

# Year 5

## God is our Saviour

### 3 Weeks

#### **Outcomes:**

At the completion of this module students will understand:

- The events leading up to Easter
- The reason Jesus died on the cross
- That Jesus came alive again and is still alive today

#### **Related classroom topics for Science, Social Studies and Health:**

Countries of the world: The continents of North and South America

#### **Link between “God is our Saviour” and classroom topics:**

*John 3:16 For God loved the world so much that He sent his only son so that whoever believes in Him will not die but have everlasting life.*

God wants the people of every country in the whole world to come to know Him, so that they can live forever with Him in heaven. People of every nation can come to know the true God by asking Jesus to forgive their sins and then to follow Him. Some people have never heard about Jesus so those who know about Him must tell others. How did Fijians come to know about Jesus?

#### **Values:**

faith; respect for truth; thankfulness

#### **Biographies:**

John Newton, Jim Elliot, Lord of the volcano

# God is our Saviour

## Easter Week 1

### The Betrayal

#### **Bible references**

Adapted from Matthew 26:17-56, Mark 14:12-52, Luke 22:7-53, John 13:1-38 and 18:1-12

#### **Introduction:**

Let's try and remember what happened the week before Easter. This was the triumphal entry, when the people welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem, wanting Him to be king. They did not realize that Jesus was not to be an ordinary king, but king of the whole universe and king of people's hearts and lives.

#### **Upper Room Betrayal**

##### **The Passover**

At this time the Jews celebrated Passover. This was a reminder to them of the great miracle that God did for them, bringing them out of Egypt in the time of Moses.

Jesus wanted to celebrate this very special day in the Jewish year with His disciples. The disciples asked Jesus, "Where do you want us to get the Passover meal ready?" "Go into the city," He said, "and you will see a man carrying a jug of water. Follow him. When he goes into a house, find the owner of that house. Tell him the Teacher said to ask, 'Where is the room I may use to eat the Passover with my disciples?'" He will show you a big upstairs room, ready for our use. Get everything ready there." The disciples went and did as Jesus said.

The meal took a long time. There was the roasted lamb. There were several other kinds of food and drink. Jesus talked with the disciples as they ate. "I have wanted very much to eat this Passover with you before I suffer," He said. The very next day, Jesus, the Lamb of God would shed His blood.

However, Jesus also had other things to tell his disciples during that special meal. He was very sad as He said to them, "I must tell you that one of you is going to betray me." ('Betray' means to be disloyal or unfaithful. It means to do something bad to your friend.)

The disciples stopped eating and looked at one another. They couldn't believe what they heard. Which of them would give Jesus away to his enemies? How could any of them not be loyal and faithful to the Lord? They each said to themselves, "Is it I? Could I possibly do such a thing?"

Peter leaned over and motioned to John, who was seated by the Lord Jesus. "Find out which one of us he is talking about," Peter said.

John asked, "Lord, who is it?"

"It is the one to whom I shall give the piece of bread after I have dipped it in the dish," the Lord Jesus answered.

Judas Iscariot must have been very uncomfortable. "Is it I?" he asked quietly, trying to hide his guilt feelings.

"You have said it yourself," Jesus said. And he gave Judas the bread he had dipped in the dish. But he gave bread to others too. No one heard what he said to Judas. No one noticed that Judas received the bread so no one knew.

"What you are going to do, do quickly," the Lord Jesus said, and Judas went out into the night.

The other disciples did not know where Judas was going or what he was going to do. He was the one who looked after the money so they thought that Jesus may have told him to buy something, or to give some money to the poor. But Judas went to the rulers of the Jews, the chief priests, scribes and the elders. It was not the first time he had visited them. Several days before this he had been there. He had asked them, "What will you give me if I turn Jesus over to you?"

"We will give you thirty pieces of silver," they said.

Judas promised, and now he was in front of them again. "I know where Jesus will be," Judas said. "This is the time to get him. Follow me. The one I kiss will be he."

And so the soldiers, the guards of the temple and some of the Pharisees went with Judas to look for Jesus.

