

Jesus on trial (part two)



Bible verses:

Luke 23:1-25

Governor Pilate questions Jesus



Aim:

To know that the Holy Spirit can help us with self-control in difficult situations



Today's fruit:

Self-control



In this week's session we continue to follow the events of Holy Week.

Jesus was brought before Pilate and Herod Antipas for judgement, but both men could not find one thing that Jesus had done wrong. The crowd mocked Jesus and shouted abuse, yet he said nothing. We see how Jesus reacts to very challenging circumstances.

Jesus showed self-control when all around him people were accusing him and harming him. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we can also show self-control.

Each child will need:

- Pens/pencils and paper
- *Explore It ideas* handout

You will need:

- Today's fruit sign: *Self-control*
- A prayer based on an area of your life where you struggle to show self-control (optional) - see *Pray it*



Start it

Say:

To start our session today, we're going to see how much you know about the Easter story.

The quiz gives the children time to write down or shout out the answers before they are revealed on the screen.



Video

School Bible quiz for kids: Easter edition (Sunday School and Homeschool) by ShareFaith Kids (2:17)



Sing it

Share the memory verse together.

Memory verse

**'The Lord is my strength and shield.
I trust him, and he helps me.
I am very happy.
And I praise him with my song.'**

(Psalm 28:7 ICB)

Say:

Our song for today reminds us that everyone can put their trust in God.

Song

'You, you, you' (Sky VBS group publishing) by Lifetree Kids (2:05)



Tell it

This week we are continuing to follow the story of Jesus as we move towards Easter. Recap the main events covered in Sessions Three and Four (Peter denying Jesus and Jesus being arrested) so that the children are ready to learn about the trial of Jesus. Encourage them to retell the story in their own words.

Say:

Our story continues today as Jesus is handed over to the Roman Governor Pontius Pilate for questioning.

Read:

'Then the whole group stood up and led Jesus to Pilate. They began to accuse Jesus. They told Pilate, "We caught this man telling things that were confusing our people. He says that we should not pay taxes to Caesar. He calls himself the Christ, a king."

'Pilate asked Jesus, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

'Jesus answered, "Yes, that is right."



**‘Pilate said to the leading priests and the people, “I find nothing wrong with this man.”
‘They said again and again, “But Jesus is making trouble with the people! He teaches all around Judea. He began in Galilee, and now he is here!”’**

(Luke 23:1-5 *ICB*)

Ask:

- Why was Jesus brought before Pilate? What did the religious leaders say he had done?
- Why were people trying to get Jesus to say that he was the Son of God or the King of the Jews?
- What was Pilate’s conclusion about Jesus?
- How did the religious leaders respond to Pilate’s belief that Jesus was innocent?

Say:

The Romans were known for their barbaric punishments, but they also had a clear system of rules and laws that were carefully followed. Pilate could not find anything that Jesus had done wrong. When Pilate heard that Jesus was from Galilee, he sent him to another leader to be questioned.

Read:

‘Pilate heard this and asked if Jesus was from Galilee. If so, Jesus was under Herod’s authority. Herod was in Jerusalem at that time; so Pilate sent Jesus to him. When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad. He had heard about Jesus and had wanted to meet him for a long time. Herod was hoping to see Jesus work a miracle. Herod asked Jesus many questions, but Jesus said nothing. The leading priests and teachers of the law were standing there. They were shouting things against Jesus. Then Herod and his soldiers made fun of Jesus. They dressed him in a kingly robe and then sent him back to Pilate. In the past, Pilate and Herod had always been enemies. But on that day they became friends.’

(Luke 23:6-12 *ICB*)

Ask:

- How was Jesus treated when he went to see Herod? What kinds of things happened to him?
- How did Jesus react when he was mocked, shouted at, and dressed up in a kingly robe?

Say:

The people were trying to provoke Jesus to get a response. If they succeeded, then it would prove that Jesus was a troublemaker. Jesus stayed perfectly calm.

Ask:

How do you think Jesus managed to stay so calm when everyone was treating him in such an unkind way?

Read:

‘Pilate called all the people together with the leading priests and the Jewish leaders. He said to them, “You brought this man to me. You said that he was making trouble among the people. But I have questioned him before you all, and I have not found him guilty of the things you say. Also, Herod found nothing wrong with him; he sent him back to us. Look, he has done nothing for which he should die. So, after I punish him, I will let him go free.” [Every year at the Passover Feast, Pilate had to release one prisoner to the people.]

‘But all the people shouted, “Kill him! Let Barabbas go free!” (Barabbas was a man who was in prison because he started a riot in the city. He was guilty of murder.)

‘Pilate wanted to let Jesus go free. So he told this to the crowd. But they shouted again, “Kill him! Kill him on a cross!”

‘A third time Pilate said to them, “Why? What wrong has he done? I can find no reason to kill him. So I will have him punished and set him free.”

‘But they continued to shout. They demanded that Jesus be killed on the cross. Their yelling became so loud that Pilate decided to give them what they wanted. They wanted Barabbas to go free, the man who was in jail for starting a riot and for murder. Pilate let Barabbas go free and gave Jesus to them to be killed.’

(Luke 23:13-25 ICB)

Say:

Jesus had stood before two leaders who had both said he had done nothing wrong. Despite this, he was brought before Pilate again. Only one prisoner could go free according to the custom of the occasion, and the crowd chose Barabbas, a convicted murderer, rather than the innocent man who stood before them.

Ask:

Why did the crowd choose Jesus to go to the cross?

Say:

There is nothing in the Bible that suggests that Jesus shouted back or tried to defend himself. Jesus was the Son of God and yet he did nothing.

Ask:

- What could Jesus have done to save himself?
- How many options can you think of?
- Why do you think he didn't do these things?

Display the *Self-control* sign.

Say:

Jesus knew that death on the cross was God's plan for his life. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus was able to show self-control and not react to the shouting crowd.



Ask:

- Can you think of a time when you have had to show self-control?
- What was it like?

Say:

At this moment, Jesus was not being weak. There were many times when Jesus spoke out against the leaders and pointed out where people were doing the wrong thing. As Jesus stood before Pilate, he knew he needed to stay quiet and show self-control.

Say:

There are times when we need to speak out and times when we need to remain quiet. We can ask the Holy Spirit to help us show self-control and make the right decision at the right time. All we need to do is ask.

Action it

Explain that the children are going to create a game, a short activity that could be used at the start of a session. The aim of the game is to demonstrate the importance of self-control. It could be a quiz, an action game or questions about a film clip where the character shows self-control.

To get the children thinking, watch the following clip together. Give the children time to create their game and then they can share it with the rest of the group.

Video

The self control game! (Micah's super vlog) by Minno – Bible stories for kids (2:38)

Pray it

Ask:

- When do you find it most difficult to show self-control?
- How could you ask the Holy Spirit to help you in this area?

Give the children time to write or draw a prayer asking the Holy Spirit to give them self-control. You may like to model how this is done, using an area in your life where you struggle to show self-control.

Share the prayers together to bring the session to a close. An optional piece of music is provided as a background when the children write their prayers.



Listen

'God gives us The Holy Spirit' by Austin Stone Worship: Kids (3:25)

Explore it

Remember to send home the *Explore It ideas* for children and families.



Explore It is produced by the Children and Youth Department in collaboration with Kay Moorby (soulwithaview)

Jesus on trial (part two)

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



Bible verses:
Luke 23:1-25



Aim:
To know that the Holy Spirit can help us with self-control in difficult situations



Today's fruit:
Self-control



Discover

Watch the clip to find out more about the Easter story.

God's story: Easter by Crossroads Kids' Club



Play

In our session this week you created a game all about self-control. Try it out with the people at home.



Song for the week

'You, you, you' (Sky VBS group publishing) by Lifetree Kids (2:05)



Memory verse

'The Lord is my strength and shield.
I trust him, and he helps me.
I am very happy.
And I praise him with my song.'
(Psalm 28:7 ICB)

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Kids Alive! The UK's only weekly Christian comic – is filled with jokes, competitions, Bible-based cartoons and much more... and is now available to read online!



Children
& Youth

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Memory verse

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Start it

Our story continues this week as we find Jesus on trial before Pontius Pilate and King Herod. Both men could not see how Jesus had done anything wrong, but the crowd shouted for Jesus to be crucified. Through all of this, Jesus stayed calm and showed self-control.



Tell it

Share a child-friendly version of Luke 23:1-25.

Sit in a circle and ask the group to share together:

- Why were the religious leaders so angry with Jesus?
- What did Pilate say about Jesus?
- King Herod and his men were very unkind to Jesus. What did they do?
- How did Jesus respond when the people were being unkind to him?
- Jesus knew that he needed to show self-

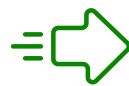
control to follow God's plan for his life. What can we learn from Jesus about showing self-control?



Sing It

'The lion's roar' by Sarah Pickering
uploaded by Vineyard Worship UK & Ireland

'Friend of God' by Israel Houghton uploaded
by Spring Harvest – Topic



Action it

Games and activities to reinforce the Bible passage:

- Draw a picture of the moment when Jesus was questioned by King Herod. Think carefully about what Jesus was wearing.
- Imagine you are Jesus being accused of something you haven't done. What would you say to the people listening?
- The crowd shouted for Barabbas to be saved. See how loud you can shout, 'Let Barabbas go free!' How do you think Jesus felt when he heard the crowd shouting?
- Try and show self-control by holding a chewy sweet in your mouth without chewing it or listening to your favourite lively song without dancing.
- Think of a time when you have shown self-control. Tell the rest of the group about it.