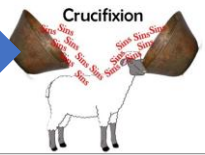


Upper Elementary

The Crucifixion

All scripture quotations are taken from the World English Bible, 2020.

Intro:	Review story of Moses in Egypt: he grew up in Pharaoh's palace, he defended a Hebrew who was being beaten by an Egyptian, he ran away to Midian, he met God in a burning bush on Mount Sinai, God told him to return to Egypt to tell Pharaoh to let the Israelites go, Pharaoh refused, God sent ten plagues to convince Pharaoh, only the last plague, the death of the first born, convinced him, the Israelites were spared because they obeyed God's instruction to place the lamb's blood over their doors.
lamb with sins	Every year, many people celebrate a holiday called Passover. The first Passover was on the night of the tenth plague. In the Old Testament, sacrificing a lamb was how the Hebrews showed God they were sorry for their sins. God told them the lamb's blood would take away their sins (meaning He would forgive them because they were obedient to confess in the way He had taught them).
red paper	Hand each student a piece of red paper. As a group, name sins they might do (lying, cheating, talking back, hitting, kicking, etc.) Have each student write a different sin on their paper. When the tenth plague came to Egypt, the Bible says God sent an angel of death, who passed over the homes that had the lamb's blood on them (that's where the holiday gets its name: Pass-over). Take toy knife and pretend to be the angel of death. Instruct each student to put their paper over their head when you get to them. ("What is your sin? Lying!!! You deserve death for this--but wait! I can't kill you. You have the lamb's blood covering you. So I will pass over you.")
cross with sins	Jesus is called the Lamb of God, because He took the place of the Passover lamb in carrying our sins for us. He took our sins on the cross, and this is the story of what happened to Him there.
Matthew 27:27-30	Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium, and gathered the whole garrison together against Him. They stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him. They braided a crown of thorns and put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand; and they kneeled down before Him and mocked Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They spat on Him, and took the reed and struck Him on the head.
	Have you ever been made fun of? It feels awful. Imagine being made fun of while being beaten up to the point of bleeding. Jesus is our true king. But the soldiers used this claim to mock Him. They used the signs of a king, a crown and scepter (stick), to hurt His body.



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In ancient times, scarlet and purple clothes were very expensive because those colors were hard to make. They were often worn by royalty to show that the person was very important and rich.



John 19:16-22	<p>So then he delivered Him to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus and led Him away. He went out, bearing His cross, to the place called "The Place of a Skull", which is called in Hebrew, "Golgotha", where they crucified Him, and with Him two others, on either side one, and Jesus in the middle. Pilate wrote a title also, and put it on the cross. There was written, "JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS." Therefore many of the Jews read this title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. The chief priests of the Jews therefore said to Pilate, "Don't write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'He said, 'I am King of the Jews.'""</p>
	<p>Many Jewish people wanted Jesus to be their king on earth, not just in heaven. They wanted Him to kick the Romans out, because they treated the Jews cruelly. Many of the Jewish leaders, though, liked being in power and had their own arrangements with the Romans. They weren't suffering, so they wanted things to stay as they were. They didn't like how much attention Jesus had gotten and certainly didn't want any more of the Jewish people to acknowledge Him as their king.</p>
John 19:23-24	<p>Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took His garments and made four parts, to every soldier a part; and also the tunic. Now the tunic was without seam, woven from the top throughout. Then they said to one another, "Let's not tear it, but cast lots for it to decide whose it will be," that the Scripture might be fulfilled, which says, "They parted my garments among them. They cast lots for my clothing." Therefore the soldiers did these things.</p>
	<p>Over 1,000 years before Jesus was born, King David wrote a psalm describing His crucifixion. In Psalm 22, David writes about a man whose clothes will be divided up and gambled over, and who will die in a way just like crucifixion, before it was even invented.</p>

John 19:16-22

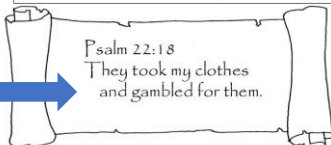
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The language of the Israelites was Hebrew. They were conquered by the Greeks about 332 years before Jesus, and many of them learned their language. The Romans took over about 32 years before Jesus. They spoke Latin.

