



Lesson 13

No Greater Love

Matthew 26:57–27:61

Memory Verse
“But as many as
received Him, to them
He gave the right to
become children of
God, to those who
believe in His name”
(John 1:12)

Teacher’s Objective

At the end of the session, the
students should be able to:

Define the words
sin, holy and *just*

Locate Jerusalem

Describe how someone
is a loyal and faithful
follower of Jesus Christ

Express in their own
words how Jesus,
who was sinless,
died for all sinners

Materials Needed

See “Teaching Activities”
for specific details

Teacher’s Bible Study

Jesus Christ is the chief cornerstone and foundation of Christianity, the focal point of both Old and New Testaments and of biblical prophecy. He is the one around whom God’s plan of redemption and salvation revolves.

Christ as the “Word of God” (John 1:1) has existed with the Father from eternity. He and the Father together devised a plan to reproduce themselves and to expand their family by means of the human creation. This creation was accomplished by the one who became Christ through the agency and power of the Holy Spirit. “For by him [Christ] were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible” (Colossians 1:16). John adds that “all things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made” (John 1:3). Thus the “Word of God” [Christ] was also the Creator God, who fashioned the universe and breathed the breath of life into Adam.

The Being who later became Jesus Christ was likewise the God of the Old Testament and hence the one who walked with Noah and talked with Abraham and with Moses (John 8:53; Exodus 3:14). He was the God of Israel, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God who gave His law to Moses at Sinai. He was the one who led Israel with a cloud by day and protected them with a pillar of fire by night. He was Israel’s Protector, their Guide and their “Rock” (I Corinthians 10:4). He likewise was the God of David and was the one who dwelled in Solomon’s Temple. He spoke through Isaiah, Ezekiel, and all the prophets and inspired the entirety of the Old Testament.

In order to fulfill the divine master plan of salvation, this great Being divested Himself of all His power, might and majesty and took upon Himself “the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men” (Philippians 2:7). Envisioned, however darkly, by Abraham and Moses, and as prophesied by Isaiah and others, God’s “Word” was now incarnate, the son of God and the son of man. As a human being, Jesus led a sinless, perfect life although He “was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin” (Hebrews 4:15). He overcame Satan’s temptations and qualified to replace him as the ruler of this world. He was our example who learned obedience through suffering; He became our Savior whose atoning death paid the death penalty for all the sins of mankind.

This great personal sacrifice of Christ’s crucifixion is a perfect illustration of Jesus’ love and mercy toward us. In Christ’s own words the greatest love a man can have is to “lay down his life for his friends” (John 15:13). And Jesus’ sacrifice for us is even more powerfully poignant in that “while we were yet sinners Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8), “when we were [still] enemies” (verse 10) and not yet friends, Jesus laid down His life for us. Certainly the giving of His life on the stake for all humanity was the greatest example of the greatest love which can be shown.

Presenting the Bible Story

Matthew 26:57-58

John 18:13

Matthew 26:59-68

*Questions that
may be asked:*

What was Jesus
accused of doing?

Why was Jesus silent?

Did the high priest like the
answer Jesus gave?

Matthew 26:69-75

Peter's tears were tears of a
truly repentant individual

Matthew 27:1-2

Matthew 27:3-10

Matthew 27:11-14

Matthew gives a brief record
of Jesus' trial before Pilate

Matthew 27:15-23

Matthew 27:24-26

Matthew 27:27-31

Jesus was arrested in Gethsemane and taken to Caiaphas, a high priest. Before seeing Caiaphas, Jesus was taken to see a former high priest, Annas.

The purpose of the trial against Jesus was to find some legal reason to condemn Him to death. Many false witnesses did come forward but none could agree. Finally two false witnesses came forward. This is what they claimed Jesus said, "I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days." Jesus did say this. Read John 2:19. Was Jesus referring to a building or was He talking about His body? Isn't it interesting that what Jesus had said three years earlier is being brought up now prior to His crucifixion. Jesus was silent because He was not yet put under an oath by the high priest; once He was under an oath He answered. The high priest tore his clothes which was forbidden by the law (Leviticus 21:10). No one defended Jesus; they just spat in His face and cried out to crucify Him.

