

JESUS BEFORE PILATE

John 18:28-40

**KIDS
3RD-6TH**

NL

Key Verse:

[Jesus said] “For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth.”

John 18:37

The Point:

Unlike the powers of oppression in our world, Jesus’ kingdom proclaims the truth.

Making Connections:

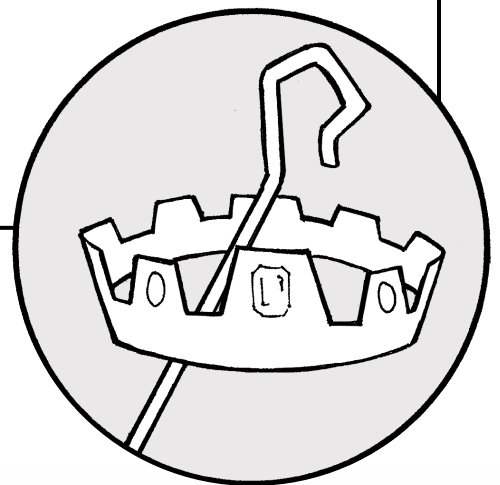
God’s Kingdom Revealed

Bible Nuts & Bolts:

The Roman Empire

Spiritual Practice:

Worship



BACKGROUND

Making Connections

Instead of being a king that holds power over others, Jesus has come to show the world the truth. Unlike Pilate, who attempts to pass off responsibility to others, Jesus is full of integrity and truth. Jesus' kingdom is not like the earthly powers such as Rome. It is about serving not oppressing, giving not taking.

Story Summary:

Jesus before Pilate

After facing the high priest, Jesus is taken to Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor of the region, with the accusation that he is claiming to be a king. This would be treason against the Roman government, punishable by death. Jesus does not answer his accusers directly but instead answers that the kingdom he reigns over is different. It is not from this world. He is here to proclaim the truth that comes from God alone.

While Pilate is confused by Jesus' answers, he ascertains that Jesus is not a threat to the Roman authorities. Yet to maintain the peace, he offers to set one of two criminals free. Due to their own concerns about power, the Jewish leaders select a bandit named Barabbas instead of Jesus.

The Point

Unlike the powers of oppression in our world, Jesus' kingdom proclaims the truth. This story involves conflict between the political and the religious. As in our world today, it is a story about power and control. Jesus refuses to fall into this trap, however, and speaks to a higher truth that the political and religious leaders fail to understand. Jesus talks about kingship and true power, not the power that belongs to the world.

Bible Nuts & Bolts:

