

# Open Bible Stories — Jesus Is Put on Trial

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## Introduction

### Key Idea

The story of Jesus being put on trial teaches us that Jesus was innocent of any crimes and was sentenced to death to pay for the guilt of humans.

### Core Belief Verse

*"He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. 23  
When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered,  
he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who  
judges justly." 1 Peter 2:22-23*

### God's Big Story

The eternal God created all things in six days.

He made a good and perfect world.

He made humans in his image to fill the earth and rule over creation.

But humans rebelled against God and ruined God's creation.

God set to restore his world through his promise.

God made a covenant with Abraham.

He promised to bless all nations through Abraham.

God kept his promises across the generations.

God provided Abraham with a promised child, Isaac.

God gave Isaac a wife, and she bore twins, Jacob and Esau.

God blessed Jacob and his sons, and the blessing continued to the next generation.

God rescued Joseph, one of Jacob's sons, and used him to rescue his family.

God caused his people, the Israelites, to multiply in the land of Egypt; eventually, they became slaves.

But God raised up a deliverer, Moses, to deliver his people from slavery.

God judged the Egyptians with harsh plagues; in the final judgment, he passed over his people, who covered their doorposts with the blood of a sacrificed lamb.

Then, God delivered the Israelites by bringing them out of Egypt and crossing the Red Sea on dry land.

God made a covenant with the Israelites and made them his people.

God tested Israel in a series of wilderness wanderings and eventually brought his people into the promised land of Canaan.

God raised up deliverers to lead Israel and rescue them from their enemies.

God formed Israel into a kingdom.

He made a covenant with King David and promised to send a king that would rule his people forever.

Many of Israel's kings were evil, and the kingdom of Israel was divided into two kingdoms.

God sent prophets to warn his people of God's judgment and call them to repent.

When Israel did not repent, God sent his people into exile.

After many years, he brought them back to the land.

Throughout the Old Testament, God promised to send his Messiah to deliver his people from their sin.

After many years, the prophet John was born.

He would prepare people for the coming Messiah.

At the perfect time, God sent his Son, Jesus, to be born of a virgin Mary.

When John and Jesus grew up, John baptized Jesus as a sign that Jesus was God's beloved Son.

Jesus endured all manner of temptation without ever sinning.

When he was thirty years old, he launched a public ministry of preaching, teaching, and healing.

He taught his disciples about the life of compassion, sacrifice, and forgiveness.

Jesus performed many miracles: he fed a crowd of five thousand, he walked on water, he healed the sick, and he cast out demons.

He proclaimed to people the nature of real faith, God's kingdom, and how fallen humans can be restored in relationship with God.

Toward the end of his ministry, Jesus revealed his power and glory to his disciples. He raised a dead man to life.

Jesus was betrayed by one of his disciples and put on trial before a Roman governor.

## The Story: Jesus Is Put on Trial

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39-01



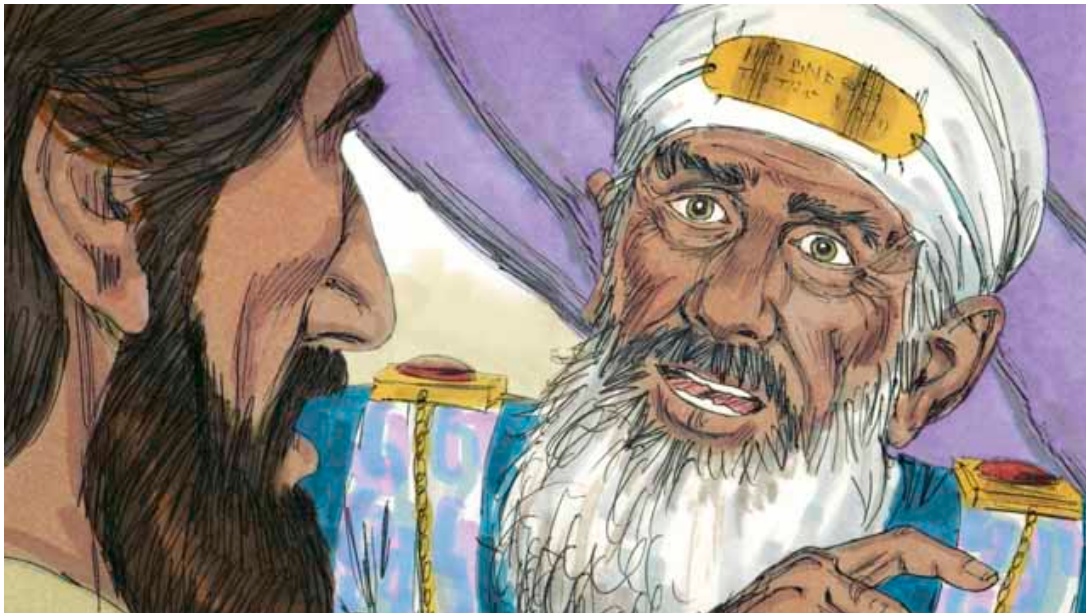
It was now the middle of the night. The soldiers led Jesus to the house of the high priest because he wanted to question Jesus. Peter was following far behind them. When the soldiers took Jesus into the house, Peter stayed outside and warmed himself by a fire.

