

# Virtual Sunday School Lesson

## Good Friday (Matthew)



### **Bible Verses (NIV):**

#### **Matthew 26: 31-75**

Then Jesus said to them, 'You will all become deserters because of me this night; for it is written, "I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered."

But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee.' Peter said to him, 'Though all become deserters because of you, I will never desert you.' Jesus said to him, 'Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.' Peter said to him, 'Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.' And so said all the disciples.

#### **Jesus Prays in Gethsemane**

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, 'Sit here while I go over there and pray.' He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them, 'I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me.' And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, 'My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want.' Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, 'So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.' Again he went away for the second time and prayed, 'My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.' Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. Then he came to the disciples and said to them, 'Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.'

#### **The Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus**

While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, 'The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him.' At once he came up to Jesus and said, 'Greetings, Rabbi!' and kissed him. Jesus said to him, 'Friend, do what you are here to do.' Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. Suddenly, one of those with Jesus put his hand on his sword, drew it, and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to him, 'Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?' At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, 'Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled.' Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

#### **Jesus before the High Priest**

Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, in whose house the scribes and the elders had gathered. But Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest; and going inside, he sat with the guards in order to see how this would end. Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they might put him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward and said, 'This fellow said, "I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days."' 'The high priest stood up and said, 'Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?' But Jesus was silent. Then the high priest said to him, 'I put you under oath before the living God, tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God.' Jesus said to him, 'You have said so. But I tell you, From now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.' Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, 'He has blasphemed! Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard his blasphemy. What is your verdict?' They answered, 'He deserves death.' Then they spat in his face and struck him; and some slapped him, saying, 'Prophesy to us, you Messiah! Who is it that struck you?'

#### **Peter's Denial of Jesus**

Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant-girl came to him and said, 'You also were with Jesus the Galilean.' But he denied it before all of them, saying, 'I do not know what you are talking about.' When he went out to the porch, another servant-girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, 'This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.' Again he

denied it with an oath, 'I do not know the man.' After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, 'Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you.' Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath, 'I do not know the man!' At that moment the cock crowed. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said: 'Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.' And he went out and wept bitterly.

## **Matthew 27: 11-66**

### **Pilate Questions Jesus**

Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' Jesus said, 'You say so.' But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him, 'Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?' But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

### **Barabbas or Jesus?**

Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, 'Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?' For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. While he was sitting on the judgement seat, his wife sent word to him, 'Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him.' Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them, 'Which of the two do you want me to release for you?' And they said, 'Barabbas.' Pilate said to them, 'Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?' All of them said, 'Let him be crucified!' Then he asked, 'Why, what evil has he done?' But they shouted all the more, 'Let him be crucified!'

### **Pilate Hands Jesus over to Be Crucified**

So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, 'I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves.' Then the people as a whole answered, 'His blood be on us and on our children!' So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

### **The Soldiers Mock Jesus**

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

### **The Crucifixion of Jesus**

As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over him. Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.'

Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, 'You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.' In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, 'He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, "I am God's Son." ' The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

### **The Death of Jesus**

From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, 'Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?' that is, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, 'This man is calling for Elijah.' At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, 'Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.' Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city

and appeared to many. Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, 'Truly this man was God's Son!'

Many women were also there, looking on from a distance; they had followed Jesus from Galilee and had provided for him. Among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

### **The Burial of Jesus**

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

### **The Guard at the Tomb**

The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said, 'Sir, we remember what that impostor said while he was still alive, "After three days I will rise again." Therefore command that the tomb be made secure until the third day; otherwise his disciples may go and steal him away, and tell the people, "He has been raised from the dead", and the last deception would be worse than the first.' Pilate said to them, 'You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can.' So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

## **Activity: Trial of Jesus**

**Theme:** Jesus was sent to the cross, even though he was innocent.

**Supplies:** None

### **Lesson:**

Have you ever been blamed for something you didn't do? I know I have.

How did it make you feel? (*Let children respond*)

In today's story we are going to learn about a time when Jesus was blamed for something he did not do.

