

English Corner Passion Play

First, introduce the play by asking if the students have seen the movie 'the Passion' with Mel Gibson. Now it is their chance to act in the Passion play! We have the class broken up into the various parts of the play - women and disciples, soldiers, Jesus and angel, Narrators, crowd. Then a teacher/facilitator takes each group e.g. soldiers, criminals, Jesus etc and goes through the play/vocabulary with them and focus on their particular speaking parts. This also becomes a good place if they have any questions about the meaning of Easter etc they can bring up in the small group. They have a few props/costumes to use. The crowd are the majority of the students (depending on the class size) and a teacher/facilitator helps them to make different sound effects throughout the play. After around 15 mins, the groups come together and the narrator's begin to tell the story with the actors playing their parts.

After the play finishes, you have two reporters – one in the main office and the other 'on location' in Jerusalem. It is 'live' and the interviewer asks the different actors question found in the role-play cards. The reporter can summarise and finish the play off.

We then do a symbolic demonstration of the significance of Jesus' death on the cross. A teacher tells a story of a 'sin' they did and how they carried the shame and guilt around with them in their heart – like a person carrying a heavy backpack.

They share that even when they sought forgiveness from that person – they still felt guilty. Throughout our lives, we try to find peace – peace from our sins. The events of Easter give us that peace. That is why we call it Good Friday. However, how can it give us this peace?

Give out a cup to everyone filled with water. Tell students that this cup represents their life. Then pick up some dirt and put it into your own 'cup of life'. The dirt represents the sin or bad things we have done in our lives. This sin separates us from God because God is perfect and good. He hates sin.

Explain that when the students are away from their country and the busyness of their lives it is a good time to stop and think about their lives – the good and the bad. Invite students to take a few moments to think about the bad things they have done in their lives and to take some dirt and put it into their cups, explaining that the dirt represents these bad things, which they would like to say sorry for. Then invite students they can come up to the 'cross', where there is an empty bucket, and pour their 'sin' into the bucket and say sorry to Jesus and ask God to forgive them. A teacher stands at the cross and pours clean water into their empty cup until it overflows the cup, saying because of Jesus' death and resurrection their sins are forgiven – they are clean and have peace with God.

This is a rough guide to what we do – it changes every time. I hope that it gives you an idea of how to personalise the passion play.

The next few pages contain the role-play cards for the different parts of the play. These are copied and given out to the different roles. The play is at the end of this document. May God use this to help students understand the marvellous mystery of Easter!

JESUS

Jesus: Jesus was around 33 years old when he died. For the last three years, he had walked from town to town, telling people about God's love and healing and teaching people. He had predicted that he was going to die and in three days, he would come alive again. This was part of his Father, God's plan. Jesus was to die for the sins of the world.

QUESTIONS

Read the Passion play. Go through any words you do not understand. Answer these questions as if you were Jesus, 2000 years ago. In your group, be ready to participate in the Easter play. Other groups will be the soldiers, the women who followed Jesus, the crowd and the criminals.

After the play is finished. A Jerusalem reporter will ask you, as Jesus the questions below.

1. Why did you die?
2. Who are you?

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.

THE CROWD

The crowd: The crowd was a group of people who would watch crucifixions. They watched it for excitement and fun. The crowd had followed Jesus to the hill where he was crucified.

QUESTIONS

Read the Passion play. Answer these questions as if you were part of the crowd, 2000 years ago. In your group be ready to participate in the Easter play. Other groups will be Jesus, the soldiers and the women who followed Jesus.

After the play is finished. A Jerusalem reporter will ask you, as a member of the crowd the questions below.

1. What did you think about Jesus' death?
2. Who do you think he was?

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.

THE SOLDIERS

Soldiers. The soldiers were part of the Roman army. They followed Caesars' orders. They were told to arrest a man called Jesus. The soldiers had to arrest Jesus because he was very popular amongst the people. The Religious leaders did not like Jesus because he claimed to be God's Son, the Saviour of the world.

QUESTIONS

Read the Passion Play. Answer these questions as if you were one of the soldiers, 2000 years ago. In your group be ready to participate in the Easter play. Other groups will be Jesus and the criminals.

After the play is finished. A Jerusalem reporter will ask you, as a soldier the questions below.

1. Do you like your job as a soldier?
2. What have you heard about Jesus?
3. Who do you think Jesus is?

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.

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.

Criminals (noun): someone who has committed a crime

THE TWO CRIMINALS

The two criminals: Two criminals were also crucified next to Jesus. One criminal made fun of Jesus. The other criminal believed that Jesus had done nothing wrong. He believed that Jesus was the Son of God

QUESTIONS

Read the Passion Play. Answer these questions as if you were one of the criminals, 2000 years ago. In your group be ready to participate in the Easter play. Other groups will be Jesus, the soldiers and the crowd.

After the play is finished. A Jerusalem reporter will ask you, as one of the criminals the questions below.

1. What did you think about Jesus' death?
2. Who do you think he is?

Vocabulary:

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.

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

THE WOMEN AND DISCIPLES

The women: A group of women had followed Jesus and helped him as he went around from town to town teaching and healing many people. They loved Jesus. They had heard Jesus say that he would die in the future but on the third day he would become alive again. They didn't understand what he meant.

QUESTIONS

Read the Passion Play. Answer these questions as if you were one of the women, 2000 years ago. In your group be ready to participate in the Easter play. Other groups will be Jesus, the soldiers and the 2 criminals.

After the play is finished. A Jerusalem reporter will ask you, as one of the women/disciples the questions below.

1. What was it like to follow and help Jesus?
2. Who do you think Jesus is?

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.

THE EASTER STORY

The Passion of Christ—English Corner Style

- Narrator:** 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:** Hey, you king of the Jews!
- Soldiers 2,3,4:** Long live the King of the Jews!
- Narrator:** Then they beat him on the head with a stick. They spat on him and led him off to be nailed on cross. *Pause.* 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:** The soldiers divided Jesus' clothes among themselves by throwing dice. The crowd stood there watching while the soldiers mocked him.
- Crowd:** He saved others. Now he should save himself!
- Soldier 2:** If he is the Messiah—God's chosen one—come down from the cross! (Other soldiers laughing)
- 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!

Narrator: They took Jesus' body down from the cross and laid him in a tomb (stone cave). The soldiers placed a large stone in front of the cave and kept guard.

After the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought **spices** to go and **anoint** the **body** of Jesus. Very early on Sunday morning, at sunrise, they went to the tomb. On the way they said to one another,

Mary: "Who will **roll** away the **stone** for us from the **entrance** to the **tomb**?" (It was a very large stone.)

Narrator: Then they looked up and saw that the stone had already been rolled back. So they **entered** the tomb, where they saw a young man sitting at the right, wearing a white robe—and they were alarmed.

Angel: "Don't be alarmed", he said. "I know you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is not here—he has been **raised**! Look, here is the place where he was placed. Now go, and give this message to his disciples, including Peter. 'He is going to Galilee ahead of you; there you will see him, just as he told you.'"

(Jesus appears to his disciples)

Narrator: The eleven disciples went to the hill in Galilee where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw Jesus, they worshipped him, even though some of them doubted. Jesus said to them:

Jesus: "I have been given all authority in heaven and earth. Go, then, to all people everywhere and make them my disciples; baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. And I will be with you always, to the end of the age.

Show: He's Alive by Don Francisco on You Tube

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VbSnk1R31vg>