39-02



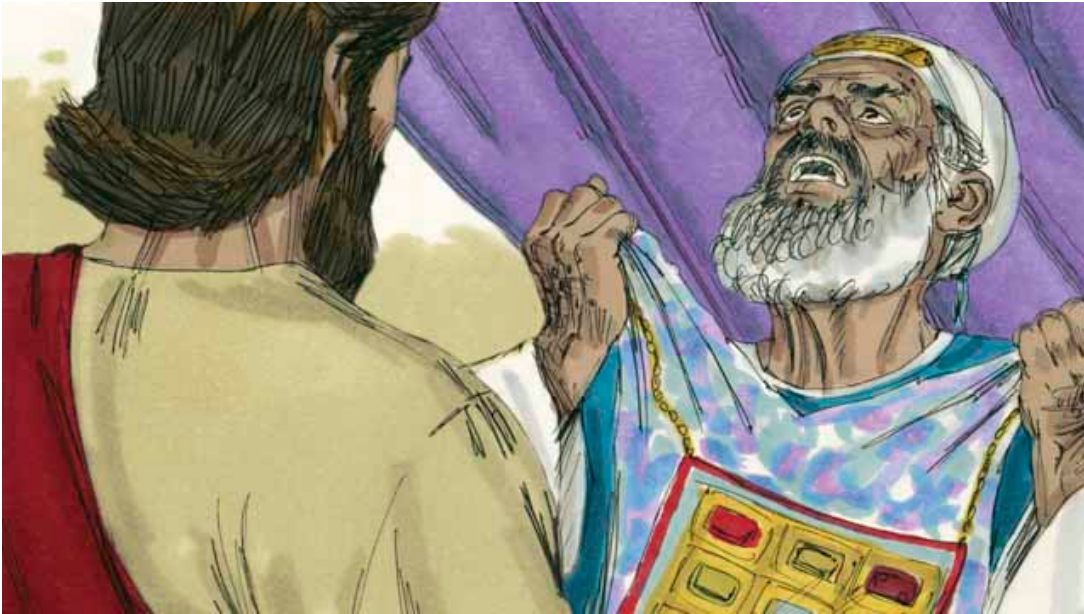
Inside the house, the Jewish leaders put Jesus on trial. They brought many false witnesses who lied about him. However, their statements did not agree with each other, so the Jewish leaders could not prove he was guilty of anything. Jesus did not say anything.

