

The Gospel According to St. Luke

Middle school Ministry



Introduction

The 4 Gospels comparison

	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
To whom it was written	Jews	Romans	Greeks	Christians
Subject	The Messiah the king	The Messiah the conqueror of Satan	Christ the lover of mankind	Christ the Incarnate Word
Main message of Jesus	Fulfills the Law	Performs wonders	Saves mankind	Dwells among us
Gospel content	Focuses on prophecies	Focuses on deeds	Focused on history	Focused on theology
Symbol	The human face	The lion	The Ox	The Eagle

Symbols of the Four Gospels

Matthew
Winged Man
Mark
Winged Lion
Luke
Winged Ox
John
Eagle

1- Servant's preparation:

- 1) Explanation of the gospel of St Luke chapters 1-12 and an introduction for Bishop Yousef
<https://www.suscopts.org/diocese/bishop/bible-study/holy-gospel-according-to-st-luke/>
- 2) A link for Fr. Doud Lamei 's bible study in Arabic
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLHedjI0_e2nk5yEwV9kLxOBn-oJwCt5OK
- 3) The reference book for Fr. Tadros Malaty → see separate attachment
- 4) Upper room app → Sermons → Bible study → Luke , you will find sermons for each chapter, links provided at the beginning of each lesson below.
- 4) Two illustrative videos that could be used by servants to prepare or to show at the beginning of each unit.
 - Part 1 [chapter 1-9]
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XIb_dClxzo0
 - Part 2 [10-24]
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=26z_KhwNdd8

2- Book introduction:



A- Who is St. Luke?

- ❖ The word “Luke” is probably an abbreviation of the Latin word “Lucanus” or “Lucuis”, which means ‘the carrier of the light’ or ‘the enlightened’.
- ❖ He is the only one among the writers for the Testament who was not a Jew, but a Gentile
- ❖ St. Luke was a doctor, a painter, and a Gentile from Antioch. He accepted Christianity at the hands of St. Paul the apostle and became his companion on his numerous journeys.
- ❖ He met St. Paul on his second missionary journey in Troas and accompanied him to Philippi. Then, he joined him again on his third journey heading to Jerusalem. It appears that he may have stayed in Palestine during the two years’ imprisonment of St. Paul in Caesarea. They also travelled to preach in Rome together (Acts 28:30).
- ❖ He was not one of the disciples, nor one of the apostles.
- ❖ It came by oral tradition that he had painted the first picture of the Virgin Mary.
- ❖ He departed in Bithynia at an old age. Some say that he was martyred during the reign of Nero at age 84.

B- Characteristics:

- ❖ He wrote this Gospel and the Book of Acts to an Alexandrian nobleman named **Theophilus** (Luke 1:3), calling him “most excellent”, which is a special title for one who holds an important position within the Roman Empire. Some say that Theophilus is one of these three:
 1. He might be someone whose name the apostles did not want to mention, instead, calling him Theophilus which means ‘he who loves God’ in order not to reveal his identity and cause him harm.
 2. Or someone who truly bore this name. The apostle wrote him the Gospel of truth (the Gospel of St. Luke) to understand the Church and its mission (the Acts), in order to attract him to the faith rather than resist the Church.
 3. Luke was a doctor and a servant; he may have treated his own master before setting him free. In order to show his gratitude and give the most precious thing he could offer; he wrote him the gospel of our Lord Jesus and the history of the first Church
- ❖ St Luke did not meet Jesus in person but believed later when he met St Paul. In order to record accurate details about the whole story of Jesus, he interviewed eyewitnesses like St Mary and the disciples and may be main characters he wrote about like the Samaritan and Zacchaeus to be able to collect accurate and reliable understanding of all things and document them for all generations in a perfectly historical way.
- ❖ Picture a scientist going about some great work. He or she is searching for the cure for some horrible disease or making some marvelous new discovery. First the scientist digs for facts, looking deeply, studying carefully, investigating every clue, relentlessly hunting for any and every fact that will make the discovery deeper, richer, and more accurate.

- ❖ Similarly, in this study, we are going to look at Jesus through the eyes of those who actually witnessed Him, and then told their story. That is what a witness is: a person who sees or experiences something, then tells others what he or she has seen.

