

Paragraph	FIND a word or phrase closest to	SAY IT IN OTHER WORDS	QUESTIONS
1	special times: <u>h</u> _ _ _ _ _ <u>s</u> festival: <u>c</u> _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ <u>n</u>	cooperated with: <u>w</u> _ _ _ _ _ <u>d</u> <u>t</u> _ _ _ _ _ _ _ <u>r</u> with	1 What was the passover? 2 What kind of remembering is involved in the Passover and Good Friday and Easter Sunday? 3 What was the relationship between Roman officials and Jewish leaders 2000 years ago?
2	Announcing to: <u>t</u> _ _ _ _ _ <u>g</u> students: <u>f</u> _ _ _ _ _ _ _ <u>s</u> powerful and amazing works: <u>m</u> _ _ _ _ _ _ _ <u>s</u>	said he could forgive sin: told people that he could get God to be <u>m</u> _ _ _ _ _ _ _ <u>l</u> to God's enemies free people from slavery to sin: get people to live in a <u>g</u> _ _ <u>d</u> way give people a place in God's family: <u>a</u> _ _ _ _ <u>t</u> people into God's family	4 What is sin? (Use the sentences in this second paragraph to explain the word 'sin') 5 What is an example of Jesus' miracles? 6 What was the purpose of Jesus' miracles? 7 What miracle showed Jesus has power from God over sin and death?
3	many people liked him: _ _ _ _ _ was <u>p</u> _ _ _ _ _ _ <u>r</u> opening in the earth for a dead body: <u>b</u> _ _ _ _ _ <u>l</u> <u>p</u> _ _ _ _ _ <u>e</u>	This made them very angry: As a <u>r</u> _ _ _ _ _ <u>t</u> , they became <u>f</u> _ <u>r</u> _ <u>o</u> _ <u>s</u> put Jesus to death on a cross: publicly <u>e</u> _ <u>e</u> _ <u>u</u> _ <u>e</u> _ Jesus	8 How did many people feel about Jesus when he walked on the earth? 9 Why were the Jewish leaders so opposed to Jesus?
4	repeatedly: _ _ _ _ _   _ _ _ _ _ messengers from God who told what would happen before it happened: <u>p</u> _ _ _ _ _ _ _ <u>s</u>	the disciples became very confident: Jesus' <u>f</u> _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ <u>s</u> stopped being <u>a</u> _ _ _ _ _ <u>d</u> left their life of sin: <u>s</u> _ _ _ _ _ _ <u>d</u> doing the bad things that they had been doing and started <u>l</u> _ _ _ _ _ _ <u>g</u> to Jesus to help them live a good life for God	10 How did Jesus' followers feel after Jesus died on the cross? 11 What had the prophets foretold? 12 What does God want people to receive from Jesus? 13 Why do people not want Jesus to be their king? 14 Why should we think Jesus' first followers were telling the truth about Jesus?

## **QUESTIONS FOR PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION**

- 1 What is a hero? What makes a person a hero?
- 2 What is history? Is learning history more like learning about nature or more like investigating a crime?
- 3 How do we know if a witness is true? What things cause people to tell the truth or to lie?
- 4 Why do stores sell chocolate bunnies and chocolate eggs at Easter time?

## **READING AND PRONUNCIATION**

### **Good Friday and Easter Sunday in History**

1 Good Friday and Easter Sunday are holidays for Christians in many countries. These days are similar to the days in the Jewish Passover celebration. On these days, many Christians remember two things that happened in the land of Israel about 2000 years ago. At that time, the Jewish people were part of the Roman Empire, and the Jewish leaders cooperated with the Roman authorities.

2 A man named Jesus had been telling Israel that God's kingdom was near. Jesus said he could forgive sin, free people from slavery to sin, and give people a place in God's family. Those closest to him believed that he was God's promised king. Jesus did many miracles to show that God had sent him, such as giving sight to the blind. He did not teach his followers to become rebels. He taught that God had sent him to die for his people; through his death many would find life. He said the government would kill him, but after three days he would rise from death. So God would show that Jesus was the promised king, with power over sin and death.

