

ENGLISH CORNER MENU

Learning English Through Discussion

EASTER (2) – The Good Friday Story

Last week we talked about Easter and what it means. The last few weeks we have also talked about Jesus' life. To understand Easter you need to know some information about the man behind Easter – Jesus.

Review: In your group discuss – (5 minutes)

1. What are some things that Jesus did?
2. What are some things that Jesus taught?
3. Why did people follow him?
4. What did the religious leaders of the day think about Jesus?

Have you seen Mel Gibson's Movie: "The Passion"? It shows the death and resurrection of Jesus. Many people don't understand why Jesus died. Today we will look at the story of Jesus' death.

Below is the story of Jesus' crucifixion (dying on a cross). In your groups you will need: a narrator, soldiers (4), religious leader 1, religious leader 2, Jesus, Crowd, criminal 1, criminal 2. Read the story once for understanding and then act out the story.

The Passion of Christ—English Corner Style

Narrator: (*soldiers do the following actions*): The soldiers led Jesus inside the courtyard and called together the rest of the troops. They put a purple robe on Jesus, and on his head they placed a crown that they had made out of thorny branches. They made fun of Jesus and shouted:

Soldier 1: Hail! You king of the Jews!

Soldiers 2,3, 4: Long live the King of the Jews!

Narrator: The soldiers beat Jesus on the head with a stick. They spat on him and led him off to be nailed on a cross. (*Pause*). (*Women do the following actions*): A group of women followed Jesus weeping and wailing for him. Jesus turned to them and said:

Jesus: Women of Jerusalem! Don't cry for me, but for yourselves and your children.

Narrator: Two other men, both of them criminals, were also led out to be put to death with Jesus. The soldiers took Jesus to a hill to be crucified. They crucified Jesus there, and the two criminals, one of his right and the other on his left. Jesus said:

Jesus: Forgive them Father! They don't know what they are doing!

Narrator: (*soldiers do the following actions*): The soldiers gambled for Jesus' clothes among themselves by throwing dice. The crowd stood there watching while the soldiers mocked him.

Religious Leader 1: He saved others. Now he should save himself!

Religious Leader 2: If he is the Messiah—God's chosen one—come down from the cross!

Soldier 4: Save yourself if you are the King of the Jews.

Narrator: One of the criminals hanging there threw insults at Jesus:

Criminal 1: Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!

Narrator: The other one, however, told the first one off.

Criminal 2: Don't you fear God? Aren't we getting the same punishment as this man? We got what we deserved, but he didn't do anything wrong.

Narrator: Then criminal 2 turned to Jesus and said:

Criminal 2: Remember me when you come into power!

Narrator: Jesus said to him:

Jesus: I promise that today you will be with me in heaven.

Narrator: When Jesus was crucified, some women stood at a distance to watch because they were afraid the soldiers might arrest them, as they were family and friends of Jesus. They were upset and cried for Jesus.

The sky turned dark and Jesus shouted:

Jesus: Father, I put myself in your hands!

Narrator: Then he died. A Roman soldier saw what happened and said:

Soldier 4: Jesus must really have been the Son of God!

Discussion questions

1. Why do you think Jesus died?
2. Who killed Jesus? Was it the soldiers? Was it the Jewish religious teachers? Was it the crowd? Or was it God's plan?
3. In your group your teacher will show you an example to explain why Jesus died – (The Book example).
4. This is why we have Good Friday, the first public holiday of Easter. Why do you think we call it 'Good' Friday? What will you be doing on Good Friday?



Jesus - his death on a cross

Vocabulary:

Arrest: If the police arrest someone, they take them away to ask them about a crime which they may have committed.

Made Fun. To tease or make a joke in an unkind way.

Messiah: God's saviour for the world

Criminal: someone who has committed a crime.

Punishment: When someone is punished. To make women suffer because they had done something bad.

Robe (noun): a long, loose piece of clothing. Usually worn for special occasions.

Beat (verb) to hit a person or animal hard many times.