

Lesson Plan for Lesson 10

Jesus' Death

Preparation and Supplies

- Study chapter 10, “Jesus’ Death,” in the handbook.
- Gather Bibles for each participant. For each of four or more groups, gather newsprint, markers, tape or glue, and paper clips.
- Display a crucifix in the front of the room.
- Make copies of the handout “A Week That Shook the World” (Document #: TX003379), one for each of four or more groups. Cut each one apart along the dotted lines to separate the statements, and clip each set of statements together.

Pray It! (5 minutes)

Tell the participants that class will begin with a brief prayer used during the veneration of the cross on Good Friday. **Ask** the young people to focus on the crucifix that you have displayed in the front of the room as a volunteer reads Isaiah 53:4–6. After the reading, **lead** the following prayer and invite the class to say the response:

Leader: Behold the wood of the cross, on which hung the salvation of the world.

All: Come, let us adore.

Study It! (35 to 45 minutes, depending on your class length)

A. The Jewish and Roman Leaders Wanted Jesus Dead

1. **Direct** the young people to form groups of three or four, and give each group a Bible. **Assign** each group one of the Gospel accounts of Jesus’ trial:
 - Matthew 26:47—27:26
 - Mark 14:53—15:15
 - Luke 22:66—23:25
 - John 18:12—19:16

Explain that the groups are to read through their assigned passage and make a list of the possible charges against Jesus, from the perspective of both the religious and civil authorities. **Tell** them that in many cases they will have to infer the charge from comments recorded in the Gospels. If time allows, have the groups share their lists with the rest of the class.



2. **Direct** the participants to read the chapter introduction and the section “The Jewish and Roman Leaders Wanted Jesus Dead,” on pages 104–107 in the handbook. The content covers points 1 and 2 on the handout “Lesson 10 Summary” (Document #: TX003378).
3. **(Optional) Direct** the young people to the Reflect directions on page 107 and use the questions to **lead** a discussion.

B. Jesus’ Death Is the Real Thing

1. **Ask** the participants to think about what they know about Jesus’ death. **Invite** them to write down their thoughts. **Encourage** them to use poetry or artistic expression to describe their thoughts. **Tell** them to be prepared to share their writing or artistic expression.
2. **Direct** the participants to read the sections “Jesus’ Death Is the Real Thing” and “The Religious Meaning of the Cross,” on pages 107–112 in the handbook. The content covers points 3 through 9 on the handout “Lesson 10 Summary.”
3. **(Optional) Invite** questions and observations on the content. You might also invite discussion on the Reflect questions on page 108 in the handbook.

C. What Jesus’ Death Means for Us

Direct the participants to read the section “What Jesus’ Death Means for Us,” on pages 112–113 in the handbook. The content covers points 10 and 11 on the handout “Lesson 10 Summary.”

Note: If you are running short on time, you may wish to just briefly summarize this section of the handbook.

Live It! (15 to 20 minutes)

1. **Distribute** a Bible to each participant. **Direct** the young people to form at least four groups. **Assign** each group one of these four Gospel readings:
 - Matthew, chapter 26
 - Mark, chapter 14
 - Luke, chapter 22
 - John, chapter 12

Give each group a set of the slips of paper you prepared from the handout “A Week That Shook the World” (Document #: TX003379). Also **give** each group a sheet of newsprint, markers, tape or glue, and paper clips.

Explain the task as follows:

- Choose a member to write at the top of the newsprint the name of the Gospel assigned to the group.
 - Each slip of paper lists one event from the last week of Jesus’ life. You will have 10 minutes to arrange the slips of paper in the order that the events happened.
 - Tape or glue the slips of paper to the newsprint in the order the events occurred.
 - Some of the events listed on your slips of paper are not in your assigned Gospel. Clip those to one corner of the newsprint.
2. **Post** the groups’ sheets of newsprint so that everyone can see the results.



3. **Share** the following comments in your own words:
- The last days of Jesus' life were undoubtedly etched in the minds of his followers. The arrest, trial, and Crucifixion of Jesus are the most extensively reported events in the Gospels.
 - The lists of events posted on the newsprint have similarities. The three synoptic Gospel accounts of the Passion are similar. John's Passion account, on the other hand, has some unique features: it is six chapters long; instead of the Last Supper, it has the story of Jesus' washing the feet of the disciples; and it includes a number of lengthy presentations by Jesus.
 - Each group clipped some events to a corner of its newsprint because the events did not appear in the group's assigned Gospel. The differences in the accounts of Jesus' last week are the result of the differences in the Evangelists' communities and the points that each Evangelist needed to emphasize in his community.

Closing Prayer (5 minutes)

Following any announcements, close by **leading** the young people in praying together the "Act of Contrition," on page 447 in the handbook.

