

GOOD FRIDAY

Class Discussion:

1. What do you know about Good Friday? Why is it “Good”? Why is it Friday?
2. Look at the following picture:



- a. How would you describe this man? Choose from the following list:

Distressed	Crushed	Anxious	Hurt	Worried
Distraught	In pain	Broken	Troubled	Upset
Beaten	Anguished	Confused	Depressed	Afflicted
Tormented	Exhausted	Melancholic	Devastated	Sorrowful
Lonely	Abandoned	Rejected	Defeated	Dejected

New words:

- b. How do you suppose “Good Friday” relates to the man in the picture?

READING #1: What happened on Good Friday? (from *)

Jesus was arrested and was tried, in a mock trial. He was handed over to the Roman soldiers to be beaten and flogged with whips. A crown of long, sharp thorns was thrust upon his head.

Jesus was forced to carry his own cross outside the city to Skull Hill. He was so weak after the beating that a man named Simon, who was from Cyrene, was pulled from the crowd and forced to carry Jesus' cross the rest of the way.

Jesus was nailed to the cross. Two other criminals were crucified with him, their crosses were on either side of him. A sign above Jesus read "The King of the Jews."

DEFINITIONS: Fill in the meanings of the following words. Are there other unknown words? Get help from each other and your teacher.

Mock:

Flog:

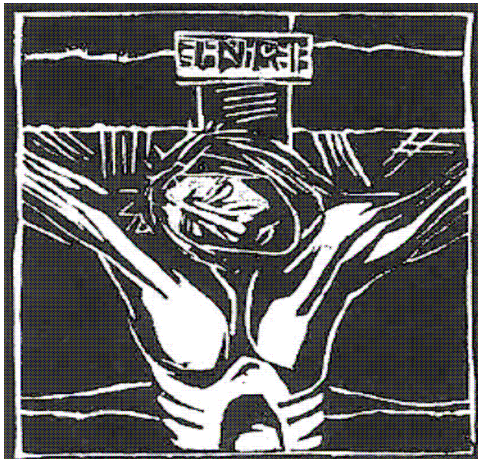
Crucify:

Crucifixion:

READING #2: QUOTES (http://www.hopetriumphant.com/easter_quotes.htm;
10-03-09)

Read the following Quotes about Good Friday. What do they tell us that helps us understand “What’s Good about Good Friday?”?

1. “The highest act of love is the giving of the best gift, and, if necessary, at the greatest cost, to the least deserving. That’s what God did.” [John Piper]
2. “Jesus went to the cross because God is holy and sin must be punished.” [John K. Hutcheson, Sr.]
3. “It has been the cross which has revealed to good men that their goodness has not been good enough.” [Johann Hieronymus Schroder]



Discussion Questions

1. How can “love” go together with something so terrible as crucifixion?
2. Quote #2 mentions ‘holy’ and ‘sin’. How are these in conflict? And how might the Cross resolve or reconcile this conflict?
3. Explain Quote #3: What is “Good”?
4. What does **READING #3** contribute?

READING #3: What do Christians believe about Good Friday?

For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ. (2 Corinthians 5:21; NLT).

For all have sinned; all fall short of God's glorious standard. 24 Yet now God in his gracious kindness declares us not guilty. He has done this through Christ Jesus, who has freed us by taking away our sins. 25 For God sent Jesus to take the punishment for our sins and to satisfy God's anger against us. We are made right with God when we believe that Jesus shed his blood, sacrificing his life for us. God was being entirely fair and just when he did not punish those who sinned in former times. 26 And he is entirely fair and just in this present time

when he declares sinners to be right in his sight because they believe in Jesus. (Romans 3:23-26; NLT).

SO WHAT?

1. Have you ever been “abandoned”? mistreated? unjustly judged?
2. What is the meaning of suffering? Is it avoidable? Can good come from it?
3. What does it mean to love? Jesus: “Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other.” (John 13:34)
4. So...what’s good about Good Friday?

Did you know? The name may be derived from 'God's Friday' in the same way that good-bye is derived from 'God be with ye'. (from *)

*<http://www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/customs/easter/goodfriday.htm>; 10/03/09

EASTER (PART I)

Class Discussion:

1. Is there a word for 'Easter' in your language? What does it mean?¹
2. Do you celebrate Easter in your country? Are there other festivals that are celebrated around the same time in your country?
3. What are some symbols of Easter that you know of? What do they represent?