Have you ever seen a picture of Jesus on the cross? Jesus was a good man so who decided that he would die on a cross? How did this happen?

Today, let's talk about how and why it was that Jesus came to die on a cross.

Last week we heard that Jesus came to Jerusalem to attend the Passover celebrations. People cheered as he rode a donkey thru the streets, they thought he would free them from the Romans and be their earthly king. The priests in the temple were afraid Jesus would cause trouble. They wanted to get rid of him... they wanted to kill Jesus.

One evening Jesus shared a special dinner with his disciples. Since it was the last time they ate together this meal is called the "Last Supper".

At the supper Jesus told his friends that he would soon die. Jesus told them that even though they were his friends even THEY would all run away when he got into trouble.

The apostles did not believe this could ever happen. Peter told Jesus that there was no way he would ever leave Jesus. Jesus told Peter to just wait and see. He said Peter would deny him three times before he heard the sound of a rooster crowing. Peter just couldn't believe this could ever happen.

Later, Jesus went to a garden to pray and soldiers came and arrested him. They tied him up and took him to the religious leaders. First to Annas and then to Caiaphas. Some people and religious leaders told lies and said Jesus had done many bad things. They did not like it that Jesus said he was the king of the Jews.

The religious leaders were so angry at Jesus that they decided to take him to the Roman Governor and tell him to have Jesus killed.

The Roman Governor was called Pontus Pilate. The religious leaders said to Pilate, "We demand that Jesus be crucified!"

"Crucified?" Pilate thought, "Only the worst criminals were every punished by being put on a cross and crucified to die." Pilate kept asking Jesus questions about what the religious leaders were saying but Jesus did not even try to defend himself.

Pilate didn't really want to crucify Jesus so he told them to take Jesus to another governor, Herod Antipas.

Herod Antipas only made fun of Jesus. He and his soldiers made a crown out of thorns and put it on Jesus. They also put a robe and on him to make fun of him for being called the king of the Jews.

While all of this was happening, where do you think Jesus' friends were? Do you think they were trying to help Jesus?

No, they were just confused and afraid. Some people saw Peter and asked him if he knew Jesus. He was afraid that if he said he knew Jesus the people might hurt him just like they were hurting Jesus. So Peter denied he knew Jesus. Two other times people noticed Peter and asked him if he know Jesus. Each time he said, "no". Finally, after the third time guess what Peter heard? He heard a rooster crowing! It was just like Jesus said it would happen!

Meanwhile, Jesus had been sent back to Pilate. The Jewish leaders and many people kept demanding that Jesus be crucified.

Pilate did not like so many people being angry and shouting. He had an idea. Pilate brought out a really bad prisoner named Barabbas. He put this really bad man next to Jesus and asked the crowd to choose which one should be set free. Surely the crowd would say that Jesus should be set free! But no, the crowd was so angry that they began yelling for the bad man to be set free and for Jesus to be crucified.

Pilate had finally had enough. He let Barabbas, the bad man, go free.

Then Pilate called his soldiers. He said, "Take Jesus away. Beat his back with a whip and then put him on a cross and leave him there until he dies."

Jesus has more power than Pilate or the angry people or even the soldiers. Jesus. If Jesus wanted to he could have stopped everyone.

But Jesus did not stop them. He let the soldiers lead him away, Jesus was thinking about everyone in the world who has ever done anything bad (sinned). Jesus loves everyone in the world very much!

EVERYONE who has ever sinned deserves to be punished. That even means you and me. But instead of letting everyone be punished Jesus took one BIG punishment for all of us instead. Jesus died on the cross so that all of us could be forgiven of our sins instead of being punished for our sins.

And that's how it happened that Jesus was sent to the cross.

Jesus knew all this would happen, it was God's plan to save us from sin. Jesus died on the cross to forgive us all our sins so we could be closer to God.