39-03



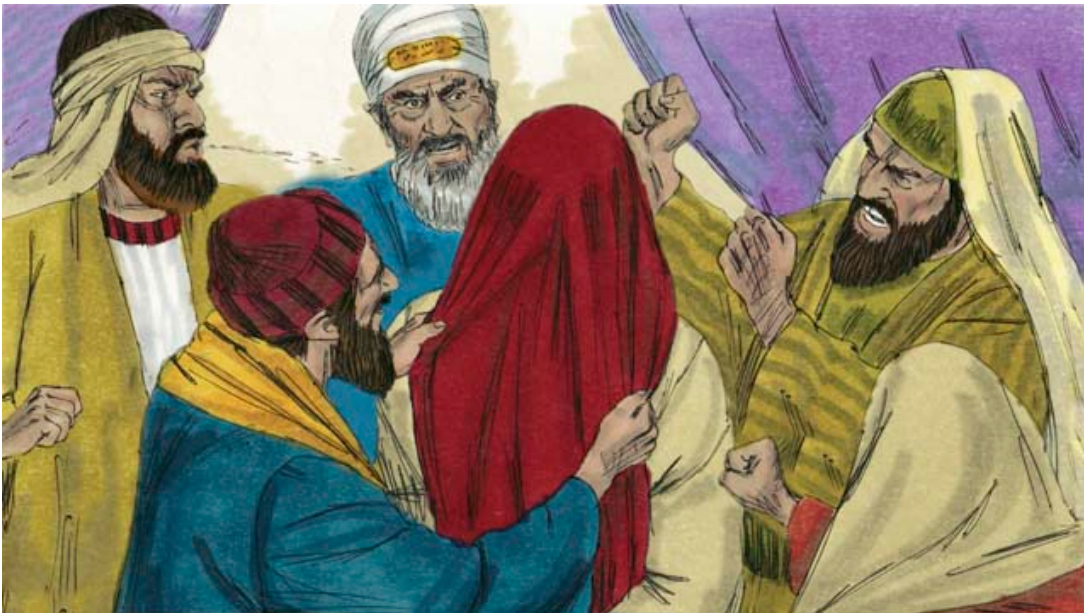
Finally, the high priest looked directly at Jesus and said, "Tell us, are you the Messiah, the Son of the living God?"

39-04



Jesus said, "I am, and you will see me seated with God and coming from heaven." The high priest tore his clothes because he was angry at what Jesus said. He shouted to the other leaders, "We do not need any more witnesses to tell us what this man has done! You yourselves have heard him say that he is the Son of God. What is your decision about him?"

39-05



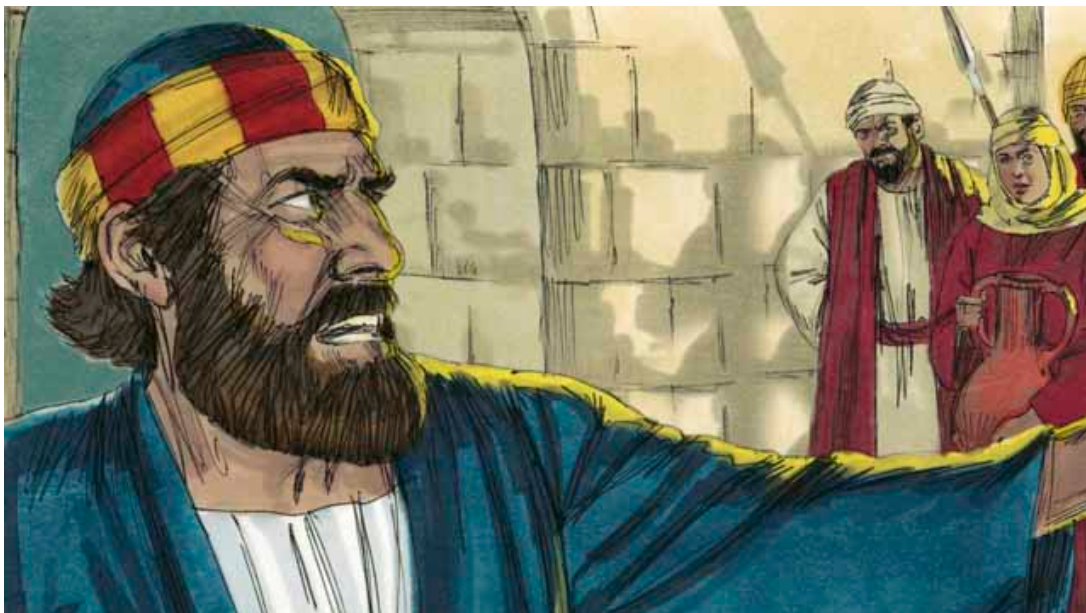
The Jewish leaders all answered the high priest, "He deserves to die!" Then they blindfolded Jesus, spit on him, hit him, and mocked him.