### **The Last Supper**

Meantime back in the upstairs room the Passover meal was finished. Jesus picked up some bread, held it in his hands and thanked God for it. He then broke the bread in pieces and passed it around to the disciples.

"Take and eat," he said. "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in memory of me." (1 Cor. 11:24). Then he took a cup of wine, thanked God for it and passed it to the disciples saying, "This cup is God's new Covenant, sealed with my blood. Whenever you drink it, do so in memory of me."

A covenant is an agreement between two or more people. It is like a promise which two or more people make to one another. The old covenant used the blood of animal sacrifices but they never took away our sins, just covered them over (Hebrews 10:4). The cup Jesus offered them was a symbol of his blood that would be shed the next day His blood would be given for the forgiveness of sins. We now call this the 'Lord's Supper'. This is when we remember the shed blood of the Lord Jesus, the Lamb of God.

After they sang a hymn together, Jesus and the disciples went to the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus was arrested and his disciples ran away and left him.

## **The Trials**

### **Bible references:**

Adapted from Matt. 26:57-27:31; Mark 14:53-15:20; Luke 22:54-23:25; John 18:13-19:16.

### **The High Priest (Religious leaders)**

The Lord Jesus was a prisoner. His disciples had disappeared, scattered in every direction. His enemies led him into the city and took him to the leaders of the Jews. They brought in some men whom they paid to tell lies about Jesus.

“What do you know about him?” they asked.

Some said one thing and some said another. Everyone knew they were lying. At last two men, whom the Bible calls “false witnesses,” said, “This man said, ‘I am able to destroy the temple of God and build it again in three days.’” (The temple Jesus was talking about was His body, which would die, and in three days come back to life again.)

“What do you have to say about that?” the high priest asked Jesus.

The Lord Jesus knew that nothing he would say would make any difference, so, he did not say anything. This made the high priest angry.

“I command you in the name of the living God that you tell us whether you are the Messiah, the Son of God,” he said.

“I am,” the Lord Jesus answered. ‘And the day will come when you see me sitting at the right hand of God.’”

This was the answer the high priest wanted. “He lies!” he screamed. “This is blasphemy.” (Blasphemy meant lying about God.) The high priest turned to the people around him. “You heard what He said.

“What do you think?” he asked.

“He is guilty,” they answered. “He deserves to die!”

### **Peter says he does not know Jesus**

Peter had promised Jesus, “Even if I have to die with you, I will stand up for you.” It was cool and he warmed himself at a fire with the enemies of Jesus. A girl looked at Peter. “This is one of his followers,” she said, pointing to him.

“Woman, I don’t know what you are talking about,” Peter answered.

A little later someone else looked closely at Peter. “You are one of them,” he said.

“I am not!” Peter lied,

Still later another came by. “Surely you are one of them,” he said. “Didn’t I see you with him in the garden?”

“I tell you, I do not know the man!” Peter answered. Just then, a rooster crowed. And Peter remembered the words of Jesus, “Before the rooster crows tomorrow morning you will say three times that you do not know me.”

Peter looked up just in time to see the Lord Jesus turn and look at him. Peter went away from the crowd and cried and cried and cried.

It was now early morning. Jesus stood with hands tied while His enemies hit him with their fists, slapped him and spit in his face. They led Him away from the house of the high priest to the hall of Pilate, the governor.

### **Jesus before Pilate (Civil leaders)**

“What do you have against this man?” Pilate asked “Of what do you accuse Him?”

The high priest and the other Jewish leaders were really troubled. Their laws would not let them put a man to death, so Jesus could not be crucified unless Pilate ruled that He should be punished by death. Pilate would not understand if they told him that Jesus said He was the Son of God, so they said, “He says He is the King of the Jews.”

That should upset Pilate for he was the governor of the Jews in this country. There was a King called Caesar, and if the Lord Jesus was also claiming to be a King this would cause trouble and war.

‘Are you the King of Jews?’ Pilate asked.

“Yes, I am,” Jesus answered.

