



THINK
FAITH



THINK FAITH SRE AT HOME

MATTHEW'S GOSPEL: WEEK 6

The King's sacrifice





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THINK FAITH SRE AT HOME

Matthew's Gospel Week 6: The King's sacrifice

This is the final week of Think Faith SRE at Home. We hope it has been helpful for you as you've seen from the Bible why Christians believe that Jesus is God's King and the Saviour of the world.

This week's passages take us to the climactic events in the Gospel of Matthew.

You may be familiar with the account of Jesus' death on the cross—or, it might be the first time you've ever heard of it.

This week, we're going spend some time looking at the different witnesses to Jesus' trial, death and resurrection, when he came back to life. At the end of the week, you're going to have the chance to make up your own mind, too.

In **Day 1's** passage, we're going to look at Jesus' trial before the Roman Governor, a man named Pontius Pilate. Pay particular attention to what Pilate concludes about Jesus—does he think Jesus is guilty? Why do you think he came to the conclusion that he did?

TICK WHEN COMPLETED.

Yesterday, we saw the Roman Governor Pilate sentence Jesus to die even though he didn't believe that Jesus had done anything wrong. In **Day 2's** passage, we're going to see what happens next.

Pay attention to the way Jesus is treated in this passage: by the soldiers, by the crowds, by the chief priests and elders, and also by those who were crucified along with him.

Make a note of what Jesus does—or doesn't do—when faced with such brutal mocking. Why do you think this is?

TICK WHEN COMPLETED.

Day 3's passage helps us understand why Christians believe that Jesus' death on the cross is the most important event in the whole Bible. It's what all of God's promises (that we looked at back in week 1) were pointing to.

When you look at this passage, pay attention to the things which occurred that day that show that Jesus' death was unlike any other.

Also, pay attention to the Roman commander's conclusion about Jesus. This guy executed people day after day. He knew a lot about death—it was a big part of his job! But I suspect this was the first time he'd ever felt like this. What does his conclusion about Jesus tell you?

There's an interesting detail at the end of this passage about what happened with Jesus' tomb. Make a note of it. It will come in handy tomorrow.

TICK WHEN COMPLETED.

Day 4's passage is key to the Christian belief that Jesus is God's King, and the Saviour of the world. If the story of Jesus ended with Jesus' death, it's safe to assume that his name would have faded into history and you wouldn't be reading about him today!

The reason that people are still talking about Jesus and Christians are still following Jesus today—over 2000 years later—is because Christians believe Jesus' death wasn't the end.

TICK WHEN COMPLETED.

Day 5's passage brings us to the end of our time in Matthew's Gospel. We have spent six weeks reading through Matthew's version of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. We've seen his power, and learned from his teachings.

And we've seen that thousands of years before Jesus was even born, God promised to send his Son as the Saviour of the world.

This week, we saw the account of Jesus' death and resurrection. And today we're looking at the final few verses of Matthew's Gospel. Jesus leaves his disciples with a command and a comfort.

The words of Jesus in this passage have impacted his followers ever since that day—and continue to impact those who trust in Jesus. So let's see what King Jesus' parting words were.

TICK WHEN COMPLETED.

MATTHEW 27:11–26 (NirV)

He did not speak like their teachers of the law. Jesus was standing in front of the governor. The governor asked him, 'Are you the king of the Jews?' 'Yes. You have said so', Jesus replied. ¹² But when the chief priests and the elders brought charges against him, he did not answer. ¹³ Then Pilate asked him, 'Don't you hear the charges they are bringing against you?' ¹⁴ But Jesus made no reply, not even to a single charge. The governor was really amazed.

¹⁵ It was the governor's practice at the Passover Feast to let one prisoner go free. The people could choose the one they wanted. ¹⁶ At that time they had a well-known prisoner named Jesus Barabbas. ¹⁷ So when the crowd gathered, Pilate asked them, 'Which one do you want me to set free? Jesus Barabbas? Or Jesus who is called the Messiah?' ¹⁸ Pilate knew that the leaders wanted to get their own way. He knew this was why they had handed Jesus over to him.

¹⁹ While Pilate was sitting on the judge's seat, his wife sent him a message. It said, 'Don't have anything to do with that man. He is not guilty. I have suffered a great deal in a dream today because of him'.

²⁰ But the chief priests and the elders talked the crowd into asking for Barabbas and having Jesus put to death. ²¹ 'Which of the two do you want me to set free?' asked the governor. 'Barabbas', they answered.

²² 'Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?' Pilate asked. They all answered, 'Crucify him!'





