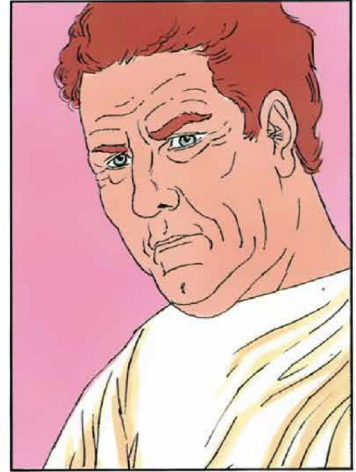


THE DEATH SENTENCE

READ FOR YOURSELF: *Matthew 27:11-30 and John 18:28-40*

Jesus is brought to the Roman governor, Pilate. The Jewish leaders stir up those watching. They shout all kinds of accusations...



What do you say to all these accusations?
Nothing?

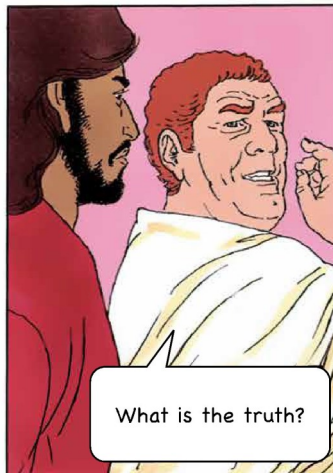


What have you done?

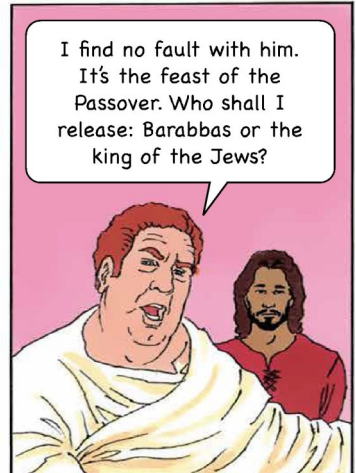
I've come to testify to the truth.

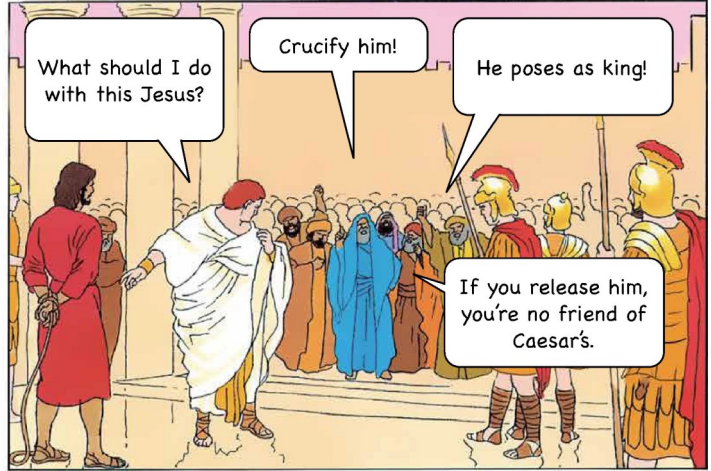


What is the truth?

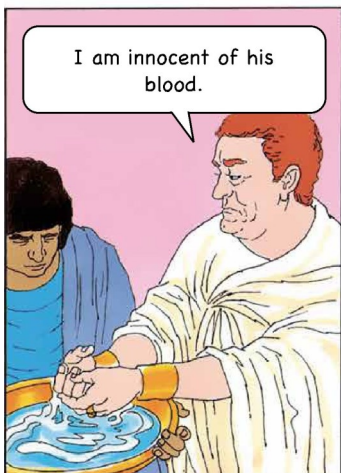
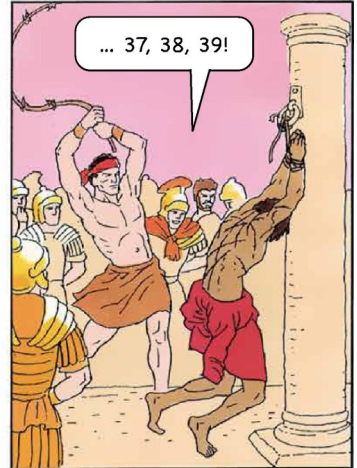
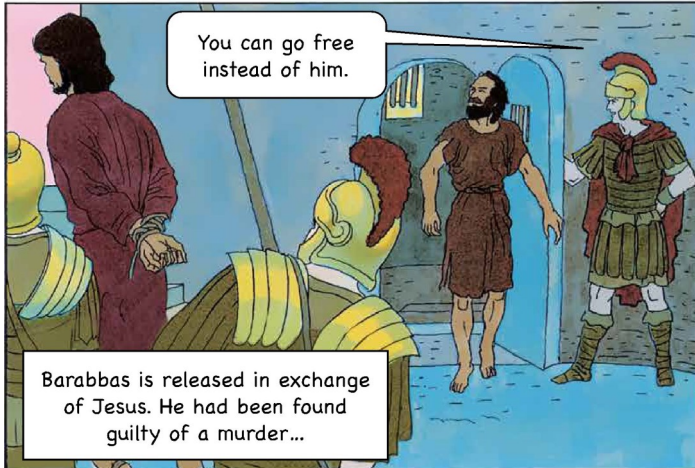


I find no fault with him.
It's the feast of the Passover. Who shall I release: Barabbas or the king of the Jews?