John 19:23-24

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 In Jesus' time men usually wore a shirt, a tunic over it, and a long cloth girdle that was wrapped around the tunic. They also wore sandals and a headdress.



<p>Matthew 27:39-44</p>	<p>Those who passed by blasphemed Him, wagging their heads and saying, "You who destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross!" Likewise the chief priests also mocking with the scribes, the Pharisees, and the elders, said, "He saved others, but He can't save Himself. If He is the King of Israel, let Him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in Him. He trusts in God. Let God deliver him now, if he wants him; for he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" The robbers also who were crucified with Him cast on Him the same reproach.</p>
	<p>Ask students to name some of the miracles Jesus performed (walking on water, healing the sick, raising the dead, multiplying bread and fish). Could He do anything? (yes) But would He do anything if it were not His Father's will? (no) Jesus came to earth for one main reason: to die on the cross for our sins. All His work had been leading up to this. He could have gotten off the cross and floated away to heaven if He had chosen to. He could have punished everyone there. But would He carry our sins that way? (no)</p>



Matthew 27:39-44

Those who passed by blasphemed Him, wagging their heads and saying, "You who destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross!" Likewise, the chief priests also mocking with the scribes, the Pharisees, and the elders, said, "He saved others, but He can't save Himself. If He is the King of Israel, let Him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in Him. He trusts in God. Let God deliver Him now, if He wants Him; for he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" The robbers also who were crucified with Him cast on Him the same reproach.

Psalm 22:7-8

Everyone who sees me makes fun and sneers. They shake their heads, and say, "I trust the Lord! If you are his favorite, let him protect you and keep you safe."



Matthew 27:45-50

Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. About the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lima sabachthani?" That is, "My God, my God, why have You forsaken Me?" Some of them who stood there, when they heard it, said, "This man is calling Elijah." Immediately one of them ran and took a sponge, filled it with vinegar, put it on a reed, and gave Him a drink. The rest said, "Let Him be. Let's see whether Elijah comes to save Him." Jesus cried again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit.

Before the first Passover lamb, there was darkness covering Egypt for three days. Here, there are three hours of darkness before Jesus became the new Passover lamb. Passover always happened during a full moon, which means that it was impossible for the darkness to be caused by an eclipse, which would not last that long anyway. The darkness was a sign from God that Jesus was the new lamb to take people's sins.

*If students ask what Jesus' words meant:

The people watching Jesus die did not understand what He meant when He called this out (the first word sounded like Elijah). Today, some people believe Jesus was trying to remind us that His death was prophesied in Psalm 22, which begins with "My God, my God, why have you deserted me?" Others believe He said this because at that moment, covered in our sins, God the Father had to turn away from His Son so He could judge our sins. Perhaps it was both.

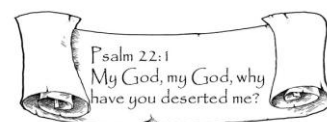


Matthew 27:45-50

Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. About the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lima sabachthani?" That is, "My God, my God, why have You forsaken Me?" Some of them who stood there, when they heard it, said, "This man is calling Elijah." Immediately one of them ran and took a sponge, filled it with vinegar, put it on a reed, and gave Him a drink. The rest said, "Let Him be. Let's see whether Elijah comes to save Him." Jesus cried again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit.

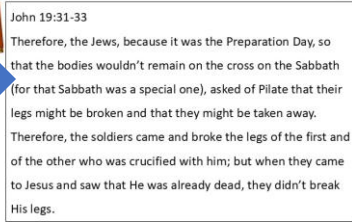
Before the first Passover lamb was sacrificed, the sky was dark for _____ days.

Before Jesus was sacrificed, the sky was dark for _____ hours.



Therefore the Jews, because it was the Preparation Day, so that the bodies wouldn't remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a special one), asked of Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away. Therefore the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who was crucified with him; but when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they didn't break His legs.

Normally, it would take a couple days for someone to die from crucifixion. But because Passover would begin at sunset, the local leaders wanted to speed things up. The other two criminals had their legs broken so they would die more quickly. But Jesus had died right after He shouted out to God the Father. He did not die on anyone else's schedule. He died at the moment He chose to give up His life for us. This was another sign that His death was a part of God's plan. Passover lambs also had to be killed without breaking any bones. This shows how Jesus became the Passover lamb.