The Roman Empire

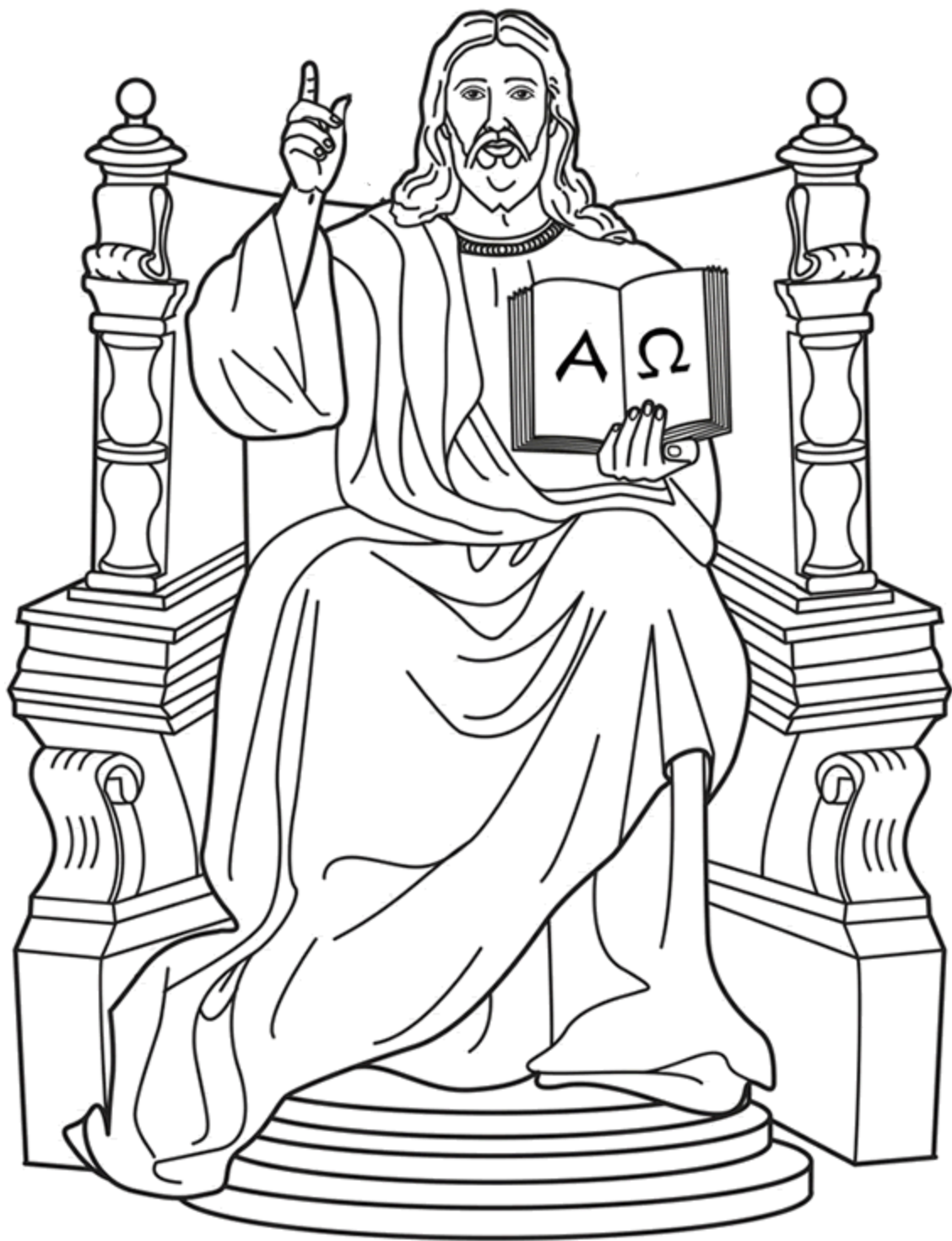
The Roman Empire had conquered most of the area around the Mediterranean Sea by Jesus' time. They maintained order, chose leaders, and oppressed anyone that seemed to stand in their way. The majority of the people in Judea were peasants who worked in agriculture or fishing, or were merchants. While the elite and royal families gained power, protection, and prestige from Rome, the people had no say in the governance.

Roman occupation meant a Roman military presence. People who were seen as a threat to Rome or to social order were often tortured and crucified (or beheaded, if they were a Roman citizen). This—along with high taxes, not being able to have control over religious matters, and an increasing pressure to worship Roman deities—led to growing tension between the Jewish people in Judea and the Roman occupiers.

Spiritual Practice: Worship

Worship is about showing God our love. We show our love to God through worship in praying, singing, sharing communion, and by being present before God. Students will be able to respond to God's gift of love through art and music.



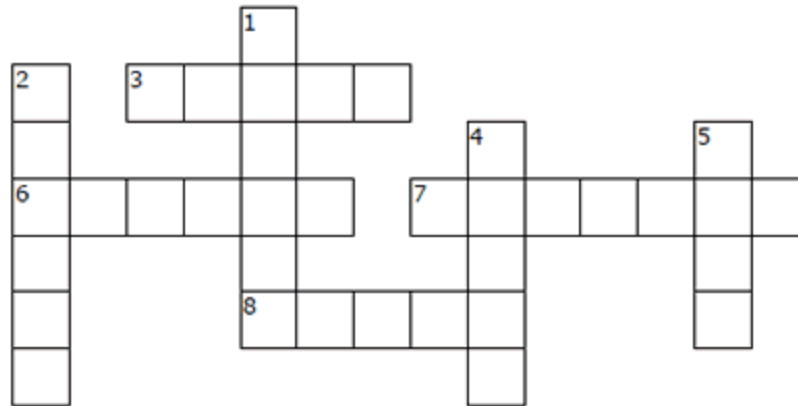


Born to Be King

Jesus answered, "You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth." John 18:37 (NIV)