The crowd of chief priests and scribes and elders yelled one thing and another against Him.

“Don’t you hear what they are saying?” Pilate asked. “Aren’t you going to answer them?”

But the Lord Jesus did not answer a word. This truly bothered Pilate. He could find nothing wrong with Jesus. He tried to think how he could set him free.

### **Jesus and Barabbas**

Suddenly he had an idea. Every year at the time of the Passover one prisoner was set free. The Jews were given a choice as to who that prisoner should be. The worst prisoner Pilate could think of was a wicked man, Barabbas, who was sentenced to die. He had committed murder and caused a lot of trouble among the people.

“Whom do you want me to set free? Jesus or Barabbas?” Pilate asked.

Quickly the leaders moved among the crowd. The crowd was growing larger and larger as people gathered to see what all the excitement was about. There was whispering. Heads were nodding. Then the crowd shouted, “We want Barabbas! Set Barabbas free!”

Pilate could not believe what he heard. “Then what shall I do with Jesus, the one called the Messiah?” he asked. ~

Again the crowd shouted. “Crucify him! Crucify him! Let him be killed!”

The crowd was screaming now “Crucify him!”

Jesus stood there, not saying a word. He was willing to be mocked and despised, or hated, as part of his suffering for our sin. The Bible says in the book of Isaiah, “He is despised and rejected of man.” (Isaiah 53:3).

Jesus was willing to take all this hatred for us because He loved us that much. We have all done many other wrong things. Jesus took the punishment that we deserved.

The soldiers led the Lord Jesus away from the crowd. First he was whipped across His bare back. Then they brought a crown made from a thorn bush. The thorns were long and sharp. They pushed the thorny crown down on his head. Next they brought a purple robe and put it on him. They shoved a stick into His hands for a scepter, (a king’s rod).

Mocking him, they knelt in front of him. “Hail, King of the Jews” they said, laughing and making fun. They spat on him and took the stick that they had given him as his scepter and hit him over the head.

Pilate took him back to the crowd. "I'm bringing him back to you to tell you I do not find him guilty," Pilate said. "Look at the man."

The crowd, stirred up by the enemies of Jesus, shouted, "Crucify him! Crucify him! Take him and crucify him!"

Pilate said, "But I can find no wrong in him."

"By our law He ought to die," they said, "because He called himself the Son of God."

The Son of God? Pilate was afraid! He took the Lord Jesus away from the crowd again. He wanted to talk with him. "Where do you come from?" he asked. The Lord Jesus did not answer.

Pilate was angry. "Will you not answer me?" he asked. "Don't you know that I have the power to crucify you or to set you free?"

"You would have no power at all over me," Jesus told him, "if it were not given to you from above."

Jesus was saying that the time of his death was set by God! No one could take his life until that time came. Now the time was here. Everything was under the control of God the Father. Pilate could not allow him to be crucified if God had not permitted it.

Again they went to the people. Pilate was still trying to set Jesus free.

"If you let this man go you'll no longer be a friend of Caesar, the king! If He is the King of the Jews, He's against Caesar," the crowd shouted.

Pilate was just about ready to give up. He made one last try. "Look at your King," he said, pointing to Jesus.

"Away with him! Crucify him!" they answered.

So Pilate symbolically washed his hands in a basin of water, and sent Jesus to be crucified.

### **Review Questions:**

1. When the High Priest asked Jesus to tell them whether he was the Son of God or not, what did Jesus say? *Ans. Jesus said "I am."*
2. What did Peter do that made Jesus very sad?
3. Did Jesus stop loving Peter?
4. Why did Pilate want to set the Lord Jesus free? *Ans. He knew Jesus had done nothing wrong.*
5. It was the custom of the Jews to choose a prisoner to go free at Passover time. Whom did the crowd want?
6. How did the soldiers mock Jesus? *Ans. They crowned him with thorns and dressed him in a purple robe, gave him a stick for a scepter, and knelt in front of Him saying "Hail, King of the Jews."*
7. Did the Lord Jesus have a fair trial?