C- The Time for his writing

- There is no sure tradition regarding the time of this writing or its site. St. Irianus thinks it was written before the martyrdom of St. Paul.
- Since the gospel was written before the book of Acts, and the book of Acts was written before the martyrdom of St. Paul the apostle, therefore many believe that it was written between the **year 63 and 67 AD.**

D- Its Aim:

- ❖ ***This Gospel was recorded for the Greeks***, who are known for their own philosophy and literature, which is why it was written in a refined and poetic style.
- ❖ ***He offered Jesus to the Greeks as a Lover of mankind***, who cares for the educated and uneducated, the philosopher and the unwise, the rich and the poor, the Jew and the Gentile, the man, the woman and the child. St. Luke presented Christ to the Gentile world as a Mean to find their inner happiness and joy. He began the Gospel with joy with announcing [the birth of Jesus] and concluded it with joy [Jesus rose from the dead]; something the Greek legends and philosophies lacked.
- ❖ Jesus Christ came as a Friend to support us; praying in many places: (3:21; 6:12; 9:18, 29; 22:39-46), and teaching about praying (Our salvation is not philosophy).



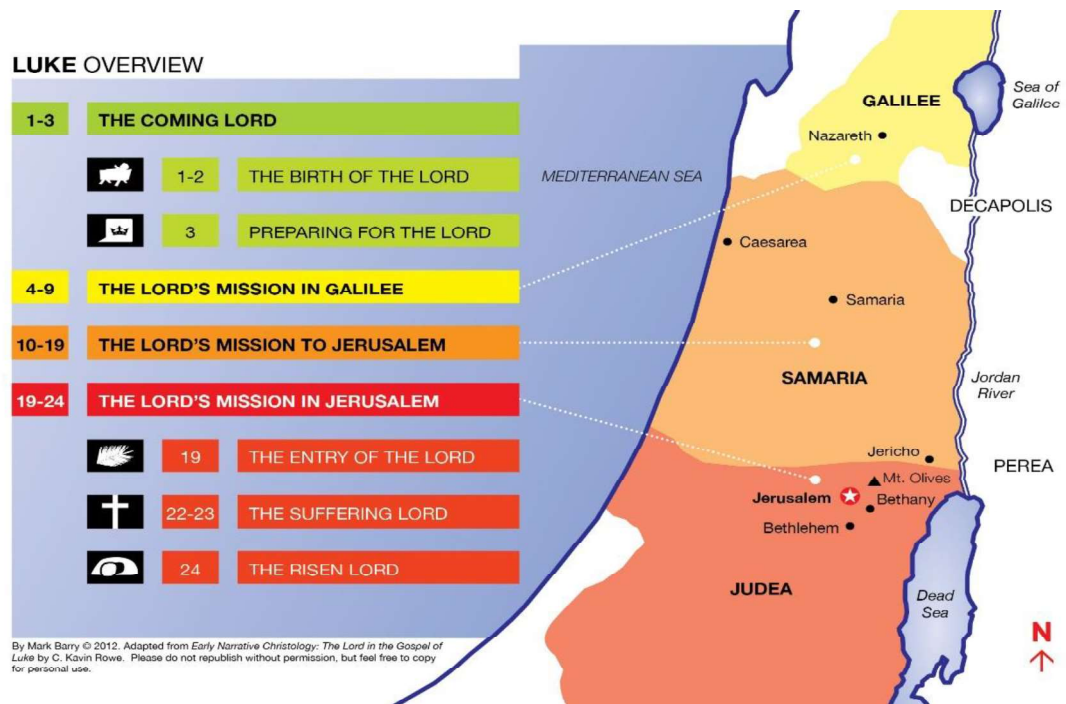
E- Why do we symbolize this gospel as an OX?

The ox associated with the Gospel of Luke fits well since it speaks to the great sacrifice of Jesus, and the ox was an important animal for sacrifice as required in the Torah.

3- Book outline

Its sections:

1. Unit 1: Our Friend became like us and was tempted like us, **chapters 1-4**
2. Unit 2: Our Friend feels our suffering, **chapters 5-18**
3. Unit 3: Our faithful Friend, **chapters 19-23**
4. Unit 4: Our Friend, the Risen from the dead, **chapter 24**



Unit 1: [3 lessons]

Our Friend became like us and was tempted like us chapters 1-4

St Luke presents the Son of God as a Friend, One that we can befriend not fear.