If you release him, you're no friend of Caesar's.





THE DEATH SENTENCE

Now that the people see Jesus as a prisoner of the Romans, they think very differently about Him. First He was their hero, their awaited king. But now, in their eyes, He is a pitiful character. That's why it is not difficult for the Jewish leaders to fan the flame of hatred against Jesus among the people.

Jesus must be put to death. Because he who makes Himself equal to God, deserves the death sentence. That's what the Jewish leaders think. But Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor, doesn't think this man has any guilt. Even his wife Claudia Procula interferes. She dreams about Jesus and warns her husband that He is not guilty. But Pilate is under pressure by the crowd screaming outside. Then it appears he doesn't take the truth too seriously.

The Lord Jesus' work seems to turn into a failure. The rulers ridicule Him. Yet God has everything in control. He wants Jesus to be exchanged for all people. That He will die in our place, and in exchange we will receive His life. But no one knows that yet. First Jesus has to suffer much more, all by Himself...

MEMORY VERSE

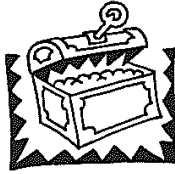
*"But for those whom God has called, both Jews and Gentiles, this message is Christ, who is the power of God and the wisdom of God."
(1 Corinthians 1:24)*

WHO IS JESUS?

The Man of sorrows

*"We despised Him and rejected Him; He endured suffering and pain. No one would even look at Him; we ignored Him as if He were nothing."
(Isaiah 53:3)*

You can't hardly imagine what Jesus, who is the Son of God, had to endure during all of his suffering. He, who is without sin, became a man of sorrow and grief, of pain and suffering, of mockery and judgement, because He took our sins and sicknesses upon Himself.



WHEN YOU ARE WEAK YOU ARE STRONG

People always want to be strong and clever. They trust that their own strength and wisdom work best. But with people who live with God, it's just the other way around.

When you have become weak and foolish, God can start to do a work in your life. He wants that you trust in Him so that He can show you how strong and wise He is. If you trust He helps, He can give you His grace. It has everything you need plus much more. You do not deserve His grace because you do your best, but you receive it because God loves you so much.

TIP

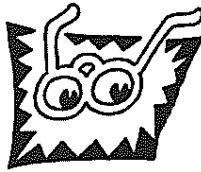
You feel vulnerable when people tell lies about you. Do not try to defend yourself, but have confidence that God is on your side. That's how you are strong!

OLD TREASURES

The suffering of the Messiah is foretold in great detail in the Old Testament. But when the time comes, nobody can believe that someone who has humbled himself so much can be the promised redeemer.

*"I bared My back to those who beat me. I did not stop them when they insulted me, when they pulled out the hairs of My beard and spat in My face."
(Isaiah 50:6).*

*"He was treated harshly, but endured it humbly; He never said a word. Like a lamb about to be slaughtered, like a sheep about to be sheared, He never said a word."
(Isaiah 53:7).*



EXTRA INFORMATION

The Roman government

Pontius Pilate is governor of Judea from 26-36 AD. He is the representative of Emperor Tiberius in Rome. Pilate rules from the Roman city of Caesarea on the coast of the Mediterranean sea of Israel. But during the Jewish feasts he stays temporarily in the impressive Roman palace in Jerusalem. In Jerusalem the Jews are allowed via their council, the Sanhedrin, to rule, but they are not allowed to take justice into their own hands. Only the Roman emperor has the right to put someone to death.

Whipping is a Roman punishment that the condemned receive before they are crucified. The whip is a leather belt that has pieces of metal and glass sewn into it. The Jews had a procedure established that 39 beatings are given on the back. With 40 beatings or more the criminal might possibly die. That is why they call the beating the 40-minus-one punishment.



DO YOU KNOW...?

1. For which crime has Barabbas been convicted?

2. With what is Jesus compared in Isaiah when He is standing silent before the rulers who are condemning Him? (Isaiah 53:7)

3. Look at the picture story. What is Pilate doing as he swears that he is not guilty of Jesus' blood?

4. What makes the whip, used at the beating, extra cruel?

5. With which three things do the soldiers clothe Jesus as a fake king:

- a) With a spear, a crown of thorns and boots.
- b) With a stick, a crown of thorns and a throne.
- c) With a stick, a crown of thorns and a cloak

6. What does God do with the 'wisdom' of the wise people (1 Corinthians 1:19)?

7. What is Christ of God (1 Corinthians 1:24)?

BIBLE READING

Sun	Matthew 27:11-25
Mon	Matthew 27:26-31
Tue	John 18:28-40
Wed	Isaiah 50:4-11
Thu	Isaiah 53:2-7
Fri	1 Corinthians 1:18-31
Sat	1 Corinthians 12:9-10



ACTION POINT!

What do you do when someone says something bad about you? Or tell lies about you?

You often feel vulnerable when other people tell lies about you. What do you do? Do you pray for those people?

Trust that God will be your witness. He will give you justice!