39-06



As for Peter, he was waiting outside the house. A servant girl saw him. She said to him, "You also were with Jesus!" Peter denied it. Later, another girl said the same thing, and Peter denied it again. Finally, some people said, "We know that you were with Jesus because you both are from Galilee."

39-07



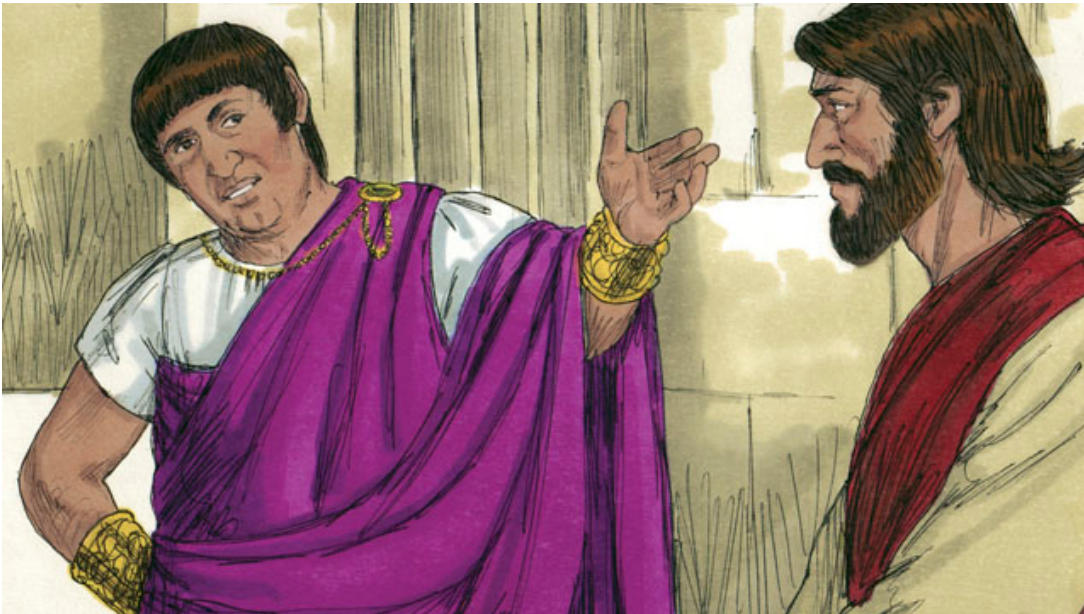
Then Peter said, "May God curse me if I know this man!" Immediately after Peter swore like this, a rooster crowed. Jesus turned around and looked at Peter.

39-08



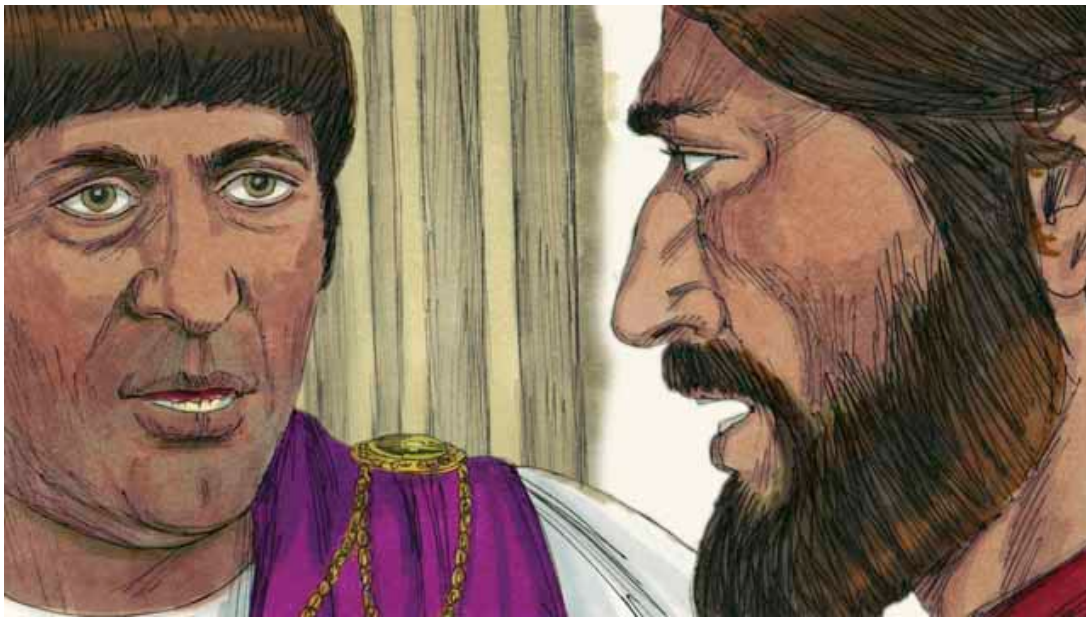
Peter went away and cried bitterly. At the same time, Judas, the one who had betrayed Jesus, saw that the Jewish leaders had condemned Jesus to die. Judas became full of sorrow and went away and killed himself.