3 Jesus was popular and the Jewish leaders were jealous. And they hated him because he would not fully obey them. Jesus kept showing them that he was fully obeying God, but they were not. This made them very angry. Finally, the Jewish leaders and the Roman authority agreed to put Jesus to death on a cross. This happened on a Friday. Friday passed, Saturday passed, and Sunday came. Even though Roman soldiers were guarding the burial place, Jesus rose. The day of Jesus' death is now called Good Friday, and the day of his rising from death is called Easter Sunday.

4 At first Jesus' followers were afraid; they did not believe Jesus was alive. But Jesus came to them again and again. He talked with them about what the prophets had written: God's promised king must die and rise again. Jesus told them that the Holy Spirit would come to them. The Spirit would help them tell the world about Jesus. Then Jesus was taken into heaven. When the Holy Spirit came, the disciples became very confident. They told everyone that Jesus was the great king. They said that Jesus would judge all the world. They also said that Jesus offered sinners forgiveness and new life in the Spirit if only they would receive it. Some people believed, but others became angry. The unbelievers did not want new life; they did not want to leave their life of sin. Sometimes the unbelievers attacked the believers, but the believers did not stop believing.

## SOME EXPRESSIONS RELATED TO CRUCIFIXION

- **carry your cross** – when someone is going through a difficult experience or has a prolonged physical problem people may refer to it as a cross to bear – “She has a lot of health problems. It is her cross to carry.”
- **to crucify someone** – means to brutally attack and destroy a person’s reputation or character – “Those news reporters really crucified the mayor.”
- **excruciating (pain)** – means extreme pain like the pain that one who has been crucified would suffer – “My tooth really hurts. I can’t sleep, and I can’t eat. It is excruciating.”

## SOME PASSAGES FROM THE BIBLE

### From the prophet Isaiah who lived 700 years before Jesus was born (Isaiah 53:7-12)

He was beaten down and punished.  
But he didn’t say a word.  
He was like a lamb being led to be killed.  
He was quiet,  
as a sheep is quiet while its wool is being cut.  
He never opened his mouth.  
Men took him away roughly and unfairly.  
He died without children to continue his family.  
He was put to death.  
He was punished for the sins of my people.  
He was buried with wicked men.  
He died with the rich.  
He had done nothing wrong.  
He had never lied.  
But it was the Lord who decided  
to crush him and make him suffer.  
So the Lord made his life a penalty offering.

But he will see his descendants and live a long life.  
He will complete the things the Lord wants him to do.  
He will suffer many things in his soul.  
But then he will see life and be satisfied.  
My good servant will make many people  
right with God.  
He carried away their sins.  
For this reason I will make him  
a great man among people.  
He will share in all things  
with those who are strong.  
He willingly gave his life.  
He was treated like a criminal.  
But he carried away the sins of many people.  
And he asked forgiveness for those who sinned.

### From Jesus in the gospel of Mark (Mark 10:32-34)

Jesus and the people with him were on the road to Jerusalem. Jesus was leading the way. The followers were amazed, but those who followed behind them were afraid. Jesus took the 12 apostles aside and talked with them alone. He told them what would happen in Jerusalem. He said, “We are going to Jerusalem. The Son of Man will be given to the leading priests and teachers of the law. They will say that he must die. They will give him to the non-Jewish people, who will laugh at him and spit on him. They will beat him with whips and kill him. But on the third day after his death, he will rise to life again.”

### From Paul’s letter to the Romans – Jesus chose Paul to be one of His special delegates (Romans 1:1-4)

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus. God called me to be an apostle and chose me to tell the Good News. God promised this Good News long ago through his prophets. That promise is written in the Holy Scriptures. The Good News is about God’s Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. As a man, he was born from the family of David. But through the Spirit of holiness he was declared to be God’s Son with great power by rising from death.

Why is Good Friday ‘good’?



Really good news!

