



SESSION 9: The Crux of the Story

The Betrayal, Arrest and Execution of Jesus

Session 9: The Betrayal, Arrest, and Execution of Jesus

Key takeaways for Pre-Disciples:

- Jesus knows that his death is imminent
- Jesus is the promised king and is killed not for his own evil but the evil of all humanity so that our relationship with God can be restored, just like the criminal

Part 1

identity

worship

mission

Part 1: catch up

- Icebreaker question – Get everyone to share about how their week has gone, what has been happening in their life in the past 7 days. Listen out for things you could pray for.
- Ask everyone how they got on sharing the story
 - (this is not to keep tabs on people, but is a helpful reminder that part of them learning the story well is you asking them every week if they managed to share it.)
- Ask someone to re-tell last week's story

Part 2 (story)

identity

community

mission

The Betrayal, Arrest and Execution of Jesus (John 12:12-19, Matthew 26:56-67, 27:27-31, Luke 23:32-46)

Story-Audio-Link: <https://christ-central.org.uk/pre-disciple/>

*After Lazarus was raised back to life, **Jesus knew that the time had come for him to fulfil his purpose, so he set out with his followers to the city Jerusalem.** Now word of what had happened to Lazarus spread everywhere and **crowds lined the road as Jesus entered Jerusalem for the great religious festival, the people were shouting out 'Praise God, his promised king is here'.** The religious leaders were deeply worried and angered by this, and they wanted to put Jesus to death but didn't know how to get to him **because they feared his popularity.** But, one night they met with one of Jesus' followers, Judas, who for a month's wages, agreed to betray Jesus and lead them to where he would be.*



CHRIST CENTRAL

And on the eve of the festival, Jesus knew what was going to happen to him. So he went to a garden to pray with his followers. Whilst they were there, Judas appeared with soldiers and they took Jesus away in the middle of the night to be tried illegally by the religious leaders. Once they arrived, They brought out fake witnesses to accuse him, but Jesus remained silent. Then finally the head religious leader, said 'you have heard the charges, I demand you tell us, are you the promised King, the Son of God?' Jesus said... 'you have said that I am... and soon one day you will see me seated with authority in the very presence of God.' At this the religious leader tore his clothes to show his horror shouting 'blasphemy! What more do we need hear, what is your verdict' and they all cried out 'guilty'.

And they took Jesus to the governing authorities, and Jesus was condemned to death.

*They took Jesus, and they beat him and flogged him severely and spat on him. They even a put robe around him, and fashioned a crown of thorns and pressed it on to his head. And they mocked him saying 'look at the promised king of God's people'. They took Jesus to the hill where they would carry out his execution. **And this is how they did it, they stripped Jesus naked, and they drove nails through his hands and feet into to two wooden beams in the shape of a cross and lifted him up to die a slow and painful death,** Whilst this was happening Jesus looked out at them and prayed 'Father, forgive them, they don't know what they are doing'. **And the religious leaders and the soldiers, were saying 'he saved others why can't he save himself, if he is God's chosen one?'***

Even one of the criminals, who was crucified next to Jesus, scoffed 'so you are God's king then? Save yourself and us too while you're at it!'

*But the other criminal who was being crucified next to Jesus, said to this criminal '**don't you fear God, we are dying because we are guilty but this man has done nothing wrong**' then turning to Jesus he said '**my king, would you remember me when you come into your Kingdom**' Jesus said '**today you will be with me in the Garden of Paradise with God.**'*

*After some hours when Jesus was near the point of death, he knew his mission was complete, and he let out a loud cry '**it is finished, Father I give my spirit into your hands**' after these words Jesus breathed his last, the sky went dark, and Jesus died.*

And that's the story from God's word

Re-tell the story as group: allow everyone to share a section of the story. If there is more than 6 people consider breaking up into pairs to retell the story.



CHRIST CENTRAL

This is another long story so consider breaking up the story into scenes for the purposes of retelling.

Scene 1 - Jesus enters Jerusalem, Judas agrees betrayal

Scene 2 – Jesus in the Garden with followers, Judas comes with guards to arrest him

Scene 3 – Jesus is questioned by the religious leaders

Scene 4 – Jesus is brought out the Roman authorities, tried and lead away to be crucified

Scene 5 – Jesus is nailed to the cross, prays for his enemies, those around mock him but one of the criminals believes in him and receives from Jesus the promise of eternal life with God, Jesus prays to his Father and dies.