39-09



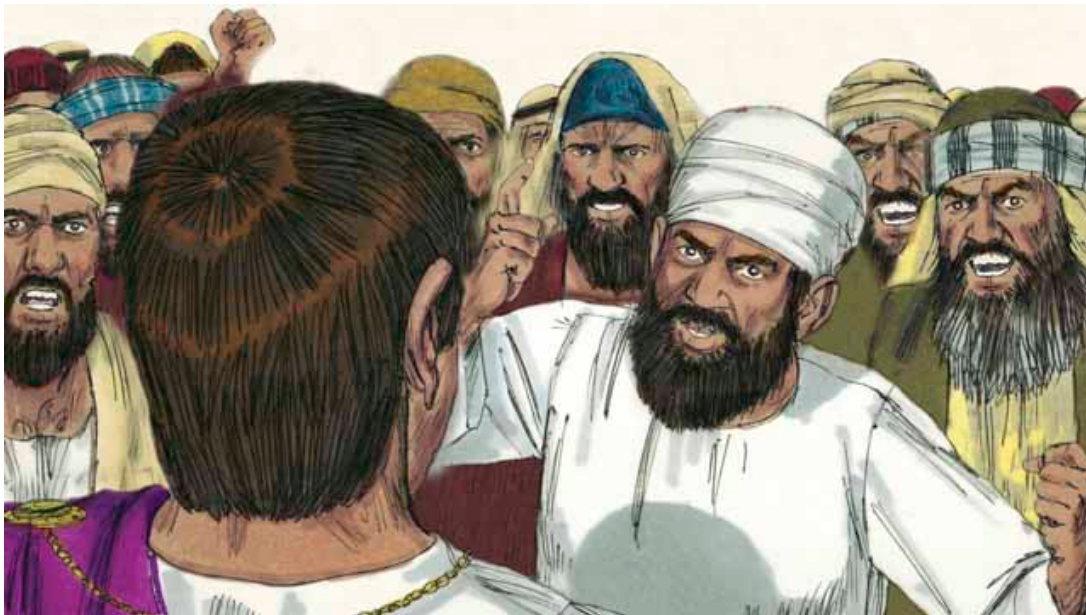
Now Pilate was the governor of Judea. He worked for Rome. The Jewish leaders brought Jesus to him. They wanted Pilate to condemn Jesus and kill him. Pilate asked Jesus, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