1. Introduction (**Chapter 1** v 1-4).
2. The promise of the Baptist to Zachariah and Elizabeth (v.5-25).
3. Meeting Elizabeth (v.26-38).
4. The birth of John (v.57-80).
5. The birth of Christ (**Chapter 2**)
6. The shepherds meet Him (v.8-20).
7. The circumcision of Jesus (v.21).
8. His entrance to the temple (v.22-40).
9. Jesus challenging the Jewish elders (v.41-52).
10. His baptism (**Chapter 3**) and the genealogy of Christ (v.23-37).
11. Jesus was tempted before beginning His ministry at Galilee (**Chapter 4**)

Chapter 1

Servant's preparation:

A sermon from Upper room app bible study about chapter 1

<https://subsplash.com/upperroommedia/lb/mi/+nkahjgy>

Brief introduction:

At the beginning of each lesson, please mention this book overview.

- ✓ Who is St. Luke? He was a doctor, a painter, and a Gentile from Antioch. He accepted Christianity at the hands of St. Paul the apostle later after resurrection.
- ✓ Who did he write his gospel to? The Greek after collecting testimonies from eyewitnesses to accurately record all details of Jesus's life.
- ✓ What is the main message of the book? ***St Luke offered Jesus to the Greeks as a Lover of mankind***, who cares for the educated and uneducated, the philosopher and the unwise, the rich and the poor, the Jew and the Gentile, the man, the woman and the child.

Main points in the Chapter:

1. An introduction to the book 1-4
2. The good news to Zacharias of John's birth 5-17
3. Zacharias' dumbness 18-25
4. The Annunciation of the Divine Incarnation 26-38
5. Mary's Encounter with Elizabeth 39-45
6. The Virgin's hymn of Praise 46-56
7. John's Birth and the Circumcision 57-66
8. Zacharias the priest's Prophecy 67-80

Lesson overview:

Please go over main events of the chapter briefly as follows

The gospel of St. Luke started with a short introduction that mentioned how, why and to whom was the book written. We explained that in the previous introduction.

John the Baptist's birth: 1-25

- Because St. Luke was a man of science, being a physician, he clearly defined the date of the event of John's birth
- Even though that time, there was corruption and there were no prophecies for 3 centuries, God saw Zacharias and Elizabeth, noticed their righteousness, and honored them to get John the forerunner before the Christ.

- In this conversation that occurred between the archangel Gabriel and Zacharias the priest inside the Altar, we notice that Zacharias did not believe the angel's words, in spite of seeing the angel and listening to the angelic voice in a tangible way which made him blameworthy of it, particularly because the holy history mentions living examples of elderly people who begot children whereas their wives was barren, such as Sarah, Abraham's wife for not having children.
- In (Luke 1: 17) "And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah". The Scholar Oreganus comments on this statement saying, "He did not say in the soul of Elijah, but rather 'in the spirit of Elijah and his power'. The spirit that dwelt in Elijah also dwelt in John, and the power in Elijah was also in John.
- The archangel declared himself that he is Gabriel, he came carrying the divine promise and the good news, but he also had to discipline Zacchaeus with dumbness as God commanded.

The Annunciation of the Divine Incarnation 26-38

- God chose a virgin who is betrothed to a man [engaged but for the Jews, it is like married without physical union]. God's choice was perfect because Jesus had to come from a virgin but if she were seen pregnant without being married, people would stone her thinking she was a sinner.
- The Holy Spirit came on her to sanctify her womb and start her conception, this happened the minute she agreed to accepting the assignment of being the mother of God. Her obedience opposes Eve's disobedience. She was more obedient than Zacchaeus who questioned the angel.

Mary's Encounter with Elizabeth 39-45.

- The virgin St. Mary has now carried in herself He who carries the burdens of the world, and He who provides for everything, she did not worry about what is hers, but rather in the receiving spirit, she hastened to the hills to the city of Judah, so as to serve Elizabeth.

The Virgin's Hymn of Praise 46-56

- When Elizabeth's tongue was released in blessings to the Virgin because she has believed the promises and has carried the Word of God in her womb; likewise did the Virgin's tongue began do praise God.

John's Birth and the Circumcision 57-66

- John's birth became a preaching sermon, though it had begun mysteriously, but the Lord has become a companion to him so as to support him; for God took John to the wilderness while young, and there He took care of him and raised him, so that he appears to Israel at the appropriate due time.

