

MOVIE: "THE PASSION"
The Last Days of Christ
Hosted by Larnelle Harris
(The Visual Bible, 1997, 45 mins)

Historical and Cultural Background

- Jesus was of Jewish background and from the Middle East. He was born in Bethlehem, a region in Galilee. He spoke Aramaic and most probably Hebrew as well. He could read Hebrew.
- Jesus lived in a time when Israel was under Roman rule
- Jesus was a teacher, prophet and healer. Long ago He was recognized by his followers as *Son of God*. He is still known today known by Christians as the Son of God and as a *Saviour* who came to take away the sins of the all people
- Not all people in Jesus' time, nor today, recognize Him as the Son of God or their Saviour

Who is Jesus?

The Triumphant Entry

Jesus entered Jerusalem riding on a donkey. The crowds shouted, "Hosanna in the Highest!" Hosanna means 'save now'.

1. How do the crowds react to Jesus as He rides the donkey? How do they feel? Why did they respond that way?

The Last Supper

The dinner was a very special time for Jesus to spend with His followers before His death. This famous scene was recorded in by a famous artist.

1. Which famous artist painted this well-known scene?
2. What does it mean to betray someone?
3. How does Jesus act towards Judas, the betrayer? Is Jesus sad?

Quote: Judas didn't understand what Jesus' life was all about. Jesus said, "*My blood would be poured out for everyone, for the forgiveness of sins.*"

The Garden

Jesus prayed in the garden. He knew He was going to die soon.

1. How did Jesus feel when He knew He would die soon?
2. If you knew you were going to die soon, how would you want to spend your last hours/days?

Quote: Jesus said, "*Not my will, but your will be done.*"

The Betrayal

Judas, the follower of Jesus, received thirty (30) silver coins for handing Jesus over to the Roman soldiers.

1. How do you feel when a friend betrays you?
2. Did Judas have regrets about betraying Jesus? What did he do after the garden scene? How did Judas' life end? Why?

Quote: "*Judas would have been forgiven, if he had asked. Judas really didn't understand God's love.*"

The Crucifixion

Back then, to be crucified was the most horrible way to die. Not only was it extremely humiliating but also very, very painful.

1. How was Jesus treated by the Roman soldiers?
2. What physical beating did Jesus endure? Why did they put a *crown of thorns* on his head?
3. What does it mean to be crucified? What types of people were crucified?
4. How did people respond to Jesus when He was hanging on the cross? In sadness? Did they mock Him?

Quote 1: "Come down from the cross IF you are the Son of God!"

Quote 2: "He saved others...but He can't save Himself."

Quote 3: "Jesus took my shame and my sin to the cross for me. It should have been me."

The Resurrection

The religious leaders in Israel were still scared and worried even after Jesus' death. Why?

1. What did the angels do at the tomb of Jesus?
2. Who were the first ones to see Jesus alive again? How did they respond to Jesus?

Quote: "For the joy set before Him, He endured the cross. The good news is....that He's alive." How can Jesus *still be alive*?

Discussion Questions:

- A. Who do YOU say Jesus is? Is he a regular man, a prophet, a liar, a teacher, the Son of God, Saviour of the World?
- B. What *new things* did you learn about Jesus from this video?
- C. Why did Jesus willingly give His life?
- D. Does this Easter story have an impact on how you see yourself or how what you think or believe about Jesus? If yes, how? If no, which part of the Easter story is hard to understand or believe?

For a full account of the Easter Story you can read the passage in the Holy Bible from Luke. Turn to chapters 22, 23 and 24.