Jesus did not have _____.



Passover is the Jewish holiday that remembers how God delivered the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. The Sabbath is the seventh day of the week, on which all Israelites were to rest. This is because God rested on the seventh day after creating the universe.



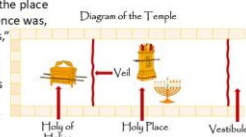
Matthew 27:51-54	Behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from the top to the bottom. The earth quaked and the rocks were split. The tombs were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and coming out of the tombs after His resurrection, they entered into the holy city and appeared to many. Now the centurion and those who were with Him watching Jesus, when they saw the earthquake and the things that were done, were terrified, saying, "Truly this was the Son of God!"
Paper & Ark	Have a student hold a paper at each of the top corners. Hold the two bottom corners. When an earthquake happens, the earth shakes and pulls apart in different directions. Pull the bottom corners of paper in two directions. The paper ripped from the bottom to the top. The temple curtain wasn't ripped by the earthquake. Show students the model ark. The place behind the curtain was called the "Holy of Holies." It used to have the ark of the covenant before it was taken. People had to bring their sacrifices to the temple priest, but were not allowed behind the curtain. They could not come close to God. Hold the second paper by the top two corners while a student holds the bottom two corners. Rip the paper from top to bottom. Only God could rip the curtain in this way. By Jesus' death on the cross, He was inviting all of us to come close to Him. There is no longer anything blocking us from God.
	How many signs did God give to show that Jesus' death was really about taking away our sins? (it happened at Passover, His clothes were gambled over, the sky turned dark for three hours, none of His bones were broken, the temple curtain ripped, there was an earthquake, people were raised from the dead) It's no wonder the guard agreed that Jesus is the Son of God.
Closing:	Put cross on board. Have each student tape their red paper to the cross, one by one. Jesus took all our sins on Himself when He was on the cross.



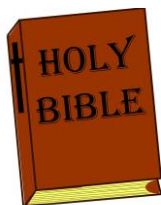
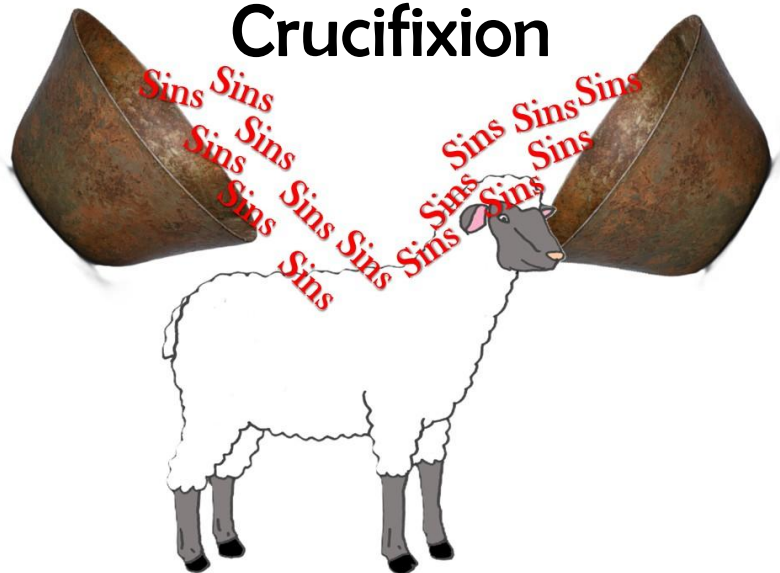
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In the Old Testament the _____ went between God the Father and the people to make sacrifices for sin.
In the New Testament _____ goes between God the Father and us as a sacrifice for sin.

i From the time of Solomon to the time of Jesus, the holy temple in Jerusalem was the center of worship for Jewish people. The temple was the place where sacrifices were made. The temple curtain separated the place where God's presence was, the "Holy of Holies," and where the people were. Only the high priest was allowed to go behind the curtain once a year.



Crucifixion



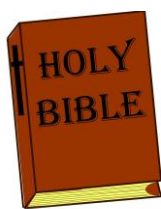
Matthew 27:27-30

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Psalm 22:18

They took my clothes
and gambled for them.