Goal we learn: [Submit to God's will]

In this chapter, we have many points to learn from, but we will focus on St Mary and her submissive response to the angel. **"Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word."** Luke 1:38

Chapter 22 & 23

Servant's preparation:

A sermon from upper room app about Luke 22

<https://subsplash.com/upperroommedia/lb/mi/+vfnw2ql>

Christ's passion chapter 23: <https://subsplash.com/upperroommedia/lb/mi/+llaaz94>

Brief introduction:

At the beginning of each lesson, please mention this book overview.

- ✓ Who is St. Luke? He was a doctor, a painter, and a Gentile from Antioch. He accepted Christianity at the hands of St. Paul the apostle later after resurrection.
- ✓ Who did he write his gospel to? The Greek after collecting testimonies from eyewitnesses to accurately record all details of Jesus's life.
- ✓ What is the main message of the book? ***St Luke offered Jesus to the Greeks as a Lover of mankind***, who cares for the educated and uneducated, the philosopher and the unwise, the rich and the poor, the Jew and the Gentile, the man, the woman and the child.

Remember:

Last lesson we meditated on how to be ready because no one knows the time of the last day. However, it is reassuring to believe what Jesus promised that He will be with us all the time especially when things get harder like towards the end of the world. We should always be on our guards likes soldiers in an army, ready for war. Our guards are our bible and our prayers, so we keep a constant relationship with God till the last breath.

Main points in the Chapter 22:

- 1- The Passover draws Near 1- 2
- 2- Judas' betrayal 3- 6
- 3- Preparing for the Passover 7- 13
- 4- The New Passover 14- 23
- 5- A discussion about who is the Greatest 24- 30
- 6- Warning Peter 31- 34
- 7- A General Warning 35- 38
- 8- His Prayer on the Mount of Olives 39- 46
- 9- His Yielding in 47- 53
- 10- Being Judged Religiously in the chief Priest's house 54
- 11- Peter Denying Him 55- 62
- 12- Beating and Scourging Him 63- 65
- 13- His Judgment at the Council 66- 71

Main points in the Chapter 23:

1. His judgment before Pilate 1-5
2. His judgment before Herod 6-12
3. The Jews' Persistence to Crucify Him 13-25
4. The cross and Simon the Cyrene 26-31
6. His crucifixion between two thieves 32-43
7. Giving up the Christ 44-49
8. His burial 50-56

Lesson overview:

Please go over main events of the chapter briefly as follows:

Background:

For a week, Jesus had been the center of attention in Jerusalem. He had entered the capital city riding on a donkey colt, the prophetic sign of the Messiah. He had violently thrown the merchants out of the Temple. He had taught in the Temple courtyard and argued with the religious leaders. The crowds loved Him: "All the people came early in the morning to hear him at the temple" (Luke 21:38). But the Jewish leadership wanted Him out of their city and out of their way.

The Romans and the Jewish leadership had a tenuous relationship. Rome was under no obligation to allow the Jews to continue practicing their religion. Indeed, many of the Jewish practices were in opposition to Roman laws. But the Romans were willing to put up with this off-beat Hebrew cult as long as the citizenry stayed in line. In exchange for keeping the people relatively passive, the Jewish leaders were allowed to keep their positions of power and wealth.

But now Jesus was threatening to upset this delicate balance. Having a man in the city who was making blatant claims to Messiahship was stirring the people up. He had to be done away with.

There was only one problem the Jewish leadership had, however: "They were afraid of the people" (20:19). Jesus was very popular with the crowds, and if the Roman soldiers --or the Temple guards, for that matter--arrested Jesus as He taught in the Temple, there was every possibility of a civil riot. And here is where Judas came in.

Chapter 22:

The Passover draws Near 1- 2, Judas' betrayal 3- 6, The New Passover 7- 23

- Every night during their week in Jerusalem, Jesus and His disciples had been retiring to the Mount of Olives, an area of private gardens outside the city limits of Jerusalem, to sleep (21:37)
- Judas knew this, of course, and offered to take the Temple guards to the place under the cover of darkness so that they could arrest Jesus in secret. For his collusion, Judas was paid (22:5).
- Satan entered Judas not by force, but because he found the door open to him. Greed opened the door for betrayal, despite his being one of the twelve disciples.

