented? What did the cup represent? What did Jesus and the disciples do after they ate the bread and drank from the cup? Who dipped his bread in the bowl with Jesus, showing that he was Jesus' betrayer?*

Call on volunteers or select students to make attempts.

Answers:

1. In the upper room.
2. His body.
3. His blood of the covenant.
4. They sang a hymn.
5. Judas Iscariot.

Say: *The Passover meal included the sacrifice of a lamb. That lamb was just a picture of the coming Lamb of God who would be killed for our salvation. Who is that Lamb of God? [Jesus.] So the Passover meal was changed into the "Lord's Supper," which we are to celebrate regularly as believers in the Lamb of God.*



Our W.O.W! (Word of the Week) this week is a familiar word. It is the word **CROSS**. Write the word on the board.

Today, we will read about how Jesus was crucified on a CROSS like a common criminal. In Jesus' day, death on a wooden CROSS was reserved for the worst criminals. It was an extremely painful way to die.

Various types of CROSSES were used to execute criminals. The one Jesus was crucified on probably looked like a lower case "t." **Draw it on the board.** Jesus' hands were nailed to the crossbeam of the CROSS, and His feet to a peg on the bottom. The CROSS represents the most cruel torture of a human being in its day.

As horrible as the CROSS is, it is now a symbol of the Good News of the gospel. Our sins were also nailed to the CROSS so we would not have to die for our sin. The Bible says that all Christians were crucified with Christ on that CROSS. So the CROSS set us free from sin and death.

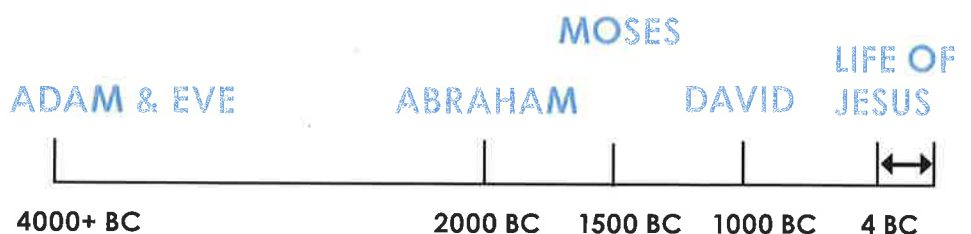
Listen for our Word of the Week as we study today.



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

If necessary, draw this timeline on the board to finish out the quarter.

This Week's Timeline





Introduction: *We left off last time with one of Jesus' disciples disowning Jesus three times. Who denied that he knew Jesus? [Peter.] Did any other disciple stay with Jesus? [No.] They all abandoned Him. Jesus was alone now, facing false TESTIMONY from lying witnesses. We will finish the Gospel of Mark today.*

Let's begin. Read Mark 15:1-5.

¹ And as soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. And they bound Jesus and led him away and delivered him over to Pilate. ² And Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" And he answered him, "You have said so." ³ And the chief priests accused him of many things. ⁴ And Pilate again asked him, "Have you no answer to make? See how many charges they bring against you." ⁵ But Jesus made no further answer, so that Pilate was amazed.

Discussion: *Now that the Sanhedrin believed Jesus was a guilty criminal, they sent Him on to Governor Pontius Pilate. What did Pilate ask Jesus? [Are you the king of the Jews?] What did Jesus say? [You have said so.] Jesus didn't try to defend Himself.*

Listen to what happens next. Read verses 6-15.

⁶ Now at the feast he used to release for them one prisoner for whom they asked. ⁷ And among the rebels in prison, who had committed murder in the insurrection, there was a man called Barabbas. ⁸ And the crowd came up and began to ask Pilate to do as he usually did for them. ⁹ And he answered them, saying, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" ¹⁰ For he perceived that it was out of envy that the chief priests had delivered him up. ¹¹ But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release for them Barabbas instead. ¹² And Pilate again said to them, "Then what shall I do with the man you call the King of the Jews?" ¹³ And they cried out again, "Crucify him." ¹⁴ And Pilate said to them, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him." ¹⁵ So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified.

Discussion: *Did you hear what the chief priests did? They stirred up the crowd to demand that Jesus be crucified. Pilate had to release Barabbas, a murderer, instead of innocent Jesus.*



Application: *As unfair as this trial was, we again understand that God is in control of all things. It is His plan to send Jesus to the CROSS for our sins. God used the sinful actions of the chief priests and the people to accomplish His purposes.*

Let's continue. Read verses 16-20.

¹⁶ And the soldiers led him away inside the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters), and they called together the whole battalion. ¹⁷ And they clothed him in a purple cloak, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on him. ¹⁸ And they began to salute him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" ¹⁹ And they were striking his head with a reed and spitting on him and kneeling down in homage to him. ²⁰ And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. And they led him out to crucify him.

Discussion: *Why did the soldiers put a purple robe and a crown of thorns on Jesus? [They were mocking His claim to be the King of the Jews.] Even though Jesus IS the King of the Jews, the people just made fun of His claim. Worse than that, this mocking was multiplied by torture and great ridicule. How horrible!*

Let's keep reading. Read verses 21-24.

²¹ And they compelled a passerby, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross. ²² And they brought him to the place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull). ²³ And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. ²⁴ And they crucified him and divided his garments among them, casting lots for them, to decide what each should take.