### **Closing Prayer**

Dear God; We thank you for bringing Jesus to die on the cross for us. Help all that are falsely accused of doing wrong and help them to find justice... Amen

Thanks to [www.missionbibleclass.org](http://www.missionbibleclass.org)

# What Happened on Good Friday?

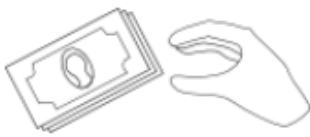


Jesus died on the cross to pay for my sins.

This means that I can pray and ask God to forgive my sins.



**What are sins?** A sin is anything I do that doesn't please God.  
Circle each picture that shows a sin.



stealing



talking back to my parents



sharing



lying

**Why did God send Jesus to die for our sins?** Because he loves us.  
Complete the verses about God's love for us.



love



Son



world

God \_\_\_\_\_d the \_\_\_\_\_ so much that he gave his only \_\_\_\_\_,



so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life. John 3:16

God showed his \_\_\_\_\_ for us by sending his only \_\_\_\_\_ into the \_\_\_\_\_,



so that we might have life through him. 1 John 4:9

He \_\_\_\_\_d us and sent his \_\_\_\_\_ to be the means by which our sins are



forgiven. 1 John 4:10

## **Video: Saddleback Kids: Jesus' Sacrifice** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HL8R158Ujp4>

The events of holy week explained, wrapping up with the crucifixion and Jesus rising from the dead.

Duration: 5:21

## **Video: PursueGod Kids: Jesus Dies for the World**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NI5qmltbPWw>

Jesus came to earth on a rescue mission from heaven. And to beat the enemy, he had to die.

Duration: 3:07

## **Craft: Picture Cross**

Supplies: Crayons/markers, scissors, glue

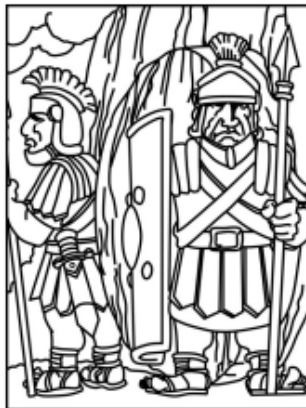
Directions:

Color the pictures below and cross, then cut out the squares and glue onto the cross in the lettered positions.

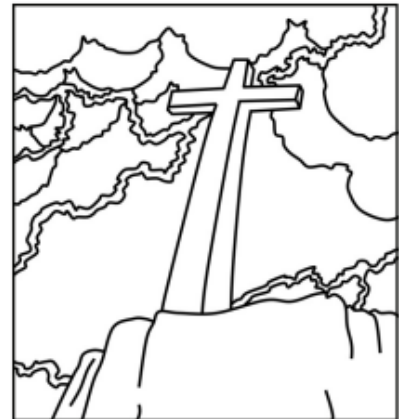
Thanks to [www.craftingthewordofgod.com](http://www.craftingthewordofgod.com)