39-10

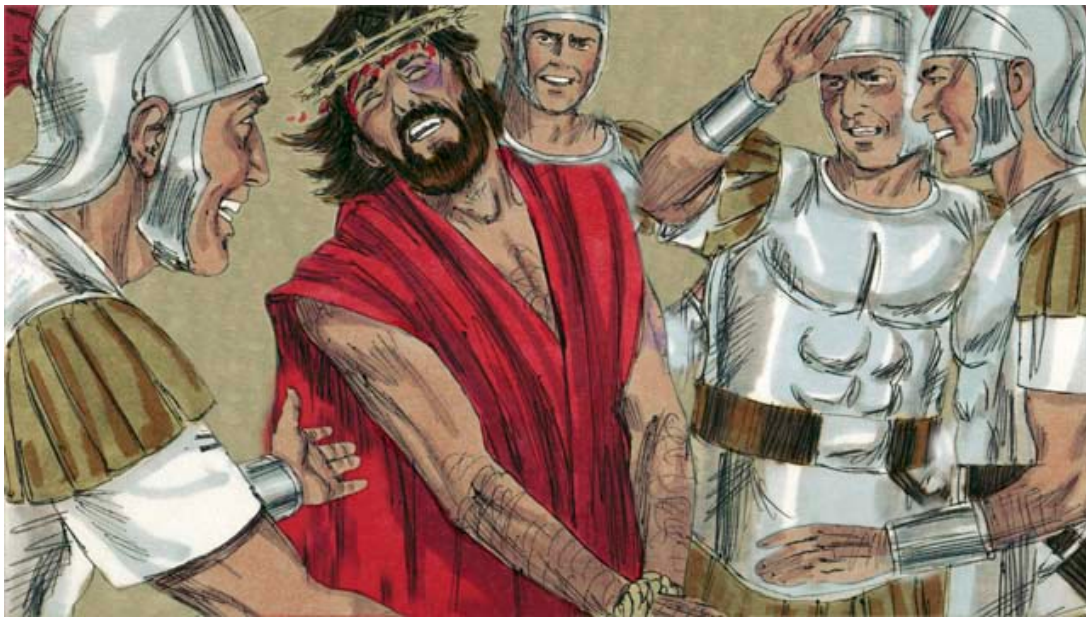


Jesus answered, "You have said the truth. But my kingdom is not here on earth. If it were, my servants would fight for me. I have come to earth to tell the truth about God. Everyone who loves the truth listens to me." Pilate asked, "What is truth?"

39-11



After speaking with Jesus, Pilate went out to the crowd and said, "I cannot find any reason that this man deserves to die." But the Jewish leaders and the crowd shouted, "Crucify him!" Pilate replied, "He is not guilty of doing anything wrong." But they shouted even louder. Then Pilate said a third time, "He is not guilty!"



Pilate became afraid that the crowd would begin to riot, so he agreed to have his soldiers crucify Jesus. The Roman soldiers whipped Jesus and put a royal robe and a crown made of thorns on him. Then they mocked him by saying, "Look, the King of the Jews!"

*A Bible story from: Matthew 26:57-27:26; Mark 14:53-15:15; Luke 22:54-23:25; John 18:12-19:16*

## Community Study: Healthy Vulnerability—Naming Fears That Harm Personal Relationships

- **Key Idea:** identifying fears that cripple ministry and harm community
- **Key Passage:** Proverbs 29:25
- **Main Session:** OBS 39 (Jesus Is Put on Trial)

### Recite the Core Belief Verse (3–5 minutes)

The verse below summarizes the teaching of the current passage. Read the verse out loud as a community. Read it again several times as a group until the whole community can recite it from memory.

*See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered to the chief priests and scribes. They will condemn him to death and will deliver him to the Gentiles for them to mock, to flog, and to crucify him. But on the third day he will be raised up. Matthew 20:18-19*

OR

*22 He committed no sin, neither was any deceit found in his mouth. 23 When he was reviled, he did not revile back. When he suffered, he did not threaten back, but he gave himself to the one who judges justly. 1 Peter 2:22-23*

### Reflect on Your Fears (5–10 minutes)

Jesus came to save people from sin. People falsely accused, mocked, and rejected Jesus. Many times, we can fear what other people think about us or what they might say about us. This fear can prevent us from having healthy relationships. Take a moment to privately reflect on some of your own fears about what other people might think or might say about you.

*I am afraid that people might think (or say) this about me...*

*This fear causes me to feel and act in the following ways...*

### **Read the Passage** (3-5 minutes)

Our personal fears and anxieties (i.e., our insecurities) can make it hard to trust other people. God wants us to find security and safety in him. Unfortunately, many people try to find security in other people and other things. Read the passage below to learn about what God says about fear and insecurity.