While the trial proceedings against Jesus were taking place, Peter had his own little test. Peter was given three opportunities to speak up for Jesus. All three times he denied ever having known Jesus. When a person called down curses on themselves, if the curses did not occur, it would prove their innocence (Job 31). Even though Peter said he would never deny Christ, he did just as Jesus had prophesied (Matthew 26:34).

The court did not have the power to sentence Jesus to death (John 18:31). He had to be taken to Pontius Pilate.

Judas is remorseful for betraying Jesus Christ. Judas knew Jesus was innocent because he said, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." The religious leaders had no concern for killing an innocent person. According to Acts 1:18 Judas bought a field (the field may have been purchased by the religious leaders in the name of Judas because they did not want to put the blood money into the treasury) and he killed himself.

The main theme for Matthew was the kingship of Jesus. Luke recorded that Pilate sent Jesus to Herod. By doing this Pilate and Herod became friends. Even Pilate declared Jesus' innocence (John 18:38).

At Passover time, it was customary to release a prisoner. Because Pilate believed in Jesus' innocence, he tried to have Him released. Even Pilate's wife wanted Jesus to be released. But the mob cried out to have Barabbas released.

Pilate, when seeing that the multitude was desirous of killing Jesus, told them that he washed his hands of the matter. This was symbolizing his desire to be absolved of putting an innocent man to death (Deuteronomy 21:6-9). He released Barabbas unto them, and had Jesus scourged by his soldiers. *Scourging* was a savage beating given to slaves or those who had been condemned to death. It was forbidden to a Roman citizen (Acts 22:25). This beating could result in death even before the brutality of crucifixion.

Pilate's soldiers contemptuously ridiculed Jesus. They stripped Him of his clothing and put a scarlet robe on Him, placed a crown of thorns on His head, gave Him a reed as a staff for His hand, then used the reed to beat Him around the head, and mockingly knelt before Him and said, "Hail King of the Jews!"

Matthew 27:32-38
Golgotha in Aramaic means
the “Place of the Skull”

Matthew 27:29-44
Luke 23:39-43
In Luke’s account of the
criminals, one of
them recognized
the innocence of Jesus

Matthew 27:45-50

Matthew 27:51-53

Matthew 27:54-56

Matthew 27:57-61
John 19:39:40

Art and Activities

**Explore the following ques-
tions with your students:**

Because Jesus was weak from the scourging and beatings, a Cyrene named Simon was forced to carry the stake. Jesus was offered bitter wine to drink. This was to help bear the pain of crucifixion, but Jesus did not drink it. Verse 35 speaks of a prophecy that was fulfilled (Psalm 22:18).

The mockery of Jesus by the crowd and the criminals on either side of Jesus was ironic because He did not lack the power to deliver Himself. Jesus knew what He had to do to give salvation to mankind and was faithful to His calling.

During the time of crucifixion there was darkness over the land. This darkness was not due to a solar eclipse because at Passover there is always a full moon. Jesus had never been separated from God the Father, but now that He was on the stake bearing the sins of the world, the sin separated Him from the Father. This was a unique time in the history of man. The Father of the universe had to turn from His Son (Romans 3:25,26). Jesus determined the time that He would die. Just as Jesus had said, He laid His life down for man and He would take it up again (John 10:11,15,17–18). No man took the life of Jesus. Jesus *voluntarily* laid His life down for man.

When Jesus died, three momentous events took place. (1) The curtain in the Temple that separated the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies was ripped from top to bottom. The curtain being torn is important because it shows that God, not man, tore the curtain. Access to God was now available to *all*. It was not just the high priest that could come before God and His throne (Hebrews 4:14–16; 10:19–22). (2) An earthquake occurred. (3) The graves were opened and many of the saints were resurrected.

These events struck fear in the hearts of the soldiers. Now, too late, they said “Truly this was the Son of God!”

Joseph of Arimathea, and Nicodemus prepared Jesus’ body for burial. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary (the mother of James and John) stayed nearby right up to the time He was put in the tomb. The disciples, on the other hand, were nowhere to be found.

Teaching Activities

Activity Pages

Provide a copy of the Activity Page suitable for each of your students. Provide pencil and crayons.

Explore the Subject

1. In all the stories we have heard these past few weeks about God’s love for us, which story shows His love for us the most?
(This one, because His Son died for our sins.)
2. What is sin?
(The breaking of God’s law; disobeying, doing wrong, hurting others etc.)
3. What is being just? (It is when you are fair; it is based on what is right and lawful.)
4. What does it mean *to be holy*?