- Thursday night of the week Jesus spent in Jerusalem was a special night. It was the time of the Passover meal. Passover was (and still is) a commemoration of the Hebrews' escape from Egypt (Ex. 12). The night of their escape, God sent an angel of death to kill the firstborn son of each family in Egypt. But by a prearranged sign (blood on the doorpost), the death angel passed over the Israelite homes. Hence the name of the celebration. And, in their haste to leave Egypt, the Israelites did not have time to make bread in the usual way, so they had to take unleavened bread (bread with no yeast) with them. That accounts for the tradition of using such bread in the Passover meal.
- Jesus and His disciples celebrated the Passover meal in the upper room of St. Mark's house in Jerusalem. Jesus kept the name unknown to the rest of the disciples. As Father Theophlactius says, so that Judas might not know the place and so inform the chief priests and the scribes, and thus arrest the Lord before offering His divine Passover.
- At that meal, Jesus took the elements that were steeped in Old Covenant symbolism and transformed them into new symbols for the New Covenant. For His followers--those in the room that night and those that would follow in the centuries after--the wine and bread would forevermore be a true body and blood of the Christ.
- The first cup here is one of the cups in the Jewish rituals. As for the second one, it is the cup of the new covenant that has come



At the Last supper, did Jesus mean communion is for a memory or real?

His words “do this in remembrance of Me”, as we have seen in the book “Christ, the Mystery of the Eucharist” that ‘the remembrance’ here in the Greek ‘Anamnasis’ does not .merely mean the recalling of a certain matter that you regard, but that is away from you; it rather implies the repetition of His invitation or His representation in an active way. The Anamnasis here means the remembrance of the Crucified and Risen Jesus from the dead not as a thing of the past, but a real sacrifice that is present and active.

His Prayer and arrest at the Mount of Olives 39- 53

- Following the celebration of the Passover, Jesus and the disciples retired once again to the Mount of Olives. There Jesus, knowing what was about to happen, went through the agony of surrender. We must not at this point deny the human nature at work in the Christ. Jesus was not calm, serene, and

composed. Luke tells us that he was in "anguish," that he prayed "earnestly," and that "his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground" (22:44).

- No human could surrender easily to the reality of humiliation, torture, and execution. Jesus asked that the cup of sacrifice be taken from Him (v. 42). If the option to call the entire thing off was not real, then His agony was not real either. But in the end, of course, He prayed, "Yet not my will, but yours be done." Soon after, the group of armed Temple guards, led by Judas, arrived to make the arrest.
- St. Ambrosios thinks the sword the Lord asked His disciples to have is 'the Word of God' that is counted as a double-edged sword.

Peter Denying Him 55- 62

The first place Jesus was taken to the home of the high priest for his personal and private interrogation. While Jesus was inside, the guards and other servants were warming themselves by the fire in the courtyard. Peter and John (see John 18:15) had followed the posse to this courtyard and were also drawn to this fire. There, one of the servants recognized Peter as a follower of the Christ. At her accusation, Peter denied even knowing Jesus. Three times he repeated this denial, just as Jesus had predicted he would (22:34).

His Judgment at the Council 66- 71

After the interrogation at the house of the high priest, Jesus was taken before the Sanhedrin, the "Supreme Court" of the Jews (22:66-71). There, his claim to be the Messiah was pronounced as blasphemy, a crime worthy of death.

Chapter 23:

His judgment before Pilate 1-6 and His judgment before Herod 6-12

- The Jewish leaders, however, had no authority to carry out a death penalty. Only the Romans could do that. So, Jesus was dragged to the Roman governor, Pilate (23:1).
- After examining Jesus, Pilate realized that he was dealing with an innocent man and wanted to release Him. But the Jewish leadership protested. In their protest, they mentioned that Jesus was a Galilean. Pilate immediately realized that there was a way out for him. Since Herod, the Roman ruler of Galilee, happened to be in Jerusalem, Pilate sent Jesus to him.
- But at Herod's, Jesus refused to speak (23:9). Perhaps the reason is that Herod saw Jesus as a spectacle. He was more interested in getting Jesus to "perform" than in finding out the truth. Frustrated, Herod sent Jesus back to Pilate.