In Jesus' time men usually wore a shirt, a tunic over it, and a long cloth girdle that was wrapped around the tunic. They also wore sandals and a headdress.



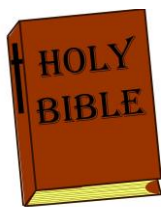


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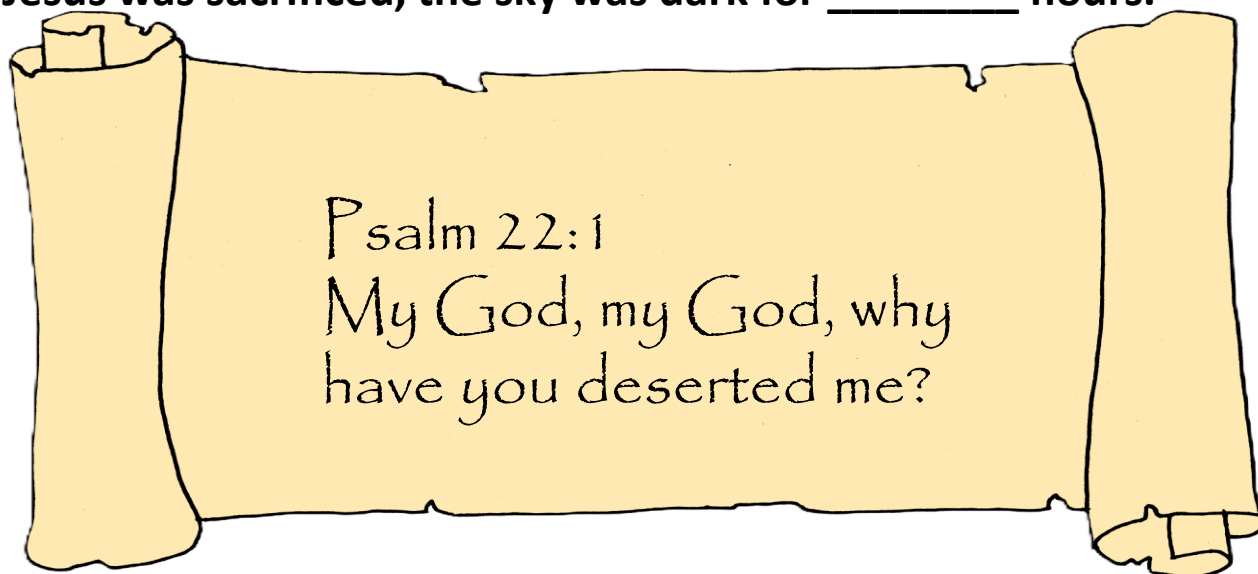


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Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. About the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, **“Eli, Eli, lima sabachthani?”** That is, **“My God, my God, why have You forsaken Me?”** Some of them who stood there, when they heard it, said, “This man is calling Elijah.” Immediately one of them ran and took a sponge, filled it with vinegar, put it on a reed, and gave Him a drink. The rest said, “Let Him be. Let’s see whether Elijah comes to save Him.” Jesus cried again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit.

Before the first Passover lamb was sacrificed, the sky was dark for _____ days.

Before Jesus was sacrificed, the sky was dark for _____ hours.





John 19:31-33

Therefore, the Jews, because it was the Preparation Day, so that the bodies wouldn't remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a special one), asked of Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away.

Therefore, the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who was crucified with him; but when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they didn't break His legs.

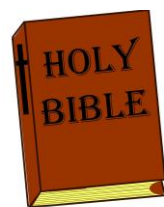
The Passover lamb could not have _____.

Jesus did not have _____.



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Matthew 27:51-54

Behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from the top to the bottom. The earth quaked and the rocks were split. The tombs were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and coming out of the tombs after His resurrection, they entered into the holy city and appeared to many. Now the centurion and those who were with Him watching Jesus, when they saw the earthquake and the things that were done, were terrified, saying, "Truly this was the Son of God!"