# God is our Saviour

## Easter Week 2

### Jesus died for us

#### The Crucifixion

Jesus walked out of Jerusalem carrying his cross. They had taken off the purple robe and dressed him in his own clothes. The cross was heavy. The Lord Jesus had suffered terribly from the beating and lack of sleep the night before so he walked slowly. A man called Simon was pulled from the crowd to carry the cross for the Lord Jesus while Jesus walked ahead. They moved toward a place called Golgotha, or Calvary. Two other prisoners carried their crosses. They were robbers.

Some soldiers walked in front of the crowd. One carried a sign that Pilate had written. It was to be hung at the top of Jesus' cross. "This is Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews," the sign said. The Jewish leaders did not like those words. They said, "Write, 'He said: I am the King of the Jews'." Pilate had refused to change the sign. "What I have written, I have written," he said.

When the crowd reached the hill where Jesus would be crucified, the soldiers offered him something to drink. It was some kind of wine mixed with a drug that would make it easier for him to bear the pain. The Lord Jesus would not drink it. He would take every bit of the suffering himself. The soldiers put nails through his hands and feet and hung him up on the cross to die.

It was nine o'clock in the morning. The two robbers were on either side of him. The soldiers threw a dice to see who would get his clothes. They were used to crucifixions and hearing screams and curses from those who were dying. But the man on the middle cross, Jesus, did not curse or scream. He called out, "Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing." The Lord Jesus was praying for his enemies! What kind of man is this?" they wondered.

People came and stood watching, shaking their heads. "You!" they yelled. "You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross."

The chief priests and the scribes joined in the mocking. "He saved others but he can't save himself. If he is the King of the Jews let him come down from the cross and we will believe him."

It was not the nails that held the Lord Jesus to the cross. He had power to come off that cross. It was his love for us that held him there. His blood was shed so that our sin could be forgiven. We were born with a sinful nature - a nature that chooses wrong - the lies, the selfishness, the hatred, the disobedience, the stealing and all the other sins we have ever done. These can be forgiven only through the blood of Christ.

It is easy to hate the sin of those who crucified and mocked the Lord Jesus. Could even their sins be forgiven? Yes! Their sin too could be forgiven (Acts 6:7).

One of the robbers joined in the mocking. He said, "Jesus, aren't you the Messiah? Then save yourself and us too!"

But the other robber said, "Aren't you afraid of God, even when you are dying? We are getting the punishment we deserve. We are guilty but this man has done nothing wrong. He is not guilty." He spoke to the Lord Jesus, "Remember me when you come into your kingdom."

Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you shall be with me in Paradise."

It was now twelve o'clock. Three hours had gone by since the crucifixion began. Strange things were happening. Darkness came over all the land; not just cloudy darkness but night darkness. It lasted for three hours, until three o'clock in the afternoon.

It was about that time that the Lord Jesus cried with a loud voice, "My God! My God! Why have you forsaken me?" God had to abandon him while Jesus took the punishment for our sin. 1 Peter 2:24 says, "He carried our sins in his own body on the cross". If we trust the Lord Jesus as our Savior, we will never have to be separated from God. He will never leave us alone in our life on earth or in our next life after we die when we will be with Him in Heaven.

Then Jesus cried with a loud voice, "It is finished!" All that he had come to do was finished. When something is finished there is nothing left to be done. No one can add anything else to pay for sin. The Lord Jesus did it all.

Jesus spoke one last time. "Father," he said. "Into your hands I give my spirit." The separation from God was over. Jesus' spirit left his body. Jesus was dead.

The leader of the group of soldiers that crucified him looked at Jesus on the cross. "Surely this man was the Son of God," he said. He must have thought, "I am guilty of crucifying one who was not guilty."

In the temple in the city a huge curtain called a veil hung in front of the altar. Once every year the high priest had gone behind the veil with the blood of animals to offer it as a sacrifice for the sins of the people. This was the only time anyone ever went behind that curtain. But, when the Lord Jesus died that veil was torn in half from the top to the bottom! The blood of animals was no longer necessary to come to God. All could come through the blood of the Lord Jesus, the Lamb of God.