Based on John 11:33-37



ACROSS

3. The earth or universe
6. To make an effort to hear something
7. An area or territory ruled by king or queen
8. A statement proven to be or accepted as accurate or factual

DOWN

1. To capture and hold under the authority of law
2. Where a king or queen lives
4. To battle, quarrel, or argue; a conflict between two or more people
5. Brought into life by birth

ARREST	LISTEN	FIGHT	BORN
WORLD	PALACE	KINGDOM	TRUTH

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Based on John 18:33-37



T E S T I F Y F C Z N U H E Y
 C D U Y W R T K I A W N U H Y
 S E R V A N T S I G R O A G F
 V W T A Q Z V P T N H R R F T
 I F F Y J M G G J T G T E L U
 V J A P W W T A C H U D K S D
 K I N G W O I T R U T H O X T
 P F S A Y I N G C H P O V M X
 L Q E V E R Y O N E R C Q L N
 A T A B R D N C M I I K I I R
 C P A L A C E D N Q G L I S E
 E T D P R I E S T N H S D T A
 M P O Z W F A C T D T H E E S
 V G I R P E O P L E W W A N O
 N I B O R N M R N J P V Q S N

IDEA	PLACE	RIGHT	WORLD	SERVANTS
TESTIFY	KINGDOM	TRUTH	ARREST	LISTENS
FACT	PEOPLE	REASON	BORN	FIGHT
SAYING	PALACE	PRIEST	KING	EVERYONE

WORSHIP IS RESPONSE

Experience worship through art.

1. **How do you most like to express yourself creatively?** (Circle your favorites):

Composing music

Writing a poem

Writing song lyrics

Dancing

Drawing a picture

Other: _____

Painting

2. **Which of the following emotions do you feel when you think of God's love for you?** (Circle your favorites):

Joy

Gratitude

Happiness

Valued

Surprise

Awed

Serenity/Calmness

Free

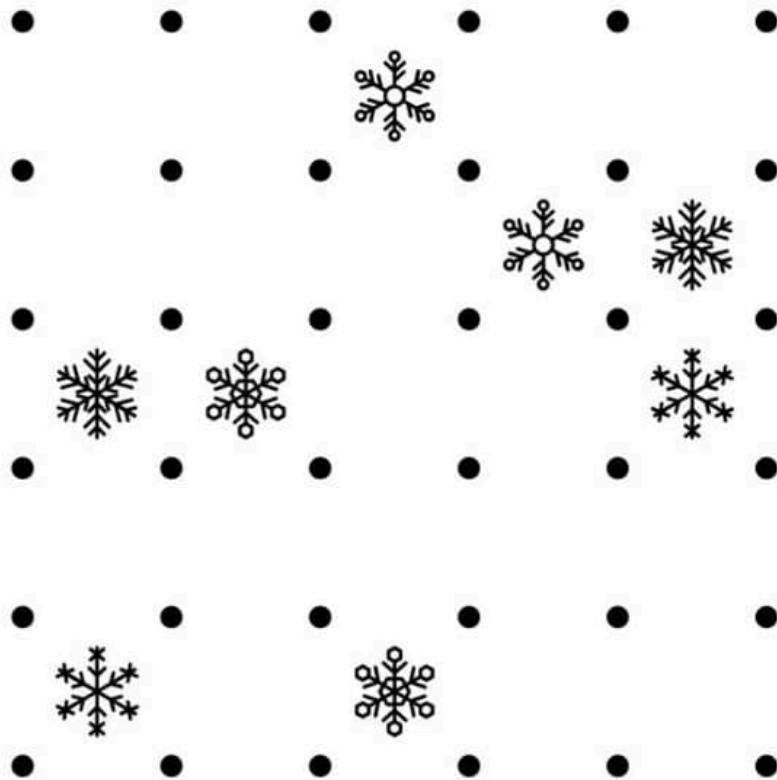
Acceptance

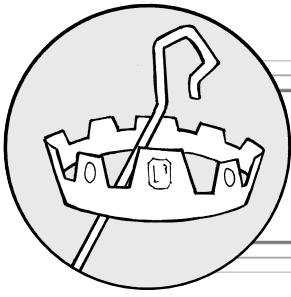
Other: _____

Take a few minutes to think about how you can combine one of the creative expressions you circled in #1 with some of the emotions you circled in #2. Write a few words or draw a little sketch below as you consider how you can use your creativity to worship God.

