

Faith Quest - Way of the Cross

St. Mary's Anglican Church, Regina

Passages

Workshop: Pray per View

Story: The Passion of Jesus

Preparation

Bible study on the passage: Matthew 21: 1 – 11, 26:1-5, 14 – 30, 36-56

Materials:

- Bibles
- Journals
- Video of “Jesus”, popcorn

Presentation

Open - Introduction

Introduce yourself and explain that they will be watching a movie.

You will be using the “Jesus” video (details below) for this lesson. Prepare popcorn and some water for drinking. Settle the children in the theatre seats and introduce the video. Tell them that they will watch scenes from the Passion of Jesus. Tell them to watch carefully---do they notice anything which is not in the Gospel account? Is it staged, as they would expect? Are the actors doing a credible job?

Run the video from the start of “The Final Days”. It is about 5 mins into the video. The video gives a lot of background (Leader should preview), some of which is listed here:

- Palm Sunday - Jesus enters Jerusalem, Jerusalem today
- The Temple in Jesus' Day - money changers, Temple authorities, Passover, Caiaphas
- Mount of Olives (You can skip this section about the olive press – resume where Jesus kneels for prayer on the Mount).
- The inner precincts of the Temple, sacrifice, priests, rituals
- Passover feast – how to put Jesus to death, Last Supper, arrest, Messiah? , Pilate, Crucifixion explained –end here because the crucifixion scene itself might trouble some of the younger children.

Discussion: What did the students learn about life in Jerusalem in Jesus' day?

(They should have noticed that the Temple dominated the city architecturally and in daily life, was a focus for so much, was a place of trade and ritual and prayer.)

What about the Roman presence? (The Romans tolerated the Jews and their worship but recognized that major festivals, like Passover, were dangerous times...why might the people revolt? They expect a Messiah warrior who will save them from worldly forces...they are under occupation.)

What happened at the Temple on a daily basis? (sacrifices, prayer, teaching) What did they see Jesus doing there? (First, we see him clearing out the money-changers, then we see him teaching there. What do they make of these two?)

What was different about the Passover sacrifices? (Each household made their own sacrifice of a lamb. See if they can make any connection between the death of Jesus AT PASSOVER TIME – Jesus is the lamb slain for all of us; the Jewish Passover feast becomes the Last Supper/Holy Communion in which we remember Jesus' death on the cross. Don't be afraid to spend some time of this question. After all, this is the main thrust of this rotation.)

What is Jesus accused of having done? What is significant about the crown of thorns and the sign nailed above his head? (Jesus is arrested to prevent his provoking the people (Roman perception) and to prevent further blasphemy (Jewish leaders' perception); the trial is flawed, but the mocking of Jesus and making him to be a King underlies what he truly is, King of Kings and Lord of Lords! The inscription is true, but not intended to be: Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews)

Talk about what crucifixion is like. (The Leader needs to see how this goes – perhaps some children find it difficult to discuss, others may not.)

Reflection

What did I learn today which helps me understand the Passion of Jesus?
I am a different person today because...

Closing

Pray with thanks for the life and death of Jesus, for his teaching and his suffering. Pray that we might be changed by that, by wanting to follow him more and not sin any more.

Jesus. the Final Days is from "Jesus and His Times", Reader's Digest Video, 1991, formerly produced by the Genesis Project, 1979

Bestprices.com

3 Hours, 033937080227, Questar, Inc.