²³ 'Why? What wrong has he done?' asked Pilate. But they shouted even louder, 'Crucify him!'

²⁴ Pilate saw that he wasn't getting anywhere. Instead, the crowd was starting to get angry. So he took water and washed his hands in front of them. 'I am not guilty of this man's death', he said. 'You are accountable for that!'

²⁵ All the people answered, 'Put the blame for his death on us and our children!'

²⁶ Pilate let Barabbas go free. But he had Jesus whipped. Then he handed him over to be nailed to a cross.

BIG IDEA: JESUS WASN'T GUILTY, BUT HE WAS PUNISHED ANYWAY

 <p>VIDEO</p>	<p>Introduction video</p>  <p>Or click here</p> <p>Additional video</p> <p>'Discover Jesus—Jesus Christ's trial before the Roman Governor Pontius Pilate (Matthew 27:11–26) ESV'</p>  <p>Or click here</p> <p>Make a note of anything interesting from the videos.</p>	<p>You may be familiar with the story of Jesus' death on the cross—or, it might be the first time you've ever heard of it.</p> <p>This week, we're going spend some time looking at the different witnesses to Jesus' trial, death and resurrection, when he came back to life. At the end of the week, you're going to have the chance to make up your own mind, too.</p> <p>Today, we're looking at Jesus' trial before the Roman Governor, a man named Pontius Pilate. Pay particular attention to what Pilate concludes about Jesus—does he think Jesus is guilty?</p>
 <p>CONNECTING</p>	<p>When was the last time something happened to you that was unfair? How did it make you feel?</p>	



EXPLORING

Did Pilate think Jesus was guilty?

Highlight Pilate's opinions about Jesus in the passage on page 5.

Why did Pilate send Jesus to be crucified?

Whom did Pilate listen to more than his own conscience? Why do you think that is?



FORMING

If Jesus wasn't guilty, why do you think God let him be sent to die?

What does this tell you about God's plan for Jesus?

MATTHEW 27:29–44 (NirV)

The governor's soldiers took Jesus into the palace, which was called the Praetorium. All the rest of the soldiers gathered around him. ²⁸ They took off his clothes and put a purple robe on him. ²⁹ Then they twisted thorns together to make a crown. They placed it on his head. They put a stick in his right hand. Then they fell on their knees in front of him and made fun of him. 'We honour you, king of the Jews!' they said. ³⁰ They spit on him. They hit him on the head with the stick again and again. ³¹ After they had made fun of him, they took off the robe. They put his own clothes back on him. Then they led him away to nail him to a cross.

³² On their way out of the city, they met a man from Cyrene. His name was Simon. They forced him to carry the cross. ³³ They came to a place called Golgotha. The word Golgotha means the Place of the Skull. ³⁴ There they mixed wine with bitter spices and gave it to Jesus to drink. After tasting it, he refused to drink it. ³⁵ When they had nailed him to the cross, they divided up his clothes by casting lots. ³⁶ They sat down and kept watch over him there. ³⁷ Above his head they placed the written charge against him. It read,

THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS.





³⁸ Two rebels against Rome were crucified with him. One was on his right and one was on his left.

³⁹ Those who passed by shouted at Jesus and made fun of him. They shook their heads ⁴⁰ and said, 'So you are going to destroy the temple and build it again in three days? Then save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!'

⁴¹ In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders made fun of him. ⁴² 'He saved others', they said. 'But he can't save himself! He's the king of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross! Then we will believe in him. ⁴³ He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him. He's the one who said, "I am the Son of God".'

⁴⁴ In the same way the rebels who were being crucified with Jesus also made fun of him.

BIG IDEA: KING JESUS WAS MOCKED AND HUMILIATED

 <p>VIDEO</p>	<p>Introduction video</p>  <p>Or click here</p> <p>Additional video</p> <p>'Alpha Youth Series: Episode 3 Cross: Why did Jesus die?'</p>  <p>Or click here</p> <p>Make a note of anything interesting from the videos.</p>	<p>Yesterday, we saw the Roman Governor Pilate sentence Jesus to die even though he didn't believe that Jesus had done anything wrong.</p> <p>Today, we're going to see what happens next.</p> <p>Pay attention to the way Jesus is treated in this passage: by the soldiers, by the crowds, by the chief priests and elders, and also by those who were crucified along with him.</p> <p>Make a note of what Jesus does—or doesn't do—when faced with such brutal mocking. Why do you think this is?</p>
 <p>CONNECTING</p>	<p>If you were to meet the Queen of England, what sort of behaviours would you be expected to show?</p> <p>Why do you think this is?</p> <p>What would happen if you broke the royal rules and treated the Queen like you would your friends or your family?</p>	



EXPLORING

Jesus—God’s King—is mocked and humiliated in this passage.