One of the rulers of the Jews went to Pilate. His name was Joseph, and the Bible says he did not vote to have Jesus put to death. It took a lot of courage for any Jew to go to Pilate at this time. "Please, may I take his body from the cross and bury it?" Joseph asked.

"Is he dead already?" Pilate questioned. It was not usual that anyone could die so soon from crucifixion! The soldiers checked. They broke the legs of the robbers so that they might die



more quickly. But they did not break Jesus' legs because he was already dead. They pierced his side with a spear and they knew he was dead.

The soldiers gave Pilate the word. "Yes, Jesus is dead." Pilate gave Joseph permission to take the body.

Up until this time Joseph had not spoken of his love for the Lord Jesus because he was afraid of the Jews. Suddenly he was brave and he didn't care who knew. Nicodemus too had feared to speak of his love for the Lord Jesus. Together Joseph and Nicodemus removed the body from the cross. They wrapped it in linen with sweet-smelling spices, and buried the Saviour in a new tomb in Joseph's garden.

The leaders of the Jews were certain that this was the end. Well, almost certain, that is! They went back to Pilate again.

"We remember that this deceiver said he would rise from the dead in three days," they said. "His disciples might come to steal his body and then say he has risen. We want guards to watch the tomb for three days."

Pilate gave permission. The tomb was sealed and the guards were stationed to make sure the body of Christ would stay in the tomb and not be stolen.

### **Review questions**

1. Why did the Lord Jesus die? *Ans. For the sins of the world.*
2. What kinds of people were at the cross? *Ans. Rulers who hated him, friends who loved him, soldiers and others who didn't care.*
3. What did they say to mock him while he hung on the cross? *Ans. If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross and we will believe." "He said he trusted in God so let God save Him now."*
4. What held the Lord Jesus to the cross? *Ans. His love.*
5. What did Jesus ask God to do for his enemies? *Ans. He prayed, "Father forgive them for they know not what they do."*
6. Name some of the strange things that happened when he died. *Ans. Darkness at midday; the temple curtain was torn in two.*
7. Why did Jesus cry "My God! My God! Why have you forsaken me?" *Ans. He was separated from God because of our sin.*
8. Who took the body of the Lord Jesus off the cross and laid it in a tomb? *Ans. Joseph and Nicodemus.*

# God is our Saviour

## Easter Week 3

### Jesus is alive!

#### The Resurrection

Adapted from Matthew 28:1-15; Mark 16:1-14; Luke 23:56-24:12; 36-48; John 20:1-21.

It seemed that guarding a dead man's grave would be an easy job for the soldiers. Surely there was no work involved in that. They were just to see that the tomb was not disturbed. But they could not do it, for God himself was in charge of that grave. Those strong soldiers were absolutely powerless to keep the grave undisturbed. Their guarding time was up. An angel took over!

When the soldier saw the angel they were so afraid they became like dead men. When they were able to get away from the tomb they rushed back into the city to the Jewish leaders. The soldiers told what had happened.

"Don't tell that to anyone," the Jewish leaders warned. They brought out a large amount of money.

"We'll give you this," they said, "if you do not tell what you know. Say that you fell asleep and his disciples came and took his body away." The promise of a lot of money made it very easy for them to lie.

When the Lord Jesus was buried, some women who were special friends Jesus wanted to put sweet-smelling spices on his body just as Nicodemus had done, but they came too late. All they could do was watch Joseph, Nicodemus and others roll the big stone to close the opening of the grave then go home.

The next day was the Sabbath, (the day of rest for the Jews), so they could not go to the tomb on that day. But early Sunday morning they were on their way. It was still dark when they left their homes. They were very sad.