READING #1: What happened on Easter Day? (from

<http://christiananswers.net/godstory/eternity1.html>)

Background: After Jesus died on the cross, two believers (Joseph and Nicodemus) took Jesus' body, wound it in linen grave clothes dipped in spices, and laid His body in a tomb. Then, as requested by the Jewish leaders, the tomb was sealed and guarded by Roman soldiers.

Now, after three days, there was a great earthquake, and an angel of the Lord rolled back the stone from the tomb's door. In fright, the Roman soldiers trembled and then ran away. When followers of Jesus came to the tomb and saw the stone moved, they were confused.

Suddenly, two men stood by them in shining garments, saying, "Why are you looking for the living among the dead? He is not here, He is risen. Remember how He told you before that He must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified, and the third day rise again?"

Then they remembered His words.

DEFINITIONS: Fill in the meanings of the following words. Are there other unknown words? Get help from each other and your teacher.

Wound:

Tomb:

Sealed:

Trembled:

Garments:

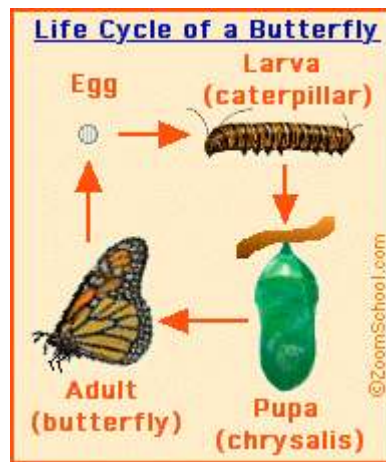
¹ See <http://www.religioustolerance.org/easter7.htm> for a list of 'names of Easter in various languages' (accessed March 22, 2009).

Verb Tense (Optional): Fill in the present, past and past participle forms for the following verbs:

	wound	
rise	laid	

READING #2: AN EASTER SYMBOL²

- i. What do you know about the life of a butterfly?
- ii. Study the diagram. What is amazing about the life of a butterfly?



- iii. Study the following quote:

“Are caterpillars told of their impending resurrection? How in dying they will be transformed from poor earth-crawlers into creatures of the air, with exquisitely painted wings?” (Malcolm Muggeridge, “Impending Resurrection”)

How could this quote relate to Reading #1?

- iv. How does **READING #3** contribute to our understanding?

Glossary:

Impending - about to happen

Resurrection - coming back from death to life

Transformed - to change from one form to another

Creatures - living beings

Exquisitely - very finely and beautifully

² Other Easter symbols and their meanings can be found on http://www.theholidayspot.com/easter/easter_symbols.htm and <http://a4esl.org/q/h/9704/bd-easter.html>.

READING #3: What do Christians believe about Easter?

6 We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin. 7 For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin. 8 And since we died with Christ, we know we will also live with him. 9 We are sure of this because Christ was raised from the dead, and he will never die again. Death no longer has any power over him. 10 When he died, he died once to break the power of sin. But now that he lives, he lives for the glory of God. 11 So you also should consider yourselves to be dead to the power of sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus. (Romans 6:6-11; NLT)

- 1) According to this passage, what happens when we “die with Christ”? (v. 7)
- 2) How can we be sure that we who die with Christ will also live with Him? (v.9)

SO WHAT?

This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! (2 Corinthians 5:17; NLT) There is a transformation that happens, similar to that from caterpillar to butterfly.

The Bible says: “If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.” (Romans 10:9; NLT)

Putting everything together...

- 1) What does it mean when Christians say they ‘put their trust in Jesus who died and rose for us’?
- 2) Does that make sense to you? Is that something you have ever thought about doing?
- 3) How might someone do that?

One way of doing it is to talk to God and say:

Dear Lord Jesus, Thank you for going to the Cross and dying for my sins. Thank you that you rose to life again so that we can have new life. I am sorry for my sins, and I want to trust in you for the rest of my life. Please help me to do so. Amen.

You could use your own words too.

Next week we will look at what else happened on Easter Day, and look more at “the new life”.