SNOWFLAKE DOTS AND BOXES

Take turns drawing a line from one dot to another. If your line completes a box, write your initials in the box and take an extra turn. Each completed square is worth one point. Earn an additional bonus point for each snowflake in your squares. Once the grid is filled, the player with the most points wins.





THE STORY @ HOME

**KIDS
3RD-6TH**

NL

Living the Word: Teaching Kids God's Story
Narrative Lectionary, Year 4 (2025-2026)

Lesson #4-27
John 18:28-40

LAST WEEK

After Jesus was arrested, Peter denied him three times (John 18:12-27).

THIS WEEK

Jesus is taken to the court of Pontius Pilate for more questioning (John 18:28-40).

STORY SUMMARY

Jesus before Pilate

After facing the high priest, Jesus is taken to Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor, with the accusation that he is claiming to be a king. This would be treason against the Roman government, punishable by death. Jesus does not answer his accusers directly but instead answers that the kingdom he reigns over is different. It is not from this world. He came to proclaim God's truth. While Pilate is confused by Jesus' answers, he decides that Jesus is not a threat to the Roman authorities. He offers to set one of two criminals free. To keep their own power, the Jewish leaders select a bandit named Barabbas instead of Jesus.

PRACTICE WORSHIP

Worship is about showing God our love. We show our love to God through worship in praying, singing, sharing communion, and by being present before God. Take ten minutes this week to respond to God's gift of love through art and music.

THE POINT

Unlike the powers of oppression in our world, Jesus' kingdom proclaims the truth.

BIBLE NUTS & BOLTS

The Roman Empire

The Roman Empire had conquered most of the area around the Mediterranean Sea by Jesus' time. They maintained order, chose leaders, and oppressed anyone who stood in their way. Most people in Judea were peasants who farmed or fished, or were merchants. While the wealthy families gained power, protection, and prestige from Rome, the people were treated poorly. People who were seen as a threat to Rome or to social order were often tortured and crucified. This—along with high taxes, not being able to have control over religious matters, and an increasing pressure to worship Roman deities—led to growing tension between the Jewish people in Judea and the Roman occupiers.

NEXT WEEK

God's kingdom is revealed, and Jesus is sentenced to death (John 19:1-16a).

Family Discussions

Use the questions below—or any you have—to discuss this lesson’s Scripture reading with your family.

- † Did you find anything in this reading that was surprising?
- † What does this Scripture have to do with our lives today?
- † What part of this Scripture is the most interesting to you? Why?

Family Devotions

As you hear and study these stories each week, consider what God has to say to you and your family. What is God’s message to us? How should we respond?

Sunday—Read John 18:28-40

The kingdom of God is not from this world, but it is wherever people are doing God’s will. Look around you. Where do you see God’s kingdom?

Monday—Read John 15:8-11

Jesus tells his disciples that they will bear much fruit. Eat fruit together as you read this passage. What type of fruit do you bear as a disciple?

Tuesday—Read John 15:12-17

Jesus tells his disciples to love one another. Search for and sing the song “[This Is My Commandment](#)” together. Website hyperlinks are provided for your convenience and are correct and relevant at the time of publication but may not be at the time of use.

Wednesday—Read John 15:18-21

The disciples will be persecuted. What do you do when it feels like people are against you?

Thursday—Read John 15:22-27

You will be my witnesses. Decide one way that you can be a witness to someone this week.

Friday—Read John 16:1-4a

I have told you so you do not fall away. Share a favorite Bible verse that you can remember during difficult times.

Saturday—Read John 16:4b-7

Jesus is going away. Pray together thanking Jesus for sending the Holy Spirit to be with us.