A



B



C



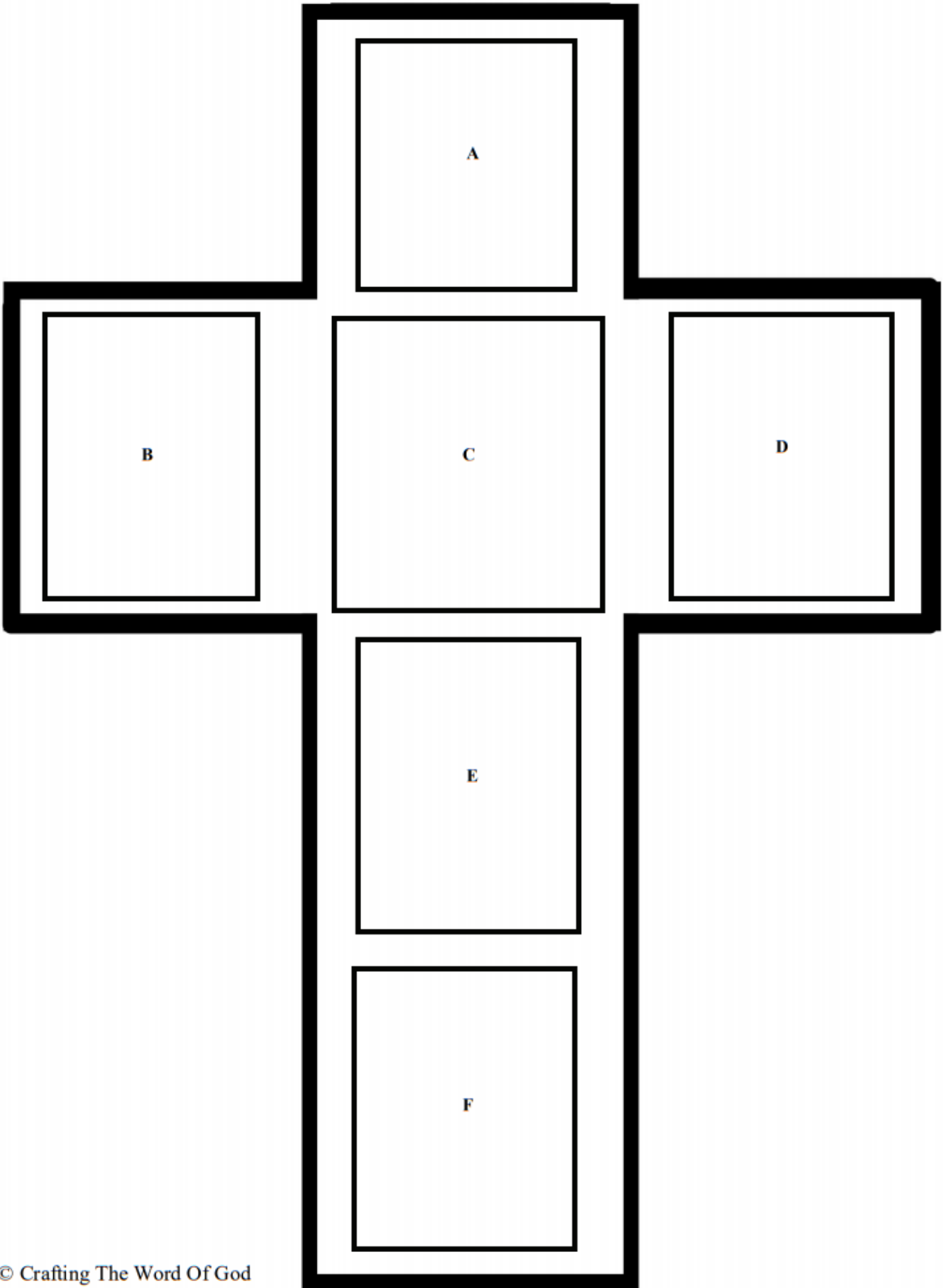