Highlight the words and phrases used to describe Jesus in the passage on page 8.

Jesus has already shown he has amazing power. Why do you think he allowed himself to be treated in such a way?



FORMING

Christians believe that Jesus allowed such humiliation so that God’s plans could be fulfilled in his death on the cross.

What does Jesus’ willingness to suffer teach you about the kind of King Jesus is?

MATTHEW 27:45–6 (NirV)

From noon until three o'clock, the whole land was covered with darkness. ⁴⁶ About three o'clock, Jesus cried out in a loud voice. He said, 'Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?' This means 'My God, my God, why have you deserted me?' (Psalm 22:1)

⁴⁷ Some of those standing there heard Jesus cry out. They said, 'He's calling for Elijah'. ⁴⁸ Right away one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar and put it on a stick. He offered it to Jesus to drink. ⁴⁹ The rest said, 'Leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to save him'.

⁵⁰ After Jesus cried out again in a loud voice, he died.

⁵¹ At that moment the temple curtain was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook. The rocks split. ⁵² Tombs broke open. The bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. ⁵³ They came out of the tombs. After Jesus was raised from the dead, they went into the holy city. There they appeared to many people.

⁵⁴ The Roman commander and those guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened. They were terrified. They exclaimed, 'He was surely the Son of God!'

⁵⁵ Not very far away, many women were watching. They had followed Jesus from Galilee to take care of his needs. ⁵⁶ Mary Magdalene was among them. Mary, the mother of James and Joseph, was also there. So was the mother of Zebedee's sons.





⁵⁷ As evening approached, a rich man came from the town of Arimathea. His name was Joseph. He had become a follower of Jesus. ⁵⁸ He went to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. Pilate ordered that it be given to him. ⁵⁹ Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth. ⁶⁰ He placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock. He rolled a big stone in front of the entrance to the tomb. Then he went away. ⁶¹ Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were sitting there across from the tomb.

⁶² The next day was the day after Preparation Day. The chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate.

⁶³ 'Sir', they said, 'we remember something that liar said while he was still alive. He claimed, "After three days I will rise again"'. ⁶⁴ So give the order to make the tomb secure until the third day. If you don't, his disciples might come and steal the body. Then they will tell the people that Jesus has been raised from the dead. This last lie will be worse than the first'.

⁶⁵ 'Take some guards with you', Pilate answered. 'Go. Make the tomb as secure as you can.' ⁶⁶ So they went and made the tomb secure. They put a royal seal on the stone and placed some guards on duty.

BIG IDEA: JESUS' DEATH WAS UNLIKE ANY OTHER DEATH

 <p>VIDEO</p>	<p>Introduction video</p>  <p>Or click here</p> <p>Additional video</p> <p>'Dustin Kensrue—Suffering servant —Lyric video'</p>  <p>Or click here</p> <p>Make a note of anything interesting from the videos.</p>	<p>Christians believe that Jesus' death on the cross is the most important event in the whole Bible. It's what all of God's promises (that we looked at back in Week 1) were pointing to.</p> <p>When you look at this passage, pay attention to the things that occurred that day that show that Jesus' death was unlike any other.</p> <p>Also, pay attention to the Roman commander's conclusion about Jesus. This guy executed people day after day. He knew a lot about death—it was a big part of his job! But I suspect this was the first time he'd ever felt like this.</p> <p>What does his conclusion about Jesus tell you?</p> <p>There's an interesting detail at the end of this passage about what happened with Jesus' tomb. Make a note of it. It will come in handy tomorrow.</p>
 <p>CONNECTING</p>	<p>Think of something you love—a sport, a type of music, an online game.</p> <p>Who would you say is the expert in it?</p> <p>Why are experts worth paying attention to?</p>	



EXPLORING

Around the middle of this passage (verse 54), one witness to Jesus' death makes a startling claim. This witness had seen many people die by crucifixion. What does this witness conclude?

Highlight their conclusion in the passage on page 11.

Why do you think they thought this of Jesus?

What signs are there in this passage that Jesus' death was unlike any other deaths?



FORMING

At the end of the passage, the chief priests approach Pilate the governor with a request.

What are they afraid of?

What do you expect will happen next?

MATTHEW 28:1–15 (NirV)

The Sabbath day was now over. It was dawn on the first day of the week. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

² There was a powerful earthquake. An angel of the Lord came down from heaven. The angel went to the tomb. He rolled back the stone and sat on it.