The Jews' Persistence to Crucify Him 13-25

Again, Pilate recognized Jesus' innocence and tried to release Him. But by now the Jewish leadership and their entourage had become a mob, demanding Jesus' crucifixion. Finally, in desperation and in cowardice, Pilate relented and handed Jesus over to be executed (23:25).

The cross and Simon the Cyrene 26-31 and His crucifixion between two thieves 32-43

Luke gives only a few details of the execution, but those are enough. Jesus was hung on the cross between two common criminals at about 9:00 o'clock in the morning (Mark 15:25). Looking at those who had actually carried out the execution, Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing" (23:34). He was offered wine vinegar, or wine mixed with gall, as a sedative to dull the pain. Matthew tells us that he refused this drink (Matt. 27:34). The Savior knew that He needed to complete the sacrifice, unassisted.



Giving up the Christ 44-49 and His burial 50-56

- Sometime around noon, darkness covered the execution site. That darkness lasted until about 3:00 (Luke 23:44). During that time, the curtain that separated the Holy of Holies from the rest of the Temple was split in two (v. 45). The Holy of Holies was considered to be the very dwelling place of God, and only the high priest could enter that room, and that only once a year. When the curtain was split, that room was open to view. Symbolically, of course, this represents God making himself available to humankind without barriers.
- After Jesus' death, a member of the Sanhedrin, Joseph of Arimathea, petitioned Pilate for Jesus' body. Matthew tells us that Joseph was a disciple of Jesus (Matt. 27:57), and Luke says that he had not consented to the Sanhedrin's sentence. Hardship could turn many people from being afraid to having courage, and thus they have become worthy in the eyes of God. They become deserving by God's grace to put oils on the body of Christ, that is, the church, by the precious spices that are manifested strongly at the time of ordeal.
- In one short week Jesus had moved from entering Jerusalem, listening to the cheers of the people, to lying in a borrowed tomb and deserted. He was one of greatest examples of courage, sacrifice, and obedience the universe had ever witnessed.

Goal we learn: [Pride leads to falls - Jesus paid our bill]

In this lesson, we can either focus on Peter and the disciples who were filled with pride and felt they could do everything and follow Jesus till death but then they ran away, and Peter even denied. Pride → Sin

Another option is to focus on Jesus who paid our bill on the cross.

Lesson delivery idea 1 [Pride]

Is it I?

When the Lord Jesus said that one of them would betray Him, they all began to ask Him. Though they knew how much they loved Him, yet they were more confident of His words than they had confidence in themselves. This is why each one of them feared lest he be the one meant, for they all knew how weak they were, and how subjected they were to fall. I wish we could copy the eleven disciples, and thus know our infirmities, and not rely on ourselves, but rather rely on God's grace that keeps us from falling.

This humble feeling unfortunately did not last for long as soon started arguing. St. Ambrosios says: "The desire for temporal greatness causes a crack among brothers, whatever positions they may have, even if they are Christ's disciples. If the disciples have argued, this is not an excuse for you; it is just a warning. Let us be cautious lest our arguments for the foremost positions, be the cause of our own perdition"

Satan tricked them after they showed humbleness in questioning themselves of who could betray Jesus. Satan brought up the argument about who would be the greatest, but Jesus warned them of this pride. He said that the devil is sifting them like wheat. God allows sifting to show the best out of his children.



Why did Jesus specify the sifting of Peter?

