**1. Motivate**

When have you been frustrated by your inability to fix something?

* get the chainsaw/lawnmower/string trimmer running
* house foundation settling, causes cracks
* radio won’t pick up favorite station
* Wi-Fi doesn’t reach the whole house
* one of the kids cannot understand how to do well in a school class
* neighbor is uncooperative
* water keeps coming in the garage at the smallest rain
* Internet/cable service keeps going out
* dripping faucet or slow drain
* one of my credit cards is now and then rejected for no reason
* we are hounded by bill collectors for someone with the same name as us
* internet, cable service keeps going out

A video introduction to the lesson is available. View at <https://watch.liberty.edu/media/t/1_e91m0eho> If you have no wi-fi where you teach, best to download to your computer from <https://tinyurl.com/3j7xytrd>

**2. Transition**

Some things we just cannot fix on our own.

* A broken relationship with God is certainly one of those things.
* Forgiveness is possible only because Jesus died for our sins.

**3. Bible Study**

3.1 Innocent Yet Crucified

Listen for what would disturb Jewish Leaders.

John 19:16-19 (NIV) Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified. So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. 17 Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). 18 Here they crucified him, and with him two others--one on each side and Jesus in the middle. 19 Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS.

Pilate delivered Jesus up to be crucified. Note what transpired previous to his doing so.

* Pilate had interviewed Jesus, found Him innocent
* Suggested they release a prisoner (Jesus) as was done each year at this time.
* They said, “No, release Barabbas” (leader of an insurrection that ended in a death).
* Told the religious leaders he would rather release innocent Jesus.
* They threatened to riot if he didn’t crucify Jesus.
* Pilate handed Jesus over to the soldiers for execution.

What symbolism do you see in that Jesus, innocent though He was, was crucified with others whom we learn in other Gospel writings were known criminals?

* He was associated as an equal among guilty people
* Guilt was placed on him
* it was *our* guilt
* the death He died was in that sense deserved – He carried our guilt and took the punishment for our guilt

Pilate placed a sign above Jesus that said “*JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS*”

Why do you think Pilate was probably not sincere in the title he gave Jesus?

* he was taking a shot at the Jewish leaders
* he knew he had been maneuvered into ordering the crucifixion
* he wanted to show that he knew they had forced execution of an innocent man



Actually, Jesus wants to be King of your life. Who or what are the "kings" that people worship today? What person or thing often competes with God for rule of one’s life?

* material stuff
* opinions of others
* desire for fame, fortune, popularity, or power
* substance abuse
* lure of sex
* improper relationships

What reaction have you experienced to a dramatic production that depicted the crucifixion of Jesus?

* it can be repulsive
* you realize it is/was a terrible way to die
* consider we wear and display a device of torture
* would be like having a necklace with a guillotine or an electric chair or a gas chamber as the decorative item

What emotions do you experience when you read about Jesus’s crucifixion?

* in awe that Jesus was willing to do that
* amazed at His love for us
* amazed at the working of the Trinity

3.2 The Cross Completed Jesus’ Task

Listen for the last moments of Jesus death.

John 19:28-30 (NIV) Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." 29 A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips. 30 When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Jesus received something to drink at this point but had refused earlier.

* Previously offered wine had a drug in it – would dull the pain
* He refused it, chose to forego full punishment of the pain He would experience in our place
* This wine was basically hydration He desired
* Could be to moisten His lips, mouth, throat so He could make a last statement, “It is finished”

Jesus’ final words were, “It is finished”. What is its significance, even to us?

* He could feel the end approaching, right then
* His life was over, finished
* AND His task of redemption was finished, completed
* He was finishing the task of living a perfect life, dying an undeserved death in our place

Why is the crucifixion of Jesus an essential element of the gospel?

* He took our punishment
* He made it possible for us to be forgiven
* God’s righteousness/justice is satisfied
* the sin of all mankind was, indeed, punished
* God’s holiness requires punishment of sin … that happened … He took it upon Himself in the person of Jesus

How have you been impacted by the death of Jesus?

* sins forgiven
* the believer is declared justified, “just as if” he/she had never sinned
* paid the price of our redemption
* like paying the price of the ransom to set us free from sin

How would you describe the importance of the cross to someone who needed to hear it?

* we are all sinners – we don’t even live up to what our own consciences consider right living
* sin had to be punished
* otherwise, we would be sentenced to death … spiritual death … eternal separation from a loving God
* Jesus took our place … dying for us on the cross

3.3 No Hoax … Jesus Died, Was Buried.

Listen for how Jesus was buried after his death on the cross.

John 19:38-42 (NIV) Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jews. With Pilate's permission, he came and took the body away. 39 He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. 40 Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs. 41 At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid. 42 Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

Who were the men who buried Jesus and what were some things they had in common?

* Joseph of Arimathea, Nicodemus
* both followers of Jesus
* but not very public about it … feared the Jewish leaders

Note: they were pressed for time in completing Jesus’s burial.

* Jesus body taken down at 3:00
* needed to avoid all “work” by 6:00
* this was the beginning of the Sabbath, the “day of preparation”

How does the involvement of Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea give credibility to the death of Jesus? What do the actions of these men affirm about the state of Jesus?

* He was really dead
* they would have noticed if He was still breathing
* they had to carry Him to the tomb
* they had to handle His body wrapping it in cloth which had been saturated with the myrrh and aloes

Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus now demonstrated their loyalty and faith in who Jesus was. Why do some Christians wait so long to go public with their relationship with Jesus?

* fear
* think they can just believe in their hearts and not publicize it
* not realizing, not taking it seriously that Jesus’ presence in their lives will change them, their attitudes, their actions
* not willing to surrender to Jesus as Lord
* they demonstrated what they believed.

How have you benefitted from someone’s testimony about Jesus?

* encouraged by how God worked in that person’s life
* challenged by their willingness to trust God, to obey Him
* realization of God’s power and authority being demonstrated in their life
* came to faith in Christ

Be challenged to tell **your** story of faith in Christ

* Be reminded of how to give a 15 second testimony <https://youtu.be/TOjV3B8vEJo>

Use the last page as a handout so your learners can take home the application points of this week’s lesson.

Application

A word of thanks.

* Consider all Jesus has done for you. He left heaven for you, lived the sinless life that you could not live, and died on a cross for your sin.
* Take a moment to thank Jesus for His sacrifice.
* If you are not a believer, confess your sin, repent, and ask Jesus to transform your life through faith.

A word of comfort.

* If you know someone in your church or community who has recently lost a loved one, write the person a letter.
* Be ready to offer encouragement, comfort, and support as needed.

A word of forgiveness.

* Jesus died to forgive you of your sin.
* Is there anyone you need to forgive?
* Ask God to reveal any grudges or unforgiveness in your heart.
* Ask Him to help you forgive that person.



Looks to me like the decoding key above would work for this message. It was received from one of our operatives in Sintsland Hrainmais. He smuggled it into the embassy in a delivery of fresh fish. Our decoders have gone on strike for more bubble gum. We need your help. When you see a letter under the blank, look at the bottom row of the key and use the letter above it. When you finish the decoding, forward it to your benevolence minister. Technical help and other fun Family Activities are found at <https://tinyurl.com/3j7xytrd>

Cryptogram Puzzle