³ His body shone like lightning. His clothes were as white as snow. ⁴ The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

⁵ The angel said to the women, ‘Don’t be afraid. I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here! He has risen, just as he said he would! Come and see the place where he was lying. ⁷ Go quickly! Tell his disciples, “He has risen from the dead. He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him”. Now I have told you’.

⁸ So the women hurried away from the tomb. They were afraid, but they were filled with joy. They ran to tell the disciples. ⁹ Suddenly Jesus met them. ‘Greetings!’ he said. They came to him, took hold of his feet and worshipped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, ‘Don’t be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee. There they will see me’.

¹¹ While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city. They reported to the chief priests all that had happened. ¹² When the chief priests met with the elders, they came up with a plan. They gave the soldiers a large amount of money. ¹³ They told the soldiers, ‘We want you to say, “His disciples came during the night. They stole his body while we were sleeping”. ¹⁴ If the governor hears this report, we will pay him off. That will keep you out of trouble’. ¹⁵ So the soldiers took the money and did as they were told. This story has spread all around among the Jews to this day.

BIG IDEA: KING JESUS DEFEATED DEATH

 <p>VIDEO</p>	<p>Introduction video</p>  <p>Or click here</p> <p>Additional video</p> <p>'4 proofs for the resurrection – Lee Strobel from The Case for Christ'</p>  <p>Or click here</p> <p>Make a note of anything interesting from the videos.</p>	<p>If the story of Jesus ended with Jesus' death, it's safe to assume that his name would have faded into history and we wouldn't be having this conversation today!</p> <p>The reason that people are still talking about Jesus and Christians are still following Jesus today—over 2000 years later—is because Christians believe Jesus' death wasn't the end.</p> <p>Christians believe that by rising to life again, Jesus proved that he was God's Son and the Saviour of the world. Take a look at the passage and see what you think.</p>
 <p>CONNECTING</p>	<p>Has anyone ever told you something completely unbelievable but then showed you proof afterwards?</p> <p>Was that proof enough to change your mind? Why/Why not?</p>	



EXPLORING

What proof did the women and the disciples see that Jesus rose from the dead?

Highlight the proof in the passage on page 14.

What was the reason that some didn't believe that Jesus rose from the dead?



FORMING





Is this passage enough proof for you to believe that Jesus is alive?

If not, what additional proof would you want to see? How would you set about getting such proof?

MATTHEW 28:16–20 (NirV)

Then the 11 disciples went to Galilee. They went to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshipped him. But some still had their doubts. ¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ So you must go and make disciples of all nations. Baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And you can be sure that I am always with you, to the very end'.

BIG IDEA: THE KING'S COMMAND AND THE KING'S PROMISE

 <p>VIDEO</p>	<p>Introduction video</p>  <p>Or click here</p> <p>Additional video</p> <p>'Gospel of the kingdom'</p>  <p>Or click here</p> <p>Make a note of anything interesting from the videos.</p>	<p>We have spent six weeks reading through Matthew's version of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. We've seen his power, and learned from his teachings.</p> <p>And we've seen that thousands of years before Jesus was even born, God promised to send his Son as the Saviour of the world.</p> <p>This week, we saw the account of Jesus' death and resurrection.</p> <p>And today we're looking at the final few verses of Matthew's Gospel. Jesus leaves his disciples with a command and a comfort.</p> <p>The words of Jesus in this passage have impacted his followers ever since that day—and continue to impact those who trust in Jesus.</p> <p>So let's see what King Jesus' parting words were.</p>
 <p>CONNECTING</p>	<p>Movies and TV shows often include emotional scenes where characters bid farewell to their friends.</p> <p>Can you think of an example of one?</p> <p>When have you had to say goodbye to someone that you wouldn't see again for a long time? How did it make you feel?</p>	



EXPLORING

Jesus makes a claim about his power.
What is it?

In light of Jesus' power, Jesus commands his followers to do something? What is it?

Highlight the command in the passage on page 17.

Jesus also makes a promise to his disciples. What is the promise? Why would the promise be such a comfort to them?

A man called Richard Johnson took these verses so seriously that he asked to be sent on the First Fleet to Australia so that the people at the 'ends of the earth' could also have the chance to hear about Jesus.

Why do you think he was so willing to take this voyage? What comfort would he have drawn from this passage?



FORMING

Think back over all you've learned about King Jesus in these studies. What stands out to you? Do you want to learn more?

Whom could you ask to help you learn more about Jesus?