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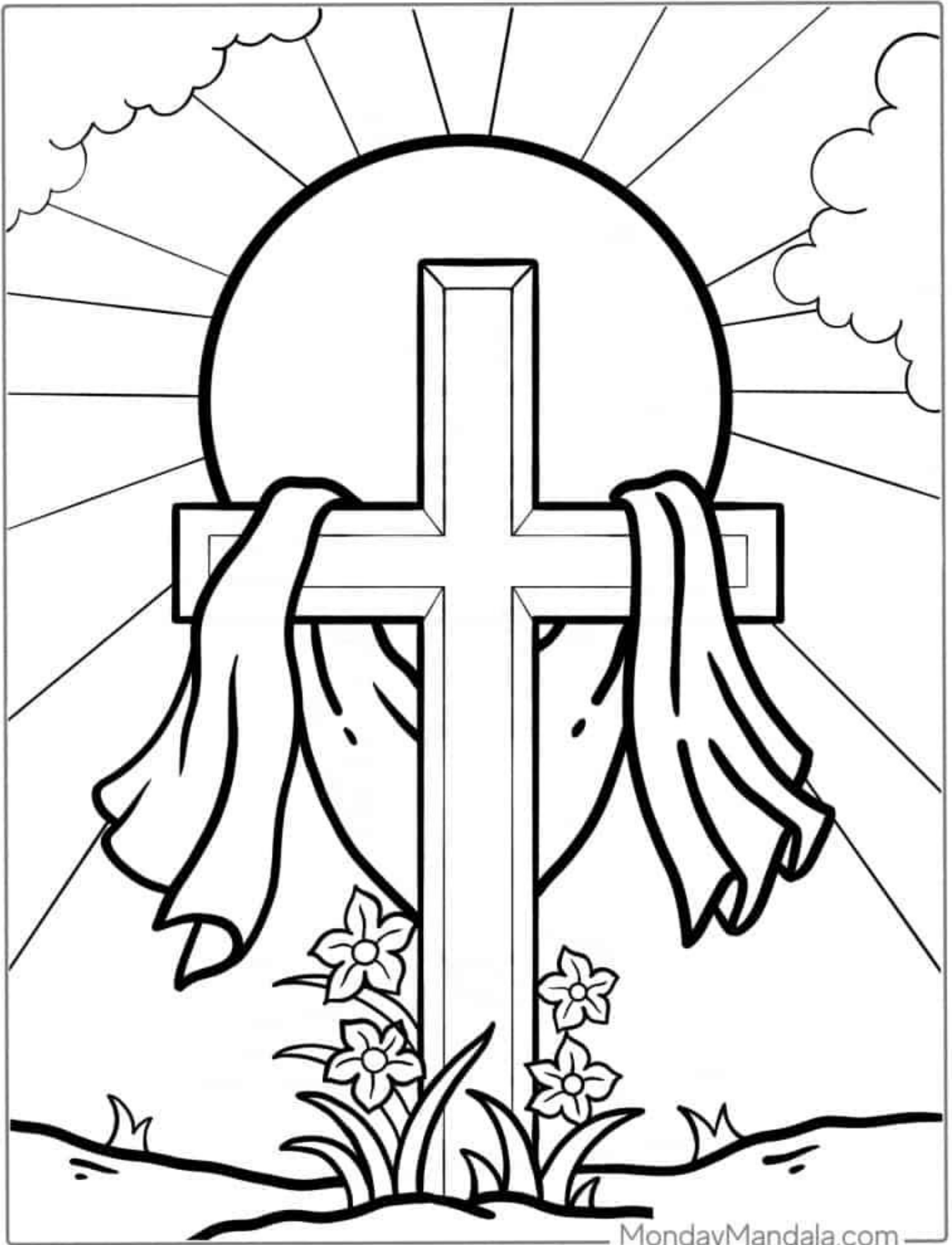