*25 The fear of man makes a snare, but the one who trusts in Yahweh will be protected. Proverbs 29:25*

### **Discuss the Passage** (10-15 minutes)

When we fear what others think and say about us, we can feel anxious and insecure. God wants us to find safety and security in him. When we find our security in God, we are able to build healthy relationships of trust and vulnerability. As a community, use the following questions to discuss the teaching of the biblical passage.

1. What does this passage teach about fearing people? How is the fear of people a snare (trap)?
2. What are some fears, anxieties, and insecurities people experience? How can these fears be like a prison for us?
3. What does this passage teach about trusting God? How can trusting God help us overcome our fears and insecurities?
4. Why is it important for your community to resolve personal fears and insecurities?

### **Describe Trust in God** (5 minutes)

Think about what it means to trust God. Reflect on what it means for God to protect you. Complete the following sentence to express how your feelings, thoughts, and actions would change if you trusted God to protect you.

*Because God protects me, I do not need to be afraid of...*

### **Pray to God** (5 minutes)

Pray that God would remove fears and insecurities in your community. Have each member of your community say a brief prayer that God would provide protection and safety from fear and insecurity. After each person prays, have the whole group pray the Scripture passage together.

*Gracious God, help me to no longer be afraid of...*

*Pray Together: I sought Yahweh and he answered me, and he gave me victory over all my fears. Psalm 34:4*

**Sing a Song** (3-5 minutes)

Choose a song that expresses trust in God for protection and safety.  
Sing this song together as a community.

## **Movement 1: Understand the Story**

*Read each question aloud. Give the group time to answer before sharing the answer.*

### **Observation Questions**

#### **39-01**

**What time of the day was it when the Jewish leaders began to question Jesus?**

It was the middle of the night.

**Why did the soldiers lead Jesus to the house of the high priest?**

The soldiers led Jesus to the house of the high priest because he wanted to question Jesus.

**How far behind was Peter?**

Peter followed far behind them.

**Where was Peter when they took Jesus into the house?**

Peter stayed outside and warmed himself by a fire.

#### **39-02**

**What did the Jewish leaders do inside the house?**

The Jewish leaders put Jesus on trial.

**Who came to accuse Jesus?**

They brought many false witnesses who lied about Jesus.

**Why could the Jewish leaders not prove Jesus was guilty of anything?**

The statements of the false witnesses did not agree with each other.

**What did Jesus say during this time?**

Jesus did not say anything.

### **39-03**

#### **What question did the high priest finally ask Jesus?**

He asked Jesus, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the living God?"

### **39-04**

#### **What answer did Jesus give to the high priest?**

Jesus said, "I am, and you will see me seated with God and coming from heaven."

#### **How did the high priest respond to Jesus' statement?**

The high priest tore his clothes and was angry at what Jesus said.

#### **How many more witnesses did the high priest think they needed?**

The high priest did not think they needed any more witnesses against Jesus.

#### **What was the crime that the high priest said that Jesus had committed?**

He said that Jesus had claimed he was the Son of God.

### **39-05**

#### **What did the Jewish leaders say to the high priest?**

The Jewish leaders told the high priest that Jesus deserved to die.

#### **After this, what did they do to Jesus?**

Then they blindfolded Jesus, spit on him, hit him, and mocked him.

### **39-06**

#### **Where was Peter during Jesus' trial?**

Peter was waiting outside the house of the high priest.

#### **What did the servant girl say to Peter?**

The servant girl said that Peter was with Jesus.

#### **How did Peter respond to what the servant girl said?**

Peter denied that he was with Jesus.

#### **What did Peter do when another girl said the same thing?**

Peter denied it again.

#### **Why did the people think that Peter had been with Jesus?**

Peter and Jesus were both from Galilee.

### **39-07**

#### **What did Peter say about people thinking he was with Jesus?**

Peter swore that he did not know Jesus and brought a curse on himself if he was lying.

#### **What happened immediately after Peter denied Jesus the third time?**

A rooster crowed, and Jesus turned and looked at Peter.

### **39-08**

#### **What did Peter do after he denied Jesus three times and heard the rooster crow?**

Peter went away and cried bitterly.

#### **What did Judas do when he saw that the Jewish leaders had condemned Jesus?**

Judas became full of sorrow and went away and killed himself.