(Something dedicated to the service of God.)

5. What did Peter do when asked if he knew Christ? (He denied it.)
6. Do you ever, by your actions, deny being a follower of Jesus?

Respond and Reinforce

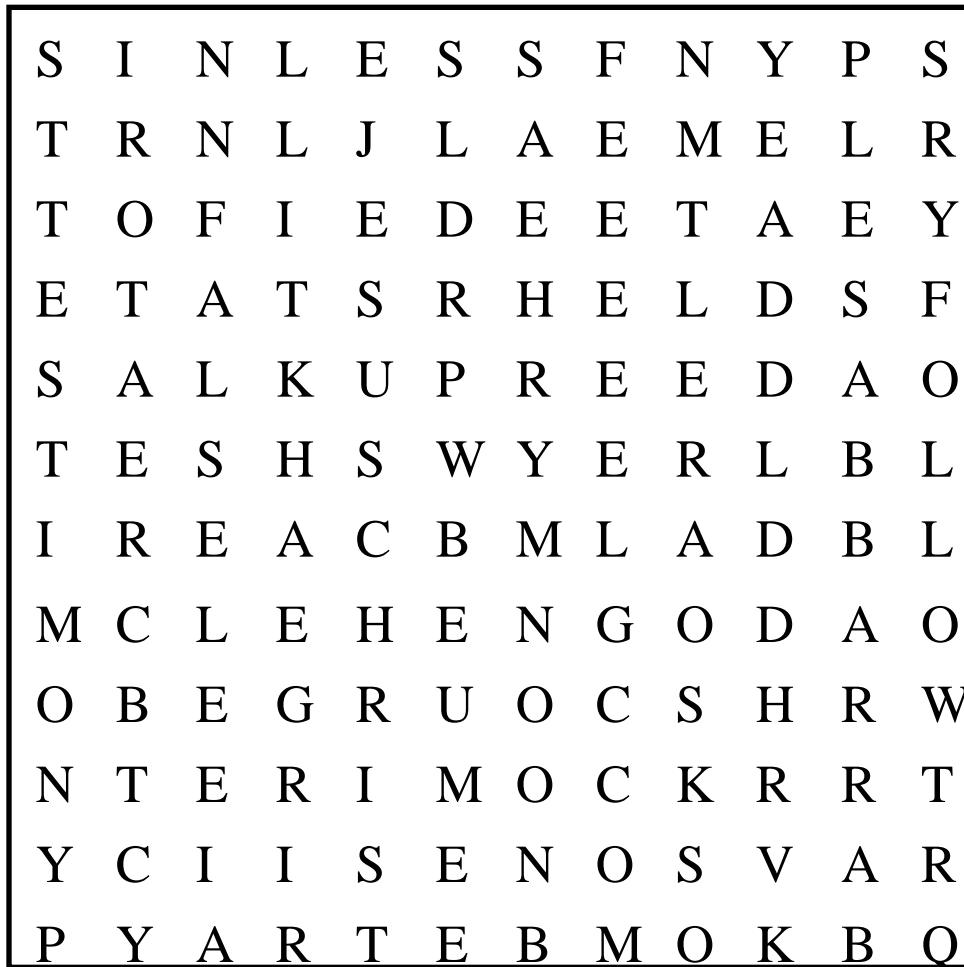
**Always close your
class with prayer**

1. Several weeks ago we talked about how Abraham was faithful. Does anyone remember the memory verse? It was about commitment and trust. This same verse applies to our story today (Psalm 37:5).
2. Discuss memory verse.

Activity Page

Our Savior and Redeemer Matthew 26:57–27:61

Read the Scriptures. Find the words hidden in the word search puzzle below.