"How can we get to the body?" one asked. "Who will roll the stone away from the door?" That was a big problem, but still they went on their way. When they came in sight of the tomb they saw it was open! Mary Magdalene hurried to look inside. She called out, "He's gone! He's not there! His body is gone!" She was so upset she didn't wait to discuss it with the other women. Whatever happened? Would Peter and John know anything about it? She hurried back into the city to find them, calling out, "They have taken the Lord out of the grave and we don't know where they laid him." Peter and John immediately started for the grave and Mary Magdalene followed. Had she waited with the other women she would have learned something else. After she had gone they saw an angel. "Don't be afraid," the angel said to the women. "I know you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here. He is risen. He said that would happen. Come and see the place where he was lying."

The women came closer to the tomb and they saw that truly he was not there, although the cloths that had been wrapped around Jesus body were lying in the tomb.

The angel told the women, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." Then they remembered Jesus words; truly He had told them this would happen.

The angel said, "Go tell his disciples and Peter that He is going ahead of you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you." The women ran to spread the good news! It was such wonderful news that they were almost afraid to believe it!

Meantime Peter and John were running to the tomb. Mary Magdalene was coming more slowly behind them. John arrived first and stopped at the entrance to look in. Peter pushed by him into the tomb. John followed. There they saw the linen clothes in which Joseph and Nicodemus had wrapped the body of Jesus. They were exactly in the shape of the body but they were empty. The cloth that had been over his face was separate from the others. In some way the body had moved out of the linen wrappings without moving them! They returned to their home, their minds filled with wonder.

Mary Magdalene moved up to the opening and looked inside. She saw two angels!

"Woman, why are you crying?" they asked her.

"They've taken my Lord away, and I don't know where they have laid him" she answered. As she turned around she saw someone behind her. "Woman, why are you crying? Who are you looking for?" he asked her.

Mary thought it was the gardener. "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you laid him and I will take him away," she said.

The man standing there said, "Mary!" Immediately Mary knew it was Jesus.

"My Master!" she cried.

Mary Magdalene was the first person to see the Lord Jesus after he had risen from the dead. "Go to my brothers, my followers, and tell them I am going to my Father," the Lord Jesus told her.

Mary Magdalene went and told the disciples she had seen the risen Lord Jesus and what he said to her. The other women who had heard the message of the angel had also told their stories. The disciples did not believe the women, but they knew they were speaking the truth.

That evening the disciples were in a room behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jews. Suddenly Jesus was there! Locked doors couldn't keep him out! "Peace be to you!" He said.

At first they were terribly frightened. They thought they were seeing a spirit!

"Why are you troubled?" he asked them. "Look at my hands and my feet," and He showed them the wounds from the nails in his hands and feet. "It is me. Touch me and see. A spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have."

Now the disciples knew what the women said was true. They were glad and filled with joy. They were happier than they had ever been before!

“Do you have anything to eat?” He asked. They gave him a piece of boiled fish and watched while he ate it. “While I was still with you,” He said, “I told you everything written about me in the Old Testament must come true.” He helped them to understand how the Old Testament spoke about him.

“This is what is written: the promised Saviour will suffer and rise from the dead the third day. Repentance and forgiveness of sins should be preached to all nations. You are witnesses of these things. As the Father sent me, so send I you.”

#### Review Questions

1. What lie did the soldiers tell about what took place at the tomb? *Ans. They said they fell asleep and the disciples came and stole the body of Jesus out of the tomb.*
2. Why did they tell that lie? *Ans. Because the rulers of the Jews promised them a lot of money if they would say that.*
3. What did the women plan to do at Jesus' grave? *Ans. Put spices on his body.*
4. What did they find there? *Ans. The stone rolled away; some saw an angel.*
5. What did the angel tell them? *Ans. “He is not here: for he is risen.” “Go quickly and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead.”*
6. Who was the first person to see the Lord Jesus after he had risen from the dead? *Ans. Mary Magdalene.*
7. What did Peter and John see when they went to the tomb? *Ans. The grave clothes lying in place with the body gone.*
8. Where did the Lord Jesus meet with the disciples? *Ans. He came into a room where the disciples were staying behind locked doors*
9. What did he do to prove that he was real? *Ans. Showed them the wounds in his hands and feet. Told them to touch him. Ate some fish.*