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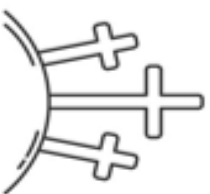
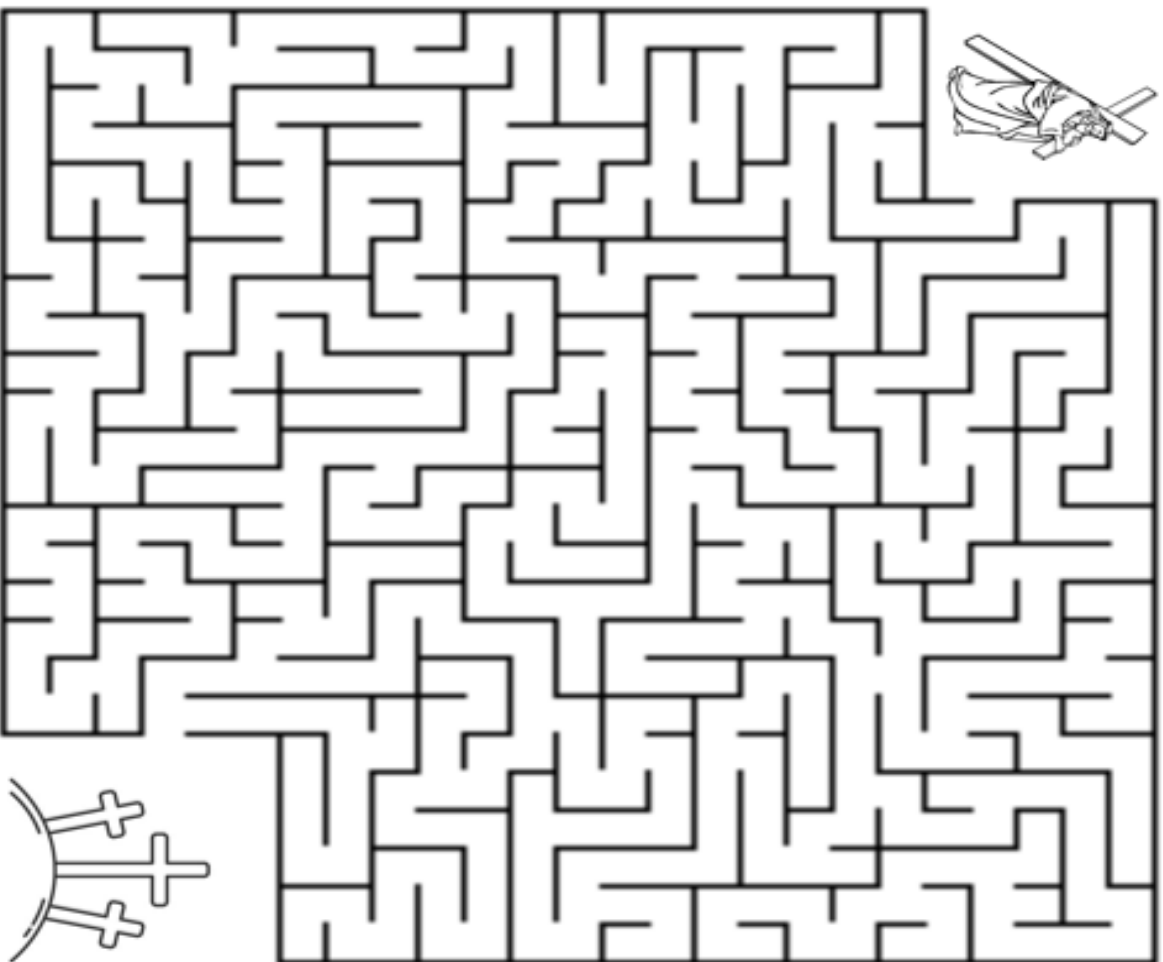


MondayMandala.com

Good Friday is when Jesus died to save us from sin.



Jesus was beaten, teased and made to drag a large cross thru the streets of Jerusalem to a place known as the mount of skulls. Guide Jesus thru the maze to the mount.



Something Jesus said made the chief priests nervous and request soldier to guard Jesus' body. Unscramble each of the clue words. Copy the letters in the numbered cells to other cells with the same number to discover what Jesus said.

TOBW

6			
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RUGDA

23					
	1	18	11		

PETSISR

	16	4	13		20

NOETS

	24	9		

WAPR

15	8	22
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SUECRE

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HFEIC

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TEILAP

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15	16	17	17
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6				
7	8	9	10	

18	19	20	21
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11	12		Y	
	13			

22	23	22	14	24
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14 . "

PILATE	STONE	TOMB	PRIESTS
CHIEF	GUARD	WRAP	SECURE