

## The Story of Jesus' Arrest and Crucifixion

(print a copy for each team and turn into slips)

Jesus was in Jerusalem to celebrate Passover, the most important Jewish feast that remembers the story of \_\_\_\_\_. Jesus had just celebrated the Passover meal with his disciples which we call their "\_\_\_\_\_."

After their Last Supper Passover meal, Jesus went to the Garden of \_\_\_\_\_ to pray. This was on the Mount of Olives just outside the Temple and Jerusalem city walls. Jesus knew he would be arrested and \_\_\_\_\_, and this made him feel very sad. He asked his disciples to stay awake with him while he prayed, but they were tired and full from the meal.

Soon a crowd of people and soldiers came looking for Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. They had clubs and lanterns and swords. Judas Iscariot, one of Jesus' disciples, was with them. He had been paid 30 silver coins to point out who Jesus was to the soldiers.

The soldiers and crowd took Jesus away to the house of Caiaphas, the high priest and president of the Sanhedrin. Do you know what the Sanhedrin is? It was the powerful council of Jewish leaders in charge of keeping order in Jerusalem and running the Temple. They didn't like Jesus and accused Jesus of claiming to be the Messiah and forgiving people's sins which only \_\_\_\_\_ could do!

Caiaphas asked Jesus, "Are you the Christ? Are you the Son of God?" Jesus said, "I am. And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of God." This made Caiaphas so angry that he tore his clothes. The rest of the Sanhedrin was upset too and they pronounced Jesus "guilty of blasphemy" -- which is the crime of insulting God. And the penalty for blasphemy was \_\_\_\_\_.

That night Peter was in the courtyard outside where Jesus was being held. And when someone asked him if he was a friend of Jesus, Peter cried, "\_\_\_\_\_." And when he denied knowing Jesus a second time, a \_\_\_\_\_ crowed just as Jesus had predicted. And Peter broke down and cried.

Early the next morning, the priests took Jesus to see \_\_\_\_\_, the Roman governor, because only the Romans could put a man to death. Pilate asked Jesus lots of questions and offered to let Jesus go free, but the crowd shouted for Barabbas the criminal to go free instead. They wanted Jesus to die for claiming to be the Messiah and shouted, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" So Pilate ordered Jesus whipped and sent out to be crucified.

The soldiers guarding Jesus made fun of him. First, they put a purple robe on Jesus and called him "king." Then they put a crown of thorns on his head and laughed and spit on Jesus calling him, "The King of the \_\_\_\_\_." Then they took him away to be crucified.

The soldiers took Jesus to a hill called "Golgotha" which means, "place of the \_\_\_\_\_." There they nailed his wrists and feet to the cross and left him there to die. The soldiers standing guard put a sign above his head that read, "This is the King of the Jews." Two criminals were crucified next to Jesus and one of them asked Jesus to remember him in heaven. Jesus promised the man that he would go to heaven that very day.

At noon the sky turned dark and stayed that way until 3:00. And then Jesus cried out, took his last breath and died. Immediately the earth shook and the curtain in the Temple tore from top to bottom. And one of the Roman guards standing there was heard to say, "Surely this man was \_\_\_\_\_!"

After making sure that Jesus was dead, Governor Pilate gave permission to a friend of Jesus named Joseph from Arimathea to take Jesus' body off the cross and bury him in a \_\_\_\_\_. And there Jesus' dead body lay while his disciples and family went into hiding -- afraid they would be arrested next.