### **39-09**

#### **Who was Pilate?**

Pilate was the Roman governor of Judea.

#### **Why did the Jewish leaders take Jesus to the Roman governor Pilate?**

They wanted Pilate to condemn Jesus and kill him because they didn't have the authority to do it themselves.

#### **What was the first question that Pilate asked Jesus?**

He asked, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

### **39-10**

#### **What did Jesus tell Pilate about his kingdom?**

Jesus told Pilate that his kingdom was not on earth or his servants would have fought for him.

#### **What did Jesus say was the reason he came to earth?**

Jesus said he came to earth, to tell the truth about God.

#### **How do people act who love the truth?**

People who love the truth listen to Jesus.

### **39-11**

#### **What did Pilate tell the crowd about Jesus?**

Pilate told the crowd that he could not find any reason that Jesus deserved to die.

**What were the people telling Pilate to do to Jesus?**

The people shouted, "Crucify him!"

**How many times did Pilate say to the crowd that Jesus was not guilty?**

He said three times that Jesus was not guilty.

**39-12**

**If he believed Jesus was innocent, why did Pilate allow Jesus to be crucified?**

Pilate became afraid that the crowd would begin to riot.

**How did the Roman soldiers treat Jesus?**

They whipped Jesus, put a royal robe and a crown of thorns on him, and mocked him.

**What did they call Jesus as they mocked him?**

They mocked Jesus by calling him King of the Jews.

**Movement 2: Theological Questions**

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**What Does This Story Teach Us?**

1. What did Jesus suffer and endure for the salvation of people? What does this story teach us about the suffering of Jesus?
2. What should we believe about Jesus? How does this story give us a correct understanding of who Jesus is?
3. What does it mean to faithfully follow Jesus? How does this story teach disciples about what it means to faithfully follow Jesus?

**Movement 3: Live It Out**

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*Guide the group to discuss practical obedience from this story and name concrete next steps.*

**Personal Implications & Applications From The Story**

1. What unjust suffering (rejection, humiliation, shame, pain, accusation) have you experienced in life?

2. How does Jesus understand the suffering and hardship you have endured by virtue of what he suffered in his trial and sentencing? What comfort does this story bring to your life?
3. What truths about Jesus have you come to more deeply understand and believe from this story?
4. Think about this week. Where does "Jesus Is Put on Trial" challenge you to obey God in a practical way?
5. How does this key idea shape one decision you need to make right now: The story of Jesus being put on trial teaches us that Jesus was innocent of any crimes and was sentenced to death to pay for the guilt of humans.

## **Movement 4: Retell the Story**

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*Invite the group to retell the story several times until they can tell it clearly and faithfully.*

1. Can someone retell "Jesus Is Put on Trial" from beginning to end in their own words?
2. Retell this story again, but focus on what God did at each key moment.
3. Retell the story in three parts: beginning, middle, and ending. What changed in each part?
4. If you were teaching this story to your family tonight, how would you tell it simply and clearly?

### **Church Ministry**

**Ministry Preparation:** Take time to consider how you could minister this story to others. Record some ministry ideas below.

**Ministry Implementation:** Minister this story to a group of believers as you had planned. Use the information in this study to help develop a teaching/lesson or lead a discussion of this story with other believers. Record your ministry plan below.

**Ministry Reflection:** Think about what you learned from ministering this story to other believers. Reflect on your experience below.

## Movement 5: Share It

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*Help each person plan how they will share this story with others before the next gathering.*

1. Who is one specific person you will share "Jesus Is Put on Trial" with this week?
2. When and where will you share this story with them?
3. What is the one main truth from this story you want them to remember?

*Report-back next meeting: Who did you share with, and what happened?*

### **Mission Engagement**

**Witness Preparation:** Take time to consider how you will witness this narrative to unbelievers. Record some ideas below.

**Witness Implementation:** Share this story with an unbeliever. Use the information in this study to help develop a teaching/lesson or lead a discussion of this story with other believers. Record your ministry plan below.

**Witness Reflection:** Think about what you learned from ministering this story to unbelievers. Reflect on your experience below.