- He may have chosen Simon Peter in particular because he was known for his impulsiveness and forwardness. He could have been one of those arguing about 'who is the. Thus, the Lord wished to reveal in St. Peter the weakness of human nature in general. Hence, each of us would see in himself his personal weakness.
- Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat." Though his temptation is similar to the sifting that separates the weeds for his account, yet it cannot touch the wheat, and this sifting does not take place without asking the Lords permission.
- At this point, important spiritual facts are brought to attention: the adversary exerts his utmost to sift humanity by means of his trials. Though he obtains the permission from God to sift, yet God's care over His wheat prevails, and the wheat is untouched by the trials. Rather, the wheat is separated from the weeds and is discerned so it be crowned. We are God's wheat, and we are His concern. The evil adversary will not touch us however much he sifts us unless we allow ourselves to be transformed from being God's wheat to Satan's weeds.
- Peter did not fully understand himself at that time. He was so puffed with pride and self-confidence, assuming he can defend God by striking the servant's ear and that he could follow Jesus to the cross. If he had realized his weakness while following from far, not as close as John, he might have gone home before denying. We should not blame him and not ourselves as we forget sometimes that without God, we can do nothing.
- It is appropriate for us, so we do not deny the Lord, to draw closer to Him and not to follow Him from afar. Yet Jesus with His kindness looked at Peter with a tender heart to remind him of their conversation in which He told him "after you return, strengthen your brothers". May be it was for those words that Peter repented as he stopped himself from thinking that Jesus would reject him since he had told him to strengthen his brothers. Peter became way stronger after being sifted and tempted, later he became a great preacher.
- This tribulation was truly a lesson for our salvation, so we learn that if we take lightly the infirmities of our bodies, we are then tempted. If St. Peter has been tempted, then who of us is able to be puffed up?
- Remember the disciples sinned and thought "who is the greatest?" after gaining too much confidence being humble few minutes before. Peter betrayed right after gaining too much confidence in himself. So, let us be careful not to think we can do good things because we are awesome but because God is helping us.

Lesson delivery idea 2 [Jesus paid our bill]

Discussion point: Illustrative Story: to make this an object lesson, give one student (Tom) a dollar bill. Make out a fake restaurant tab.

Say we all went out to a restaurant to eat. We all eat until we're stuffed but Tom eats nothing. Then the waiter delivers the bill. We're broke. Only "Tom" has any money. Who will pay the bill? Tom's the only one with money. Who should pay the bill? We should. But we can't. If Tom pays, is that fair? No. Is it merciful of him? Yes!

Jesus paid our bill for us. We could never have enough to pay for our sins. Should we be grateful? Yes! How do we show our gratitude? Jesus said, "if you love me, keep my commandments." John 14:15



Discussion questions:

1. How were Annas and Caiaphas related? Annas was Caiaphas' father-in-law
2. What was Jesus convicted for? Blasphemy and treason
3. What motivated his trial? Envy
4. What are some feelings Jesus may have felt during His crucifixion? embarrassment, discouragement, anger, sorrow,...
5. If Jesus asked God to forgive those who killed him, how should I treat those who hurt me?
6. If Jesus had to die for our sins, how serious is sin?
7. Is there anything I can suffer that Jesus won't understand?
8. What miracles occurred while Jesus died? (earthquake, the temple veil tore in two, darkness for 3 hours, dead came out of the grave)
9. Why did they place a sign "King of the Jews" on Jesus' cross? to mock His claim to kingship, and to indicate the charge against him
10. How did the soldiers mock Jesus? "If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself."
11. What did they offer Jesus when he was thirsty? Sour wine to numb his pain but He refused

Activity:

All Clear game:



Fill three clear plastic bottles with 8 to 10 ounces of water. Add a small amount of liquid bleach to one of the bottles. You'll also need red and blue food coloring and a clear pitcher or jar to hold the water from all three bottles.

Drop four drops of blue food coloring into one bottle of plain water.

Say: **When Jesus came into our world, he had to leave his home in heaven [blue skies]**

Say: **When Jesus grew up, he suffered and died on a cross.**

Drop four drops of red coloring into the second bottle of plain water.

Say: **Red reminds us of the blood Jesus bled and how much he hurt. Pour the two bottles at once into the large pitcher or jar.**

Washing Our Sins Away

Say: **Purple reminds us that Jesus had to leave heaven, come to our world, and become a person like us so he could shed his blood to take away our sins. When Jesus died on the cross, he had done anything wrong. He was clear and clean just like our last bottle.**

Pour the bleach/water solution into the purple water. Say: **Jesus never sinned. Jesus died on the cross because he loves each of us so much. Keep your eyes on our blue water.** It'll become clear.

Take home Prayer

Dear God, you know that I am weak and sometimes think highly of myself. I think I could achieve and find my way to heaven without much help. However, it is Satan who tricks me into being too proud so he can get me to fall easily. Let me learn from Peter and the disciples when they were tricked by Satan but found their way back. Peter finally confessed "God you know everything, you know me better than I do, so work with me in your own way, not in my way"

Please God, let me remember how much love you showed me on the cross, you paid my heavy bill because I did not have a single penny to save myself. Thank you, Lord, for being there for me because without you, I can do nothing.

Memory Verse:

22:31" Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. 32 But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail."