

The Sufferings of Jesus

Lesson Aim: For the students to better understand and appreciate the various sufferings that Jesus went through to purchase our salvation. Also, to give any unsaved children the opportunity to accept Jesus Christ as their own Savior.

Preparation of Materials:

- 1) Weave a crown of thorns.
- 2) Print and cut out the list of verse references below. Stick each paper to a different thorn.



The Lesson:

Introduction: We often think of Jesus' death and realize that it was very painful for Him to die on a cross. But perhaps you've never thought about all the different sufferings that he endured before they nailed him to the cross. Let's read some verses today and think about the ways that Jesus suffered for us.

Pass the crown around the room, instructing each child to take a verse from a thorn. Starting with #1. Matthew 26:33-35, have the child read the verses to the class and then discuss together what kind of suffering Jesus went through in those verses. Do the same with #2, #3, and so on.

1. Matthew 26:33-35 – He was abandoned by his closest friends
→How would you feel if mean people came to get you and put you in jail?
→Would you want someone to be with you or would you rather face the danger by yourself?
2. Matthew 26:36-46 – He was totally alone as He anticipated the greatest suffering of His life. His closest friends slept while he agonized about what was going to happen.
→How would you feel if you were really afraid of something that might happen to you (i.e., your parents were getting a divorce, you had a serious illness that you might die from, etc.). When you tried to tell your friend, he/she just kept watching T.V. instead of listening and empathizing with you.
3. Matthew 26:47-50 – He was betrayed by Judas
→Name your closest friend and tell how you would feel if he/she turned against you and got you in trouble with the police.