JESUS CHRIST

SINLESS

PETER

CREATOR

REDEEMER

BARABBAS

FOLLOW

TESTIMONY

SCOURGE

HOLY

FALSE

MOCK

SON

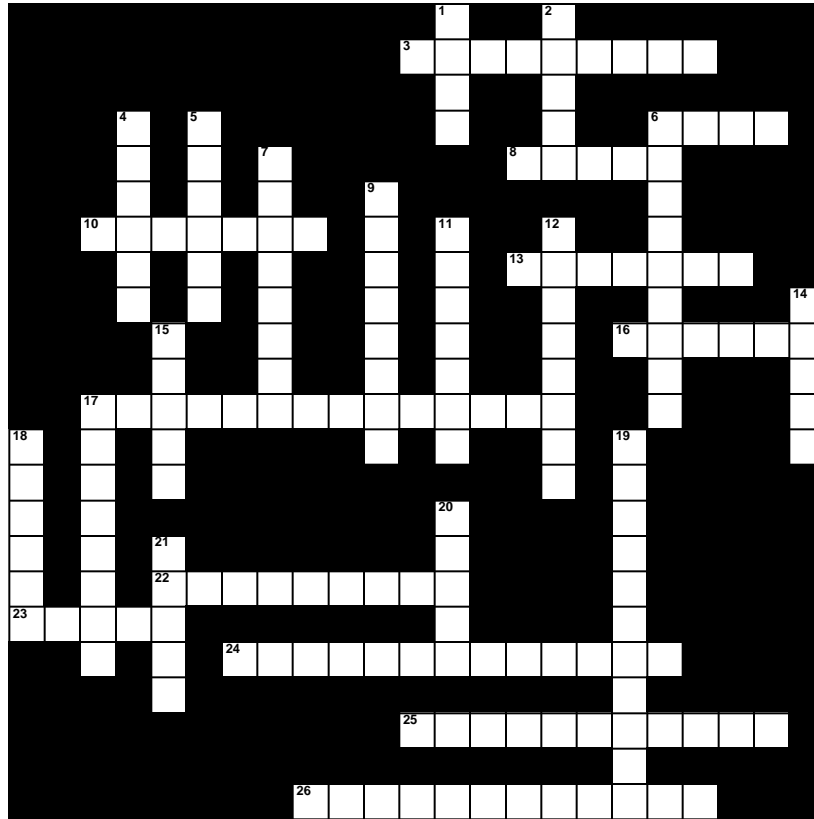
BLASPHEMY

BETRAY

Activity Page

Victory Over Death Matthew 26:57–27:61

Read the Scriptures and complete the crossword puzzle below.



Across

3. A Roman officer.
6. A male chicken; a rooster.
8. The apostle who denied Christ three times.
10. Judas was buried in a _____ field.
13. The beginning of day.
16. Judas was given thirty-pieces of _____ for his betrayal.
17. Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man...coming in the _____ (three words; Matthew 26:64).
22. Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the _____ of power (two words; Matthew 26:64).
23. Christ was crucified upon a _____.
24. The Roman governor who sentenced Jesus (two words).
25. The false witnesses testified Jesus said He would destroy the _____ (three words; Matthew 26:61).
26. A lying accuser (two words).

Down

1. The Temple _____ ripped in two from top to bottom.
2. To tremble violently.
4. The chair a king sits upon during ceremonies.
5. Having a harsh, disagreeably acrid taste.
6. Christ was _____ by the Romans.
7. The criminal released by Pontius Pilate.
9. Known as the "Place of the Skull."
11. Acedic liquid derived from fermentation of wine.
12. Pilate was the _____ of Judea.
14. The headgear worn by a ruling monarch.
15. We are saved by the live-giving _____ of Christ.
17. _____ heard the false testimony against Jesus.
18. Places of interment.
19. They draped a _____ around the shoulders of Christ (two words).
20. The disciple who betrayed Christ.
21. A succession of images in the mind during sleep.

17. Calaphas; 18. Graves; 19. Scarlet robe; 20. Judas; 21. Dream.
Down: 1. Veil; 2. Quake; 4. Throne; 5. Bitter; 6. Crucified; 7. Barabbas; 9. Golgotha; 11. Vinegar; 12. Governor; 14. Crown; 15. Blood; 16. Denial; 17. Clouds of heaven; 22. Right hand; 23. Stake; 24. Pontius Pilate; 25. Temple of God; 26. False witness.

Activity Page

**No Greater Love for His Friends
John 15:9–17**

Read all the Scriptures indicated.

“Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.
You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants...
This is my command: Love each other”

I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD,



**THE GOOD
SHEPHERD**

LAYS DOWN HIS

**LIFE FOR
THE SHEEP.**



JOHN 10:11