



THE EASTER STORY

TEACHERS'
GUIDE

LESSON 3 :
THE CROSS

THE
KING
OF
KINGS

A Story Told by Charles Dickens



mofac

ANGEL

KOVA

Watch it on all Digital Platforms NOW.

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OVERVIEW

***The King of Kings* is a full-length animated film from Angel Studios that brings the life of Jesus to the screen with heartfelt imagination and biblical faithfulness.**

Inspired by Charles Dickens' short book, *The Life of Our Lord*, the film features Dickens sharing the story of Jesus with his young son, Walter. As the story unfolds, father and son imagine themselves present during Jesus' life.

The words spoken by Jesus throughout the film remain true to Scripture, and through the lens of a child's imagination, we witness his miracles, hear his teachings and see the power of his love and sacrifice. What begins as a simple bedtime story becomes a meaningful journey of discovery.

The King of Kings invites viewers to encounter the hope, truth and redemption of the gospel through the wonder-filled eyes of a child.

INTRODUCE THE LESSON BY STATING THE LEARNING INTENTIONS AND SUCCESS CRITERIA (SLIDE 1)

Today's lesson will look at Jesus' journey to the cross. We will consider some key events from along the journey that are important to Christians as they celebrate Easter.

SET THE CONTEXT

Jesus has been betrayed by one of his disciples for thirty pieces of silver. He is questioned by the religious leaders before being taken to the palace of the Roman governor, Pilate. Pilate can find no laws he has broken or reason to execute Jesus. However, he allows the crowd to choose a prisoner to release, as is the custom during the Jewish festival of Passover. The crowd choose Barabbas, a convicted murderer.

Jesus is beaten and a crown of thorns is placed on his head to mock him. Jesus carries his own cross to the hill of execution called Golgotha. A sign is written that says 'King of the Jews'.

From noon until three in the afternoon, darkness covers the land. On the cross, Jesus says, 'It is finished.' Then he dies.

PART 1: WATCH THE CLIP (SLIDE 2)

Ask the learners to watch the clip and look at the different people who were present during Jesus' final hours. What might they be thinking? They can take notes in section 1 of the supporting activity sheet.

Watch clip.

Discuss the answers with the learners, referring to the suggested answers (SLIDES 3 & 4).

PART 2: DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (SLIDE 5)

Ask the learners to consider these questions:

Why did some people follow Jesus and others want to crucify him? Suggested answers: (SLIDE 6)

This form of punishment wasn't unique to Jesus. The Romans punished others in this cruel way. Why do you think we don't punish people in this way any more? Why was Pilate allowed to crucify a man he knew was innocent? What do you think would happen nowadays?

Links could be made with 'United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child' and 'Rights Respecting Schools'. People who have been accused of a crime are entitled to a fair trial, a lawyer and the opportunity to defend themselves. Prosecutors have to provide evidence that the accused is guilty, and it is the job of the jury to



determine whether the accused is guilty or innocent. Jesus would have been entitled to all of this if he were on trial today. Today, there are laws that protect people from cruel forms punishment, even if they have committed a crime.

PART 3: REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS

Read the Bible passage ([SLIDE 7](#)) and read the reflection questions ([SLIDE 8](#)). Learners could reflect on these questions individually or as part of a class discussion. Suggested answers: ([SLIDE 9](#))

PART 4: PERSONAL REFLECTION

Learners explore the theme of sacrifice and research/be provided with examples of people who have sacrificed something for someone else. Discuss why they are inspiring and identify what we can learn from them. Christians believe that Jesus knew he had to die to save people from their 'sins'. Sin is an important idea for Christians; it means the bad things we all do that deserve punishment. Jesus' death on the cross was part of that plan: on the cross he took the punishment for all of humanity's sin. This is a central belief of Christianity.

For Christians, Jesus' sacrifice on the cross inspires them to make sacrifices for others.

Refer to the learning intentions and success criteria of the lesson ([SLIDE 11](#)) and ask the children to identify one thing they have learned from today's lesson.

EXTENDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES ([SLIDE 12](#))

- Create a piece of artwork inspired by the still image from 1 hour 29 minutes in.
- Research information about the role of a Roman governor or the Jewish religious leaders—the Pharisees and the Sadducees.
- Research different types of cross designs, e.g., Celtic crosses, Greek crosses or Latin crosses.
- Research examples of sacrifice in books, films, sport, stories of inspiring people. Discuss what makes them inspiring. Identify what we can learn from them.