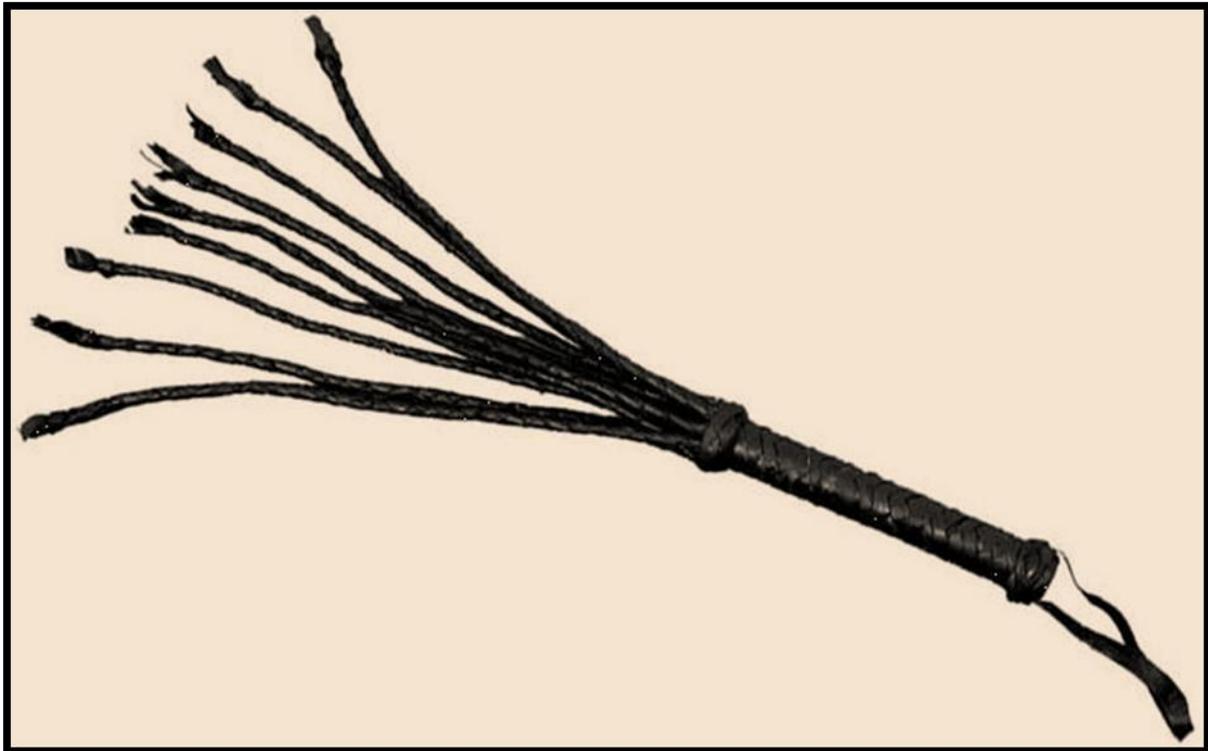
4. Matthew 26:67 – They spat in His face, beat Him with fists, and slapped Him
→How would you feel if all your classmates did this to you right now?
 5. Matthew 27:12-14 – He was falsely accused by the religious leaders
→How would you feel if your Sunday school teacher and your pastor lied about you and turned everyone against you?
 6. Matthew 27:26 – He was scourged with a whip that may have looked like the picture below (*show it to the students*).
→Close your eyes and picture yourself being whipped with a leather whip that had pieces of bone or metal imbedded in its thongs. How would this feel?
 7. Matthew 27:27-28 – A Roman cohort of soldiers (300-600 men) stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on him.
→How would you feel if 500 strong soldiers attacked you?
→What does it feel like when you rip a band aide off of a wound that has bled and dried? Jesus had just been whipped and was bleeding when they put the robe on him. How did that feel?
 8. Matthew 27:29 – The soldiers put a crown of thorns on His head and a reed in His hand. They knelt and mocked Him.
→How does it feel when people make fun of you in front of everyone?
→Touch one of the thorns in the crown to see how many of those would feel pressed on your head!
 9. Matthew 27:30 – The soldiers spat on Him and beat him on the head
→Hit yourself on the head and tell us how that feels!
 10. Matthew 27:31 – The soldiers crucified Him
→What would it be like to have nails hammered into your hands and feet?
→Would you enjoy having everyone watch you as you bled and suffered?
- ★Matthew 26:53 – Was all this suffering necessary? Was Jesus too weak to stop it? No, Jesus could easily have called twelve legions of angels to help him escape (*A Roman legion varied in number from 3,000 to 6,000. Have them multiply 12 X 5,000!*). Why didn't He?

©1 Corinthians 15:3,4 – Christ died *for our sins*. Jesus knew that if someone didn't suffer and die for our sins, we would have to die for our own sins (*Romans 6:23*). He was willing to die in your place and mine so that we wouldn't have to be punished. That's how much he loved you! Now He offers you the gift of being in His family (*John 1:12*). If you receive it, you'll not only have a new Heavenly Father, but He promises that you will join Him in His heavenly home someday and live there for all eternity (*John 3:16*). *Illustrate this by having a wrapped package and hold it out to the class, explaining that it only becomes yours when you receive it, even though God offers it to all. Ask, "Would you like to receive God's gift of being in His family and joining Him in His heavenly home one day?" (Direct those who would to a helper who can take them aside and talk further with them).*

Application:

For those of us who have already received Jesus as our Savior, let's pray right now, thanking Him for the different ways that He suffered so that we could become a member of His family. *(Give an opportunity for all children who want to offer sentence prayers, thanking Him for one thing He did to suffer for us. . . as we read in the Bible today.)*

Also give an opportunity for any unsaved children who would like to accept Christ as their Savior to talk to you after the lesson.



1. Matthew 26:33-35

6. Matthew 27:26

2. Matthew 26:36-46

7. Matthew 27:27-28

3. Matthew 26:47-50

8. Matthew 27:29

4. Matthew 26:67

9. Matthew 27:30

5. Matthew 27:12-14

10. Matthew 27:31

★ Matthew 26:53

☺ 1 Corinthians 15:3,4