

# JESUS CRUCIFIED

## ACT 1 – The Trial

*based mainly on John 18:28-38*

### CHARACTERS

- Jesus
- Pilate
- Guards (x2)
- Jewish Leader
- Crowd (a few students)

### SCRIPT

*[Pilate is seated at the front of the room. Jesus is pushed forward from the back of the room by the guards to Pilate, followed by the Jewish Leader/Crowd...]*

Guard #1: Make way! Make way for this dead man!

Pilate: What charges are you bringing against this man?

Jewish Leader: Well obviously if he weren't a criminal, we wouldn't be bringing him to you.

Pilate: If he's done something wrong against your own law, then take him away yourselves and punish him. You don't need to bring him to me.

Jewish Leader: You know we don't have the right to put him to death, and that's what he deserves!

Pilate: Death? What has he done to deserve the maximum sentence?

Jewish Leader: Talk to him yourself. And while you're at it, why not ask him why he says he's 'the King of Israel'. That's a capital offence!

*[Pilate summons Jesus to come forward and together they walk slightly off to the side to speak, away from the guards and Jewish Leader/Crowd]*

Pilate: So? Are you the King?

Jesus: Is that what you actually think? Or are you just going off what others have said about me?

Pilate: Tell me what you've done. Your own people have handed you over to me and seem pretty angry. Why?

Jesus: I do have a kingdom, but it is not of this world. If it were, my servants would be fighting right now to prevent my arrest.

Pilate: So, you are a king then?

Jesus: You are right in saying I am a king. That's why I was born and came into this world – to speak the truth. Anyone who is for the truth, listens to me.

Pilate: Truth? What is truth?

*[With that, Pilate clicks his fingers and the guards come and take Jesus away]*

# JESUS CRUCIFIED

## ACT 2 – The Trial #2

*based mainly on John 18:38 – 19:16*

### CHARACTERS

- Jesus
- Pilate
- Guards (x2)
- Jewish Leader
- Crowd (a few students)
- Barabbas

### PROPS NEEDED

- Crown of thorns (a paper crown with drawn on thorns it will be fine)
- A towel or sheet for the purple robe

### SCRIPT

*[Pilate is once again seated at the front of the room. Jesus stands with Pilate while the guards and Jewish Leaders/Crowd look on...]*

Pilate: I have examined this man, and I find no basis for a charge against him.

*[With that, the Jewish Leader and crowd, let out a disappointed “Oh come on!” vibe and start making all sorts of complaining noises. This goes on until Pilate raises his hands to silence them]*

Pilate: I'll tell you what, it's your custom once a year to have me pardon and release one criminal to you during the Passover. It just so happens we're holding a very dangerous and notorious criminal – Barabbas.

*[Barabbas comes out and stands next to Jesus]*

Pilate: So, who will it be? Shall I release this scum Barabbas? Or Jesus – the King of Israel?

Jewish Leader: He's not the king! He's a fake who only claims to be the king! Give us Barabbas!

*[The crowd cheers and agrees. Pilate nods to Barabbas and he cheers and walks free. Then Pilate nods to the guards and they take Jesus off to the side where they begin beating Him. As they do this, they also put on Him the robe and crown of thorns, and begin bowing down and saying in a mocking way...]*

Guards: All hail the King of Israel! Here's your crown Your Majesty! All hail the mighty King! (etc.)

*[The guards then bring Jesus back to Pilate – in the robe and crown of thorns. The guards then stand with the Jewish Leader/Crowd]*

Pilate: Here he is! And again, I don't find any reason to charge him!

Jewish Leader: No! He must die because He claimed to be the Son of God!

*[With that the Jewish Leader and crowds start chanting “Crucify! Crucify!” over and over again. Pilate then raises his hand to get everyone to stop. He then turns to Jesus and says...]*

Pilate: Where do you come from?

*[Jesus says nothing]*

Pilate: So now you're not speaking to me? Don't you realise that I have the power here? I have the power to set you free, or to have you crucified!

Jesus: No, the only power you have is what's given to you by God – He has all the power.

Jewish Leader: *[Calling out, interrupting Pilate and Jesus' conversation]* Pilate! If you let this man go, you are a traitor to your own king – Caesar of Rome! Just like anyone who claims to be a king is a traitor to Caesar.

Pilate: One last time: do you want me to crucify your king?

Jewish Leader: We have no king but Caesar!

*[After thinking for a moment, Pilate clicks his fingers and nods to the guards. They come forward and grab Jesus and take Him off to the back of the room, with the Jewish Leader and Crowd following them]*

# JESUS CRUCIFIED

## ACT 3 – The Crucifixion

*based mainly on John 19:16-42*

### CHARACTERS

- Jesus
- Guards (x2)
- Crowd (a few students)
- Mary (Jesus' mother)
- John (Disciple)

### PROPS NEEDED

- Crown of thorns (a paper crown with drawn on thorns it will be fine)
- A towel or sheet for the purple robe
- A piece of stickable paper with the words written on it: 'Jesus of Nazareth, The King of Israel'

### SCRIPT

*[The guards and crowd herd Jesus (still wearing the robe and crown) forward to the front of the room – mimicking carrying a heavy cross. The Guards then place Jesus up against the wall, arms stretched out, and enact putting the nails through His hands and feet. When this is done, the crowds let out a cheer]*

Jesus: Father, forgive them! They don't know what they do!

Guard #1: Oh, wait! Don't forget this, so that everyone can see how great the king is!

*[The guard then sticks the paper up above Jesus' head with the words: 'Jesus of Nazareth, The King of Israel'. When this is done, the guards and crowds laugh at Jesus]*

Guard #2: Hahaha! Some king! He can't even save himself! Hey, I bags the clothes. He doesn't need them anymore.

*[This guard then grabs the towel Jesus has been wearing]*

Guard #1: What! No you don't! I've worked as hard as you today. I know, let's make it interesting and gamble for all the bits!

*[The guards then take the towel and go off to the side, and mimic rolling dice to gamble. Then, Mary and John approach Jesus. Mary is crying and John is trying to comfort her.]*

Jesus: *[in pain]* My dear mother, from now on my disciple John will be your son. John, from this moment on, she is your mother. Take care of her for me.

*[John and Mary agree and then step back from Jesus. At this point, switch off the lights in the classroom to indicate that it's gone dark. The people in the crowd become alarmed and start saying...]*

Crowd: The sun's gone! Where did the sun go? This is weird! Why has it gone dark?

Jesus: *[still in pain]* I'm thirsty.

*[The guards come back to Jesus from gambling and offer Him something to drink]*

Jesus: It is finished!

*[Jesus bows His head, closes His eyes and dies]*

Guard #1: Is He dead?

Guard #2: It sure looks like it.

Guard #1: Better make sure. Can I borrow your spear?

*[Guard #1 then mimics getting a spear and stabbing it into the side of Jesus]*

Guard #1: Yep. He's definitely dead.

*[Off to the side, Mary lets out a much larger cry]*