Questions for discussion

1. What do you like about this story/What stood out to you?
2. What bothered you about this story?
3. What does this story show you about God?
4. What does this story show you about people?

Part 3 (practice / takeaways)

identity

worship

mission

Ask the remaining questions:

5. What does this story mean for your life? How will you live your life differently having learned this story?
6. How will you remember this story? (tell it!)
7. Who are you able to tell this story to?

Encourage everyone in the group to think of people in their life whom they could retell the story to; mention that at the next session we will recap the story and ask who remembered to tell the story. Again it is helpful to emphasise the reason for going and telling the story ourselves is that it is the best way for us to remember the story.

Notes for leaders - questions / topics that may arise

Why did Jesus have to die?

- Hopefully in the stories we have told so far, this answer should become apparent. However it may need teasing out, through looking back over this story and the others that have been told. In the Garden, man and woman disobey God and choose to live independently from him. As a result, they are cut off from the eternal life that comes from God, and their relationship with God, each other and the world becomes deeply broken and distorted with sin and death. This is the state of humanity outside of God's life and love. However God has set a plan in motion. We hear about in the promise to the woman, that one of her descendants will crush the enemy that holds influence over humanity, we hear about a descendant of Abraham that will bring



CHRIST CENTRAL

blessing to every family on earth, We also hear from Isaiah that this one will be God's promised king, and he will be killed for the evil and disobedience of humanity and not for anything he has done. God will lay all our evil and disobedience upon him, and he will take away our shame and punishment, and this king will die in our place.

- Jesus is this promised king who dies in our place, for our evil and disobedience, by taking on our shame and death, Jesus defeats the powers of evil that hold sway over humanity. Once this is accomplished, Jesus has now made a way for humanity to be restored to life forever with God, and we can once again be in his presence and through Jesus, the true Son of God, live out our true identity as children of God patterned after Jesus our king.

How is it that the governor was afraid of the people? Why wasn't he in control of them?

- Pilate, the Roman governor – or “prefect” of Judea – was not liked by the Jewish people. He had a history of treating them badly and with excessive force. He offended their beliefs by bringing in military insignia bearing the emperor's image and also misused Temple money. It is surprising that he would accommodate their request to crucify Jesus, but in this case he unexpectedly gave in. It is believed by some historians that Jesus' crucifixion happened during a time that Pilate was concerned for his job because of allegations that he was not doing it well. (In fact, we know that Pilate was removed from his position shortly afterwards in 36AD.) The charge against Jesus – that He claimed to be King – was one that the Jews could use against Pilate to Caesar to claim that Pilate was allowing insurgency in Judea. John records what is believed to be a veiled threat to that effect in John 19:15. Pilate may have been concerned by the threat and so gave in. However, the charge that Jesus was claiming to be King was very weak and unsubstantiated and would not normally have been strong enough to condemn Him.

Why didn't Jesus speak in His own defence?

The simplest answer to this is that it was prophesied hundreds of years ago by Isaiah that Jesus would not speak in His defence. Jesus had not come to defend Himself against an accusation; in fact, He knew what was coming and was going towards it willingly. But when He was asked a more fundamental question about His identity as the Promised King – the “Messiah” – He admitted who He was

Why did Jesus say 'today you will be with me in the Garden of Paradise with God?'

When Luke the gospel writer, records this conversation between Jesus and the criminal on the cross, he specifically uses the 'Eden' which is often translated 'Paradise'. By doing so Luke is wanting his readers to make the connection that Jesus is going to be in the presence of God, where God walked with the first man and woman, namely The Garden of Eden, and this is where he promises the criminal who has trusted in Him will be also. Back in the place of restored relationship with God, back in the Garden.



CHRIST **CENTRAL**

Feedback from Group Leader

In our vision for discipleship, we have identified 4 key ingredients to healthy and growing disciples. As you are leading your group, for each session, make some notes under each heading for how the group is faring in each of these areas .

identity

worship

community

mission