EASTER (PART II)

Class Discussion:

- 1) What are some symbols of Easter that symbolize new life?
- 2) What do you remember from the previous weeks about the Easter story? Try re-tell the story using these terms:
Cross, mocked, beaten, third day, angels, empty tomb
- 3) Where do you think the resurrected Jesus is now?

READING: What else happened on Easter Day?

Pre-reading questions:

- 1) What does your culture believe about ghost or spirit?
- 2) What is the closest experience you have had of seeing a person “coming back to life”?

Let’s read about what else happened on Easter.

The same day in the evening, Jesus came to the disciples and stood among them and said, “Peace to you.”

But they were terrified, thinking that they were seeing a spirit.

So He said, “Look at my hands and my feet, it is really Me. Touch me and see, for a spirit doesn’t have flesh and bones, like you see I have. Everything happened as I told you it would because all the writings that described me in the law of Moses, and in the Prophets, and in the Psalms, had to be fulfilled.”

Then He opened their understanding, saying, “It is written in the Scriptures that Christ must suffer and rise from the dead the third day; and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be preached in His name among all nations. And you have seen these things.”^{*}

- 1) How did the disciples feel when they saw Jesus? Why?
- 2) What did Jesus show them?
- 3) If you were one of the disciples, would you believe Jesus?
- 4) What is “new” about this appearance of Jesus?

^{*} (from <http://christiananswers.net/godstory/eternity1.html>)

SOME APPLICATIONS:

The Bible says:

“For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16; NLT)

- 1) What do you think “eternal life” is?
- 2) How do you think Good Friday and Easter made eternal life possible for us?
- 3) Consider this quote:

“The resurrection is God’s way of revealing to us that nothing that belongs to God will ever go to waste. What belongs to God will never get lost—not even our mortal bodies.” (Henri J.M. Nouwen)

a) How do the following Bible verses help us to understand this quote?

22 Just as everyone dies because we all belong to Adam, everyone who belongs to Christ will be given new life. 23 But there is an order to this resurrection: Christ was raised as the first of the harvest; then all who belong to Christ will be raised when he comes back.

When the trumpet sounds, those who have died will be raised to live forever. And we who are living will also be transformed. 53 For our dying bodies must be transformed into bodies that will never die; our mortal bodies must be transformed into immortal bodies. (1 Cor 15: 22-23, 52b-53; NLT)

b) What else will never go to waste if we belong to Christ? Think of all the things you wish had not happened in life. What will they become?

If you don’t know the answer, would you like to find out more?

TO SUM UP...

“God is so good, and by raising Jesus from death, he has given us new life and a hope that lives on.” (1 Peter 1:3b; CEV)

“The resurrection gives my life meaning and direction and the opportunity to start over no matter what my circumstances.” (Robert Flatt)

These things are real to Christians. Would you like to make them real to you too? Here is one way to start (a prayer to Jesus):

Dear Lord Jesus, Thank you for going to the Cross and dying for my sins. Thank you that you rose to life again so that we can have new life. I am sorry for my sins, and I want to trust in you for the rest of my life. Please help me to do so. Amen.

OPTIONAL: Idioms to do with “change” and new beginnings

(<http://www.english-at-home.com/idioms/idioms-of-change/>; 03-26-09)

like a breath of fresh air = someone or something who has new, fresh ideas or behaviour

shake things up (a shake up) = to change things a lot

give something a new lease of life = to renew something so that it lasts longer

breathe new life into = to give new energy to something

get a fresh perspective = to get a different point of view

go back to the drawing board = to have to start again because something didn't work

start with a clean sheet = to have another chance, perhaps because you have made serious mistakes

make a fresh start / make a clean break = to start something again

Choose the correct idiom from the list and fill in the blanks:

1. After working for the old boss for 20 years, the new boss seems like _____.
2. Let's put the problems behind us and _____.
3. He's paid for his mistakes, and now he can _____.
4. Let's ask the sales department for their opinion. They can bring us _____.
5. This sports club needs to increase its members to _____ our finances.
6. Those tablets have given our pet dog _____.
7. Conflicts in a marriage often _____ a lot, but they can be good if handled properly.
8. Unfortunately the plans didn't work out. We'll have to _____.