Discussion: *What did Simon from Cyrene do for Jesus? [He carried His CROSS.] Where was Jesus crucified? [Golgotha.] They continued to torture Jesus as He hung on the CROSS.*

Listen. Read verses 25-32.

²⁵ And it was the third hour when they crucified him. ²⁶ And the inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." ²⁷ And with him they crucified two robbers, one on his right and one on his left. ²⁹ And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple



and rebuild it in three days, ³⁰ save yourself, and come down from the cross!" ³¹ So also the chief priests with the scribes mocked him to one another, saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. ³² Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also reviled him.

Discussion: *Could Jesus have saved Himself if He wanted to? [Yes.] He could have come right down off the CROSS. So why did Jesus stay on the CROSS? [To die for our sins.] All the ridicule in the world would not stop Jesus from dying for His people's sins.*

Listen to what happens next. Read verses 33-37.

³³ And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. ³⁴ And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" ³⁵ And some of the bystanders hearing it said, "Behold, he is calling Elijah." ³⁶ And someone ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." ³⁷ And Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last.

Discussion: *The people thought Jesus was calling out to Elijah. Who was Jesus really crying out to? [God the Father.] Jesus was grieving that the Father had forsaken Him. He was left all alone to bear the sins of His people and the wrath of God. What a horrible thing for our Savior to endure.*

Let's read on. Read verses 38-41.

³⁸ And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. ³⁹ And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!" ⁴⁰ There were also women looking on from a distance, among whom were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. ⁴¹ When he was in Galilee, they followed him and ministered to him, and there were also many other women who came up with him to Jerusalem.

Discussion: *Does anyone know the significance of the temple curtain being torn in two from top to bottom? Allow answers. The curtain*



separated the Most Holy Place from the rest of the temple. Only the High Priest could go behind that curtain to meet with God. Since Christ's death tore that curtain, all Christians can meet with God, through Jesus Christ! Did you also notice that, even though His disciples abandoned Him, God used many women to take care of Jesus? Isn't that neat?

Application: *The only way you and I have access to a relationship with God is through a relationship with Jesus Christ. Our sin keeps a curtain between us and God. Jesus tears apart that curtain of sin with His own life. He could do this because His death satisfied the righteous wrath of our Father for our sin!*

Let's continue our reading. Read verses 42-47.

⁴² And when evening had come, since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the Sabbath, ⁴³ Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. ⁴⁴ Pilate was surprised to hear that he should have already died. And summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he was already dead. ⁴⁵ And when he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the corpse to Joseph. ⁴⁶ And Joseph bought a linen shroud, and taking him down, wrapped him in the linen shroud and laid him in a tomb that had been cut out of the rock. And he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. ⁴⁷ Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus saw where he was laid.

Discussion: *What follower of Jesus asked to bury Jesus' body? [Joseph of Arimathea.] What was rolled in front of the tomb. [A large stone.] Pilate had the tomb sealed and guarded so no one could steal Jesus' body.*

Let's see what happens next. Read Mark 16:1-4.

¹ When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. ² And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³ And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?" ⁴ And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back—it was very large.



Discussion: *What a miracle! Who rolled this large stone away? Allow answers. We learned from the Gospel of Matthew that an angel of the Lord rolled the stone away. What day did all this take place? [On Sunday, the first day of the week.]*

Let's read on. Read verses 5-8.

⁵ And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. ⁶ And he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him. ⁷ But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you." ⁸ And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Discussion: *Who was in Jesus' tomb? [An angel of the Lord.] Why wasn't Jesus' body there? [Jesus had risen from the dead!] What did the angel tell the women to do? [Go tell the disciples and Peter.] Why did the angel want them to specifically tell Peter? [Because Peter had denied Christ three times, and was very sad about it.] Did they go and tell the disciples? [Not right away, for they were too afraid.]*

Application: *Jesus could not have saved His people from their sins if He had stayed in the grave. He arose because He conquered sin and death! Death could not keep Him in the tomb. His resurrection shows His power over the kingdom of darkness!*

Let's read more. Read verses 9-11.

⁹ Now when he rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast out seven demons. ¹⁰ She went and told those who had been with him, as they mourned and wept. ¹¹ But when they heard that he was alive and had been seen by her, they would not believe it.

Discussion: *Who did Jesus appear to first, after rising from the dead? [Mary Magdalene.] What did Mary do next? [She told the disciples.] Did they believe that Jesus had risen from the dead? [No.] But Jesus told them that He would!*

Let's continue. Read verses 12-18.

¹² After these things he appeared in another form to two of them, as



they were walking into the country. ¹³ And they went back and told the rest, but they did not believe them. ¹⁴ Afterward he appeared to the eleven themselves as they were reclining at table, and he rebuked them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who saw him after he had risen. ¹⁵ And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. ¹⁶ Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. ¹⁷ And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; ¹⁸ they will pick up serpents with their hands; and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

Application: *Jesus rebuked the disciples for not believing that He had risen from the death. They were still struggling with a lack of FAITH in Jesus! Then, Jesus gave them a Great Commission—to go into all the world and preach the gospel. The disciples would also do great signs and wonders by the power of God. When you put your FAITH in Jesus, He also commissions you to tell others about Him. You are to go into all of your world—your home, school, and community—telling others Jesus died for their sins!*

Let’s finish our reading. Read verses 19-20.

¹⁹ So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. ²⁰ And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by accompanying signs.

Discussion: *Where did Jesus go after He spent some time with His disciples? [He ascended into heaven.] Where is Jesus now? [He is sitting at the right hand of God the Father.] What did the disciples do? [They went out and preached everywhere.]*

Conclusion: *This is the end of the Gospel of Mark. But, it is not the end of the story of Jesus, is it? Jesus Christ reigns at the right hand of God. He prays for all of His people. He is preparing a place for all His people. He will return for His people one day. This is all of the Good News! Let’s pray and thank God that He died, rose again, and lives to love and lead His people!*



LESSON-AT-HOME

Distribute the “Lesson-At-Home” bookmarks. Read the Scripture Memory verse (I Corinthians 1:18) together.

I Corinthians 1:18 (ESV)

¹⁸ For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Say: *The people mocked Jesus as He hung on the CROSS. Those who reject Jesus think that the CROSS is a symbol of foolishness. Yet, we know that the CROSS is a sign of the power of God. The CROSS is what brings us salvation since Jesus was willing to die on the CROSS!*

Review the verse a couple of times.

Direct the students’ attentions to the bottom half of the bookmark. It includes reminder points of today’s lesson that can be discussed with their parents and reviewed during the week.

Close in prayer and dismiss the students.

Lesson-At-Home

Bookmark

Scripture Memory

I Corinthians 1:18

For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Lesson Review

Mark 15-16

Jesus is on trial before Pilate.

Jesus is crucified on the CROSS.

*Jesus rises from the grave.
Jesus ascends into heaven.*

Year Two

Investigating God's Word...
Summer Quarter ~ Lesson Thirteen

Lesson-At-Home

Bookmark

Scripture Memory

I Corinthians 1:18

For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Lesson Review

Mark 15-16

Jesus is on trial before Pilate.

Jesus is crucified on the CROSS.

*Jesus rises from the grave.
Jesus ascends into heaven.*

Year Two

Investigating God's Word...
Summer Quarter ~ Lesson Thirteen

Lesson-At-Home

Bookmark

Scripture Memory

I Corinthians 1:18

For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Lesson Review

Mark 15-16

Jesus is on trial before Pilate.

Jesus is crucified on the CROSS.

*Jesus rises from the grave.
Jesus ascends into heaven.*

Year Two

Investigating God's Word...
Summer Quarter ~ Lesson Thirteen

Lesson-At-Home

Bookmark

Scripture Memory

I Corinthians 1:18

For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Lesson Review

Mark 15-16

Jesus is on trial before Pilate.

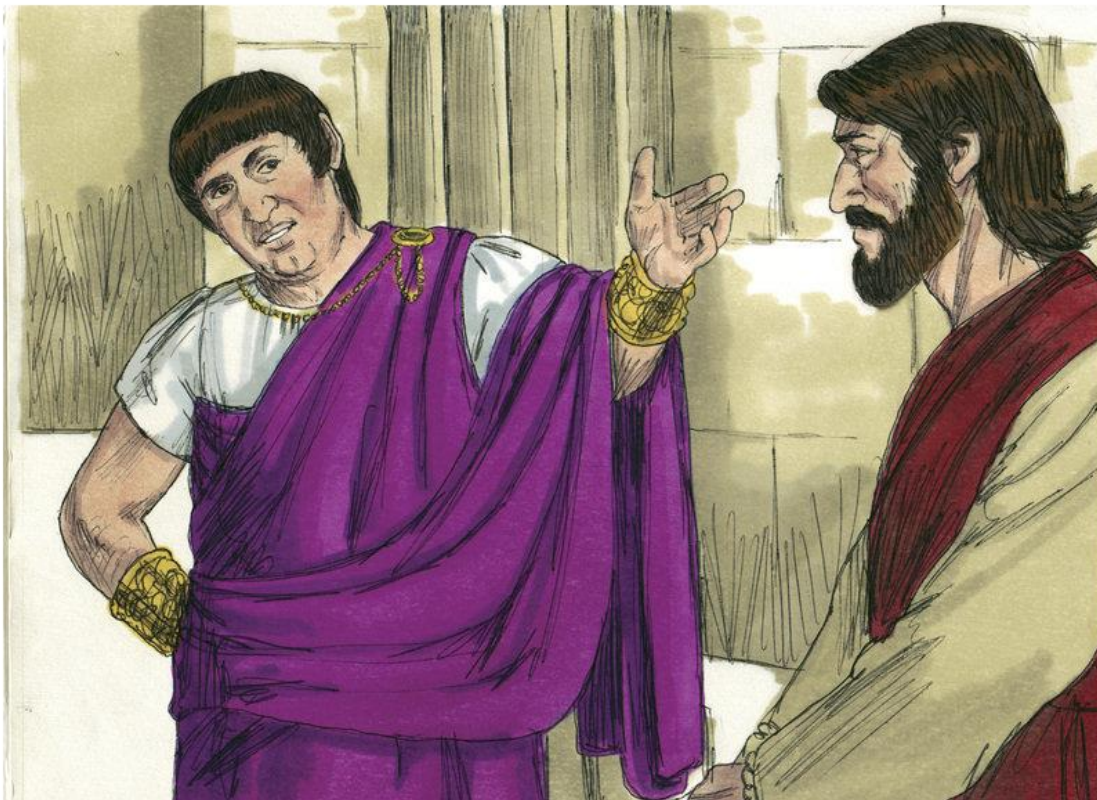
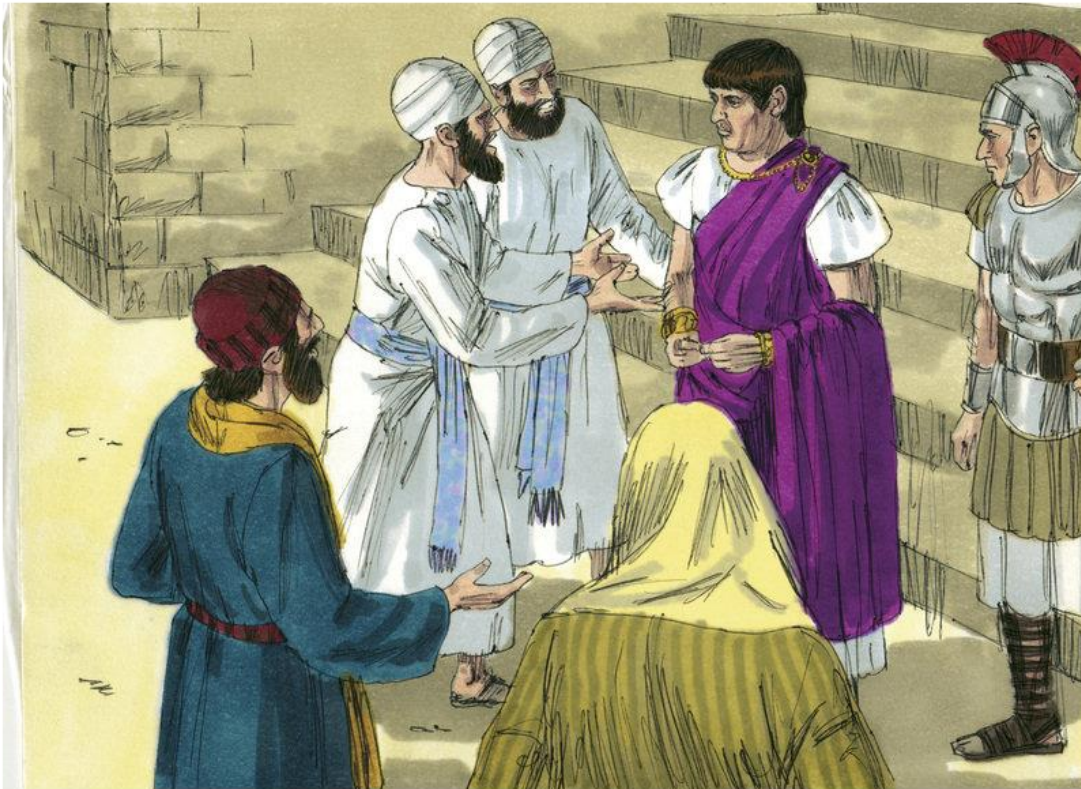
Jesus is crucified on the CROSS.

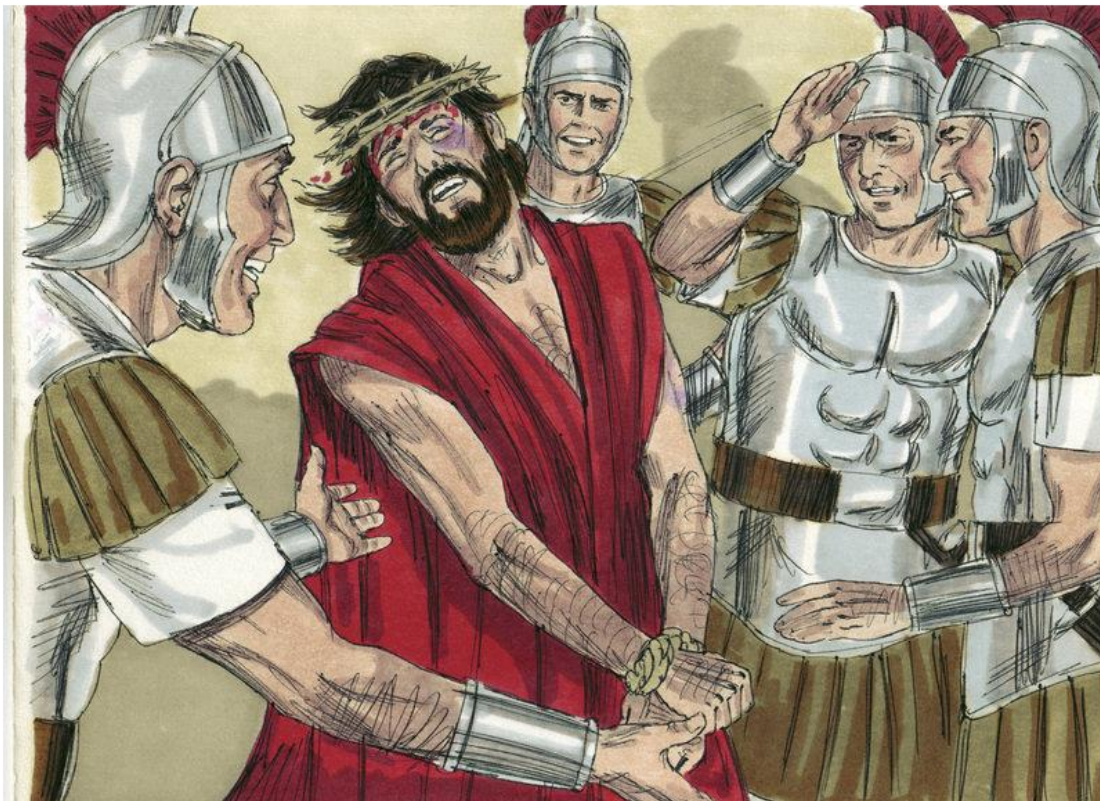
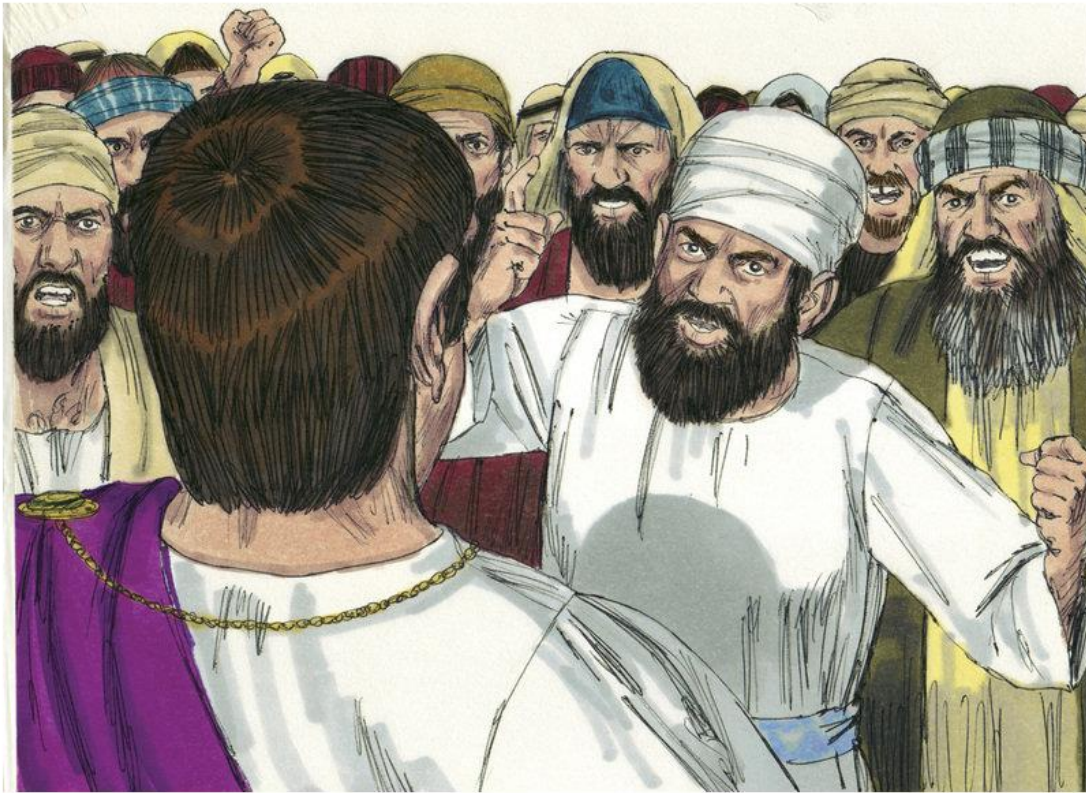
*Jesus rises from the grave.
Jesus ascends into heaven.*

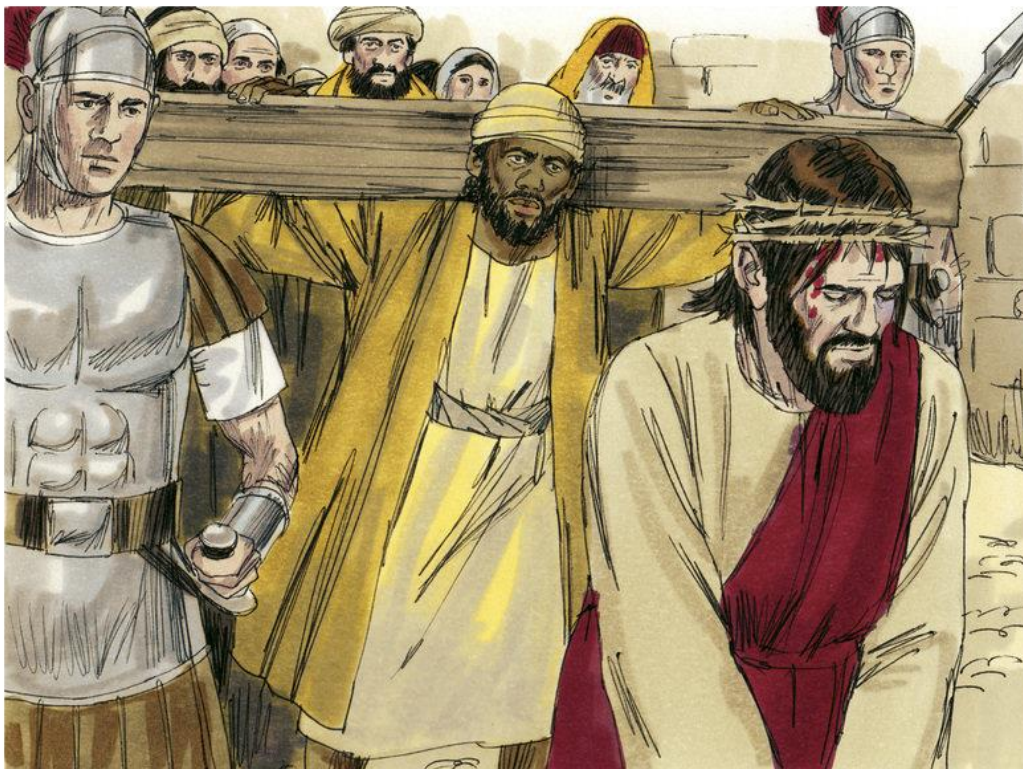
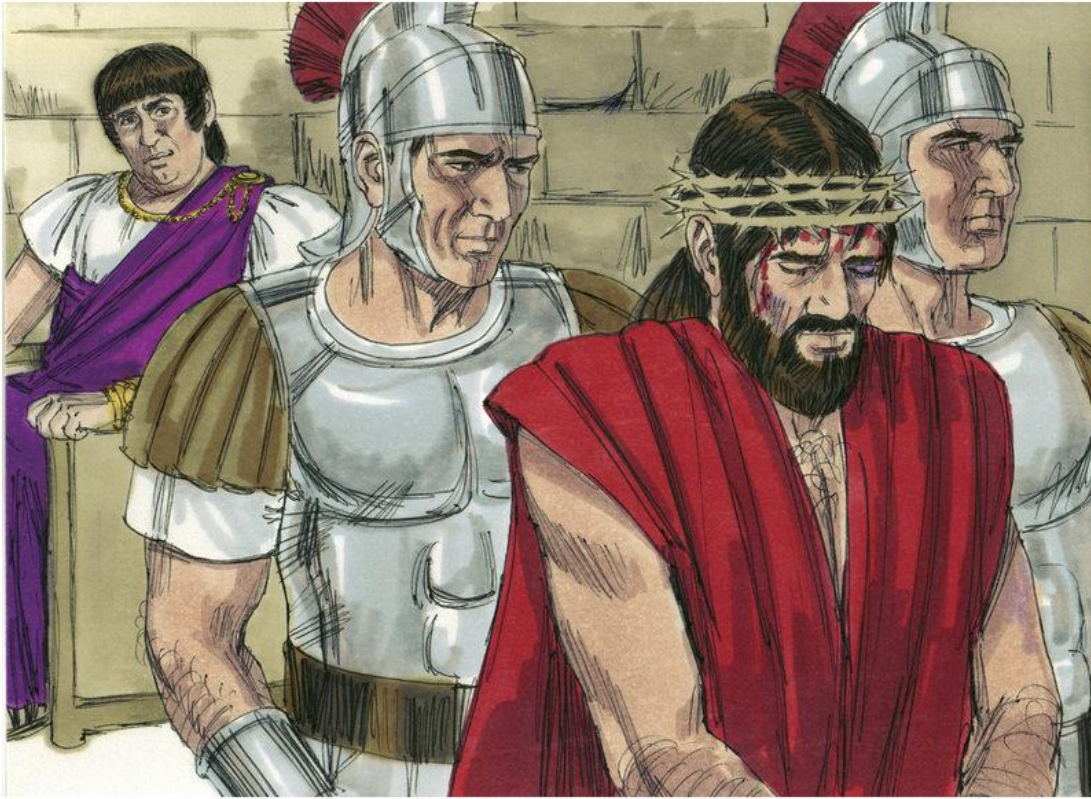
Year Two

Investigating God's Word...
Summer Quarter ~ Lesson Thirteen

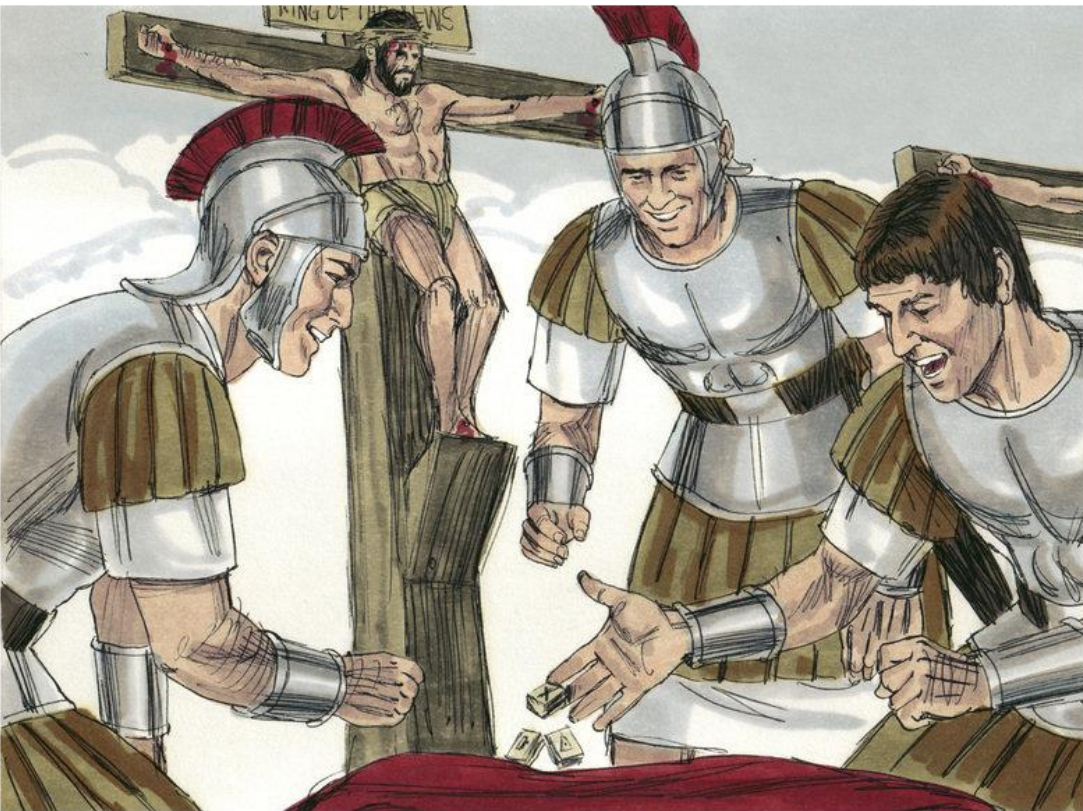
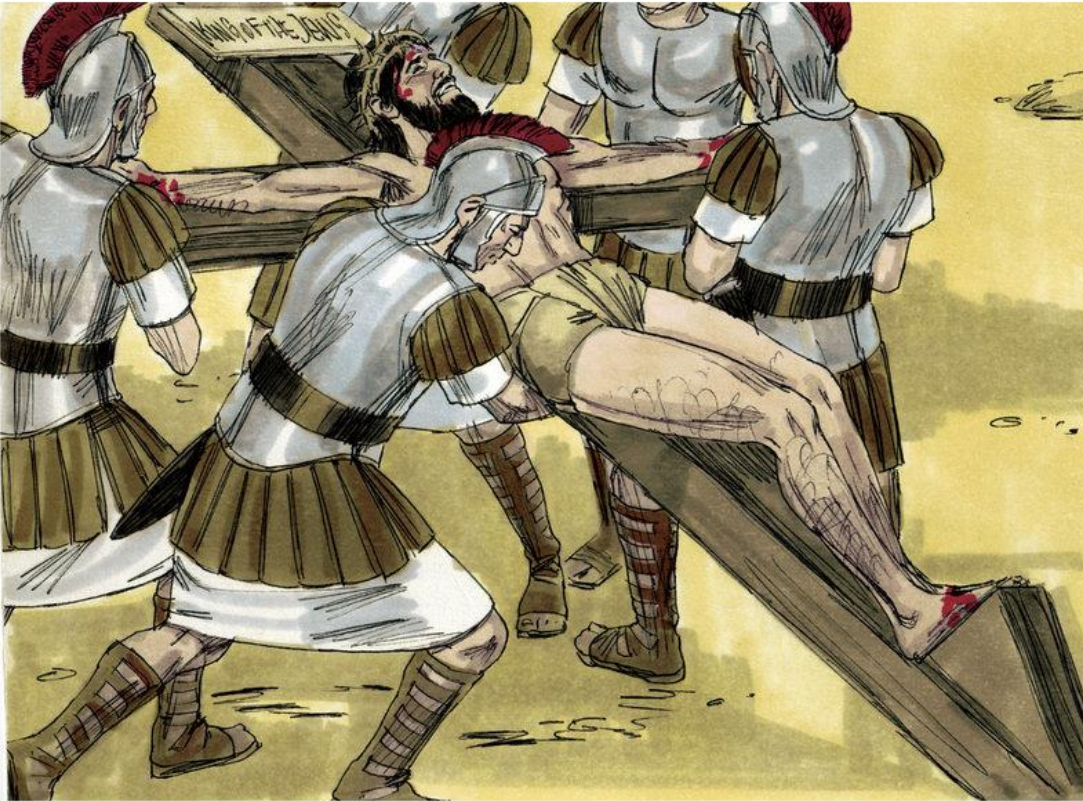
One Story Ministries Summer Year 2 – Lesson 13 – Mark 15

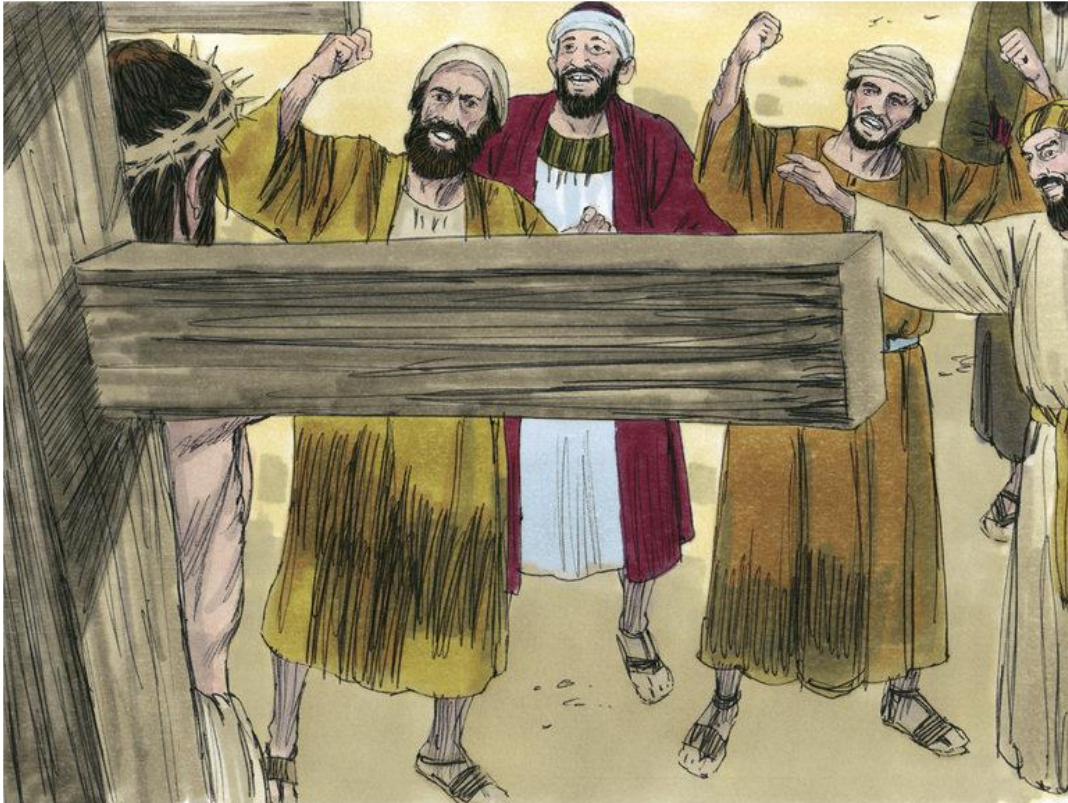
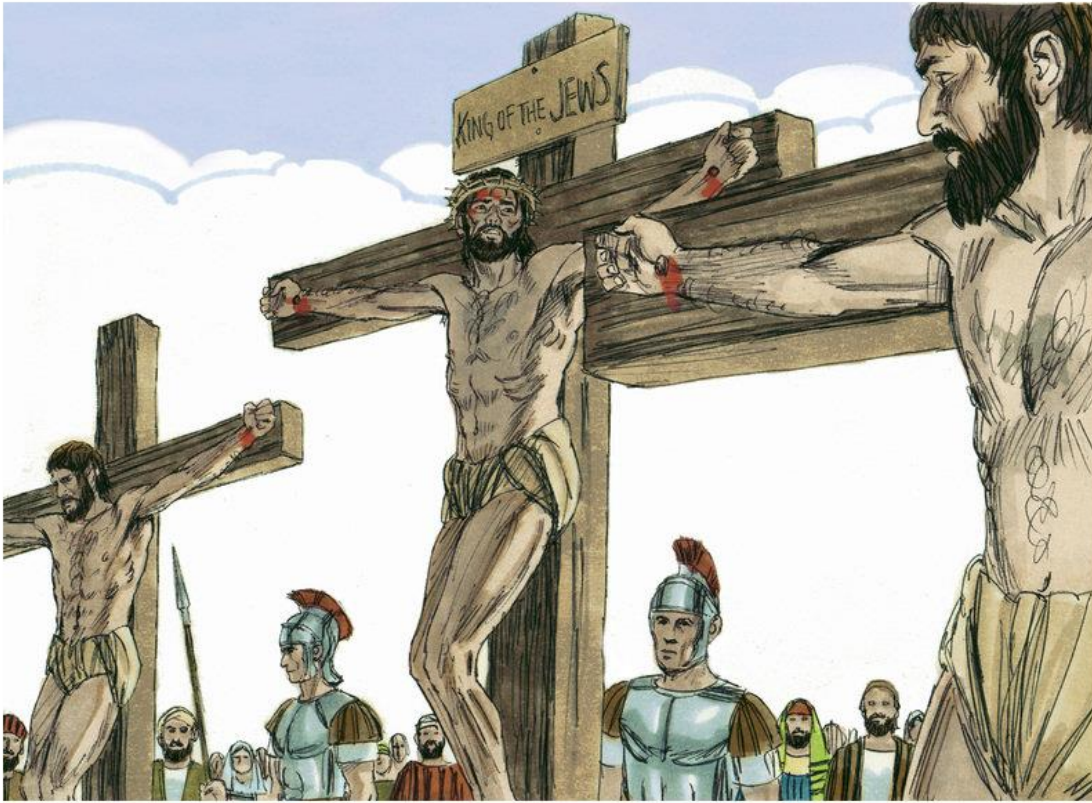






One Story Ministries Summer Year 2 – Lesson 13 – Mark 15





One Story Ministries Summer Year 2 – Lesson 13 – Mark 15