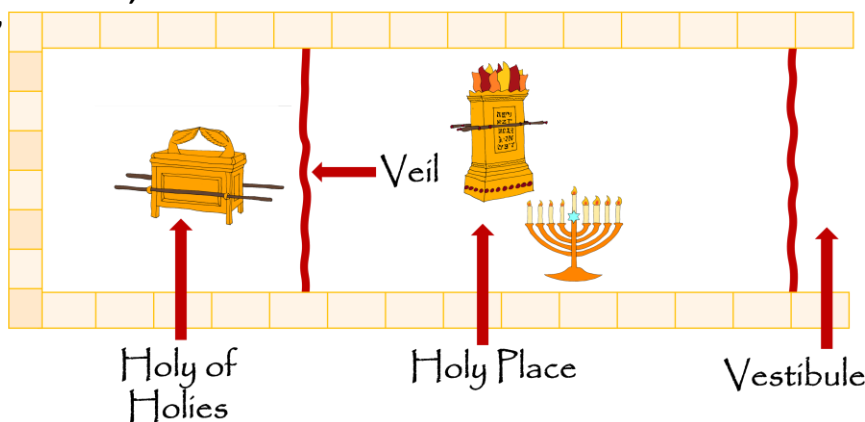
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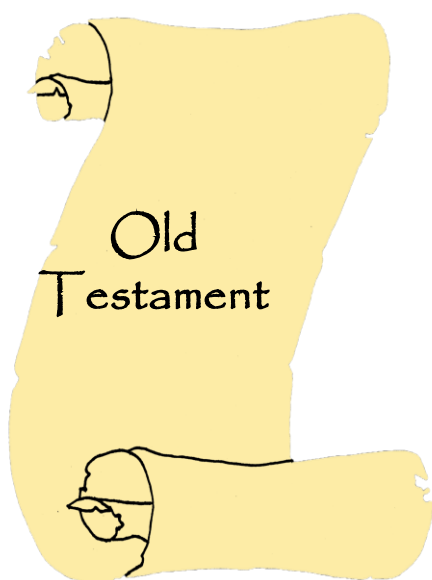


From the time of Solomon to the time of Jesus, the holy temple in Jerusalem was the center of worship for Jewish people. The temple was the place where sacrifices were made. The temple curtain separated the place where God's presence was, the "Holy of Holies," and where the people were. Only the high priest was allowed to go behind the curtain once a year.

Diagram of the Temple



Draw Lines to Match



Passover Lamb

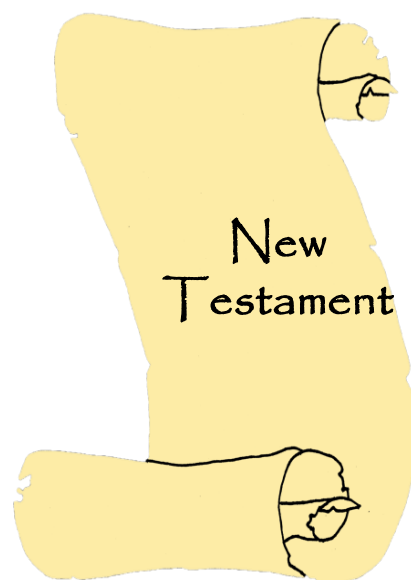
Lamb of God

**High Priest from the
tribe of Levi**

Jesus as High Priest

**Curtain separating
Holy of Holies from
people**

**Holy Spirit in
people's hearts**



Crucifixion



Name: _____

Q	C	W	R	E	T	Y	U	I	G	O
C	R	U	C	I	F	I	X	I	O	N
R	O	J	K	L	P	P	S	A	L	M
O	S	J	E	I	U	Y	T	R	G	E
W	S	H	O	S	K	S	I	M	O	N
N	N	G	P	L	U	B	C	V	T	W
M	S	F	E	D	J	S	X	Z	H	Q
L	N	D	N	A	G	D	S	Z	A	A
K	R	S	E	V	F	H	G	F	D	S
J	O	C	R	I	M	I	N	A	L	S
H	H	A	Y	D	V	L	B	N	M	L
G	T	Z	C	X	C	L	G	H	J	K

CRUCIFIXION

CROSS

GOLGOTHA

SIMON

CYRENE

CROWN

THORNS

PSALM

DAVID

JESUS

CRIMINALS

HILL