

*Get Ready!*

## The Death and Burial of Jesus

By: Donna Smith



### Text

Matthew 27:51-54; Mark 14; Luke 7:37-50; John 11:37 and Chapters 18 and 19

### Key Quest Verse

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son” (John 3:16a).

### Bible Background

The story of the crucifixion is told in all the Gospels with remarkable consistency of accounts. How can one not believe in Jesus? The Roman Empire is in control, with Pilate running a loose government with the religious leaders. The chief priests have their gains in mind, using religion and politics to gain it. His own Jewish leaders betrayed Jesus. Jesus not only died for us, but was mocked, tortured, and abandoned. Crucifixion was usually for those of low Roman society, and one of the cruelest methods of execution ever known. How Jesus must love us!

*Get Ready!***Lesson Quest****What I want my students to:****Know:** That God gave His only begotten Son to die for us.**Feel:** That Jesus died for you and for me, so we can have forgiveness for our sins.**Do:** Follow Jesus.**Leader's Devotion**

Society bombards children with false messages every day, (you must look perfect; you must have it all to be happy; lies that don't hurt anyone much are okay . . . just don't get caught!). We as teachers must give it our all to help these children with Godly lessons that will go with them in the challenging world. Christ sacrificed His life for us and the children God has put into our care. Ask God to help you make teaching the children a priority in your life. If He can sacrifice His only begotten Son, surely we can sacrifice our time and efforts.

**Devotion suggestions:****Materials:** Foam florist cone, gumdrop candy, toothpicks cut in half**Procedure:** Place the cone upside down on your table. For every child placed on your heart, stick the blunt end of the cut toothpick in the gumdrop and stick it in the cone with the sharp end of the toothpick. Pray for the child and thank Jesus for every sweat drop of blood He shed for us. Always let the children know you are praying for them.

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**Get Set!**

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**Option A****Just Whom Did Jesus Die For?**

**Materials:** A clear mixing bowl, water, and a large sponge (a dark color will work best), a plastic Ziploc bag, knife, a small container of squeeze red food coloring

**Procedure:** Before class take the knife and cut a slit from the bottom center of the sponge where it cannot be seen. Place the food coloring with the lid off upside down in the slit in the sponge where it cannot be seen and place it in the Ziploc bag. Be sure not to squeeze and place it with the food-coloring top up until you are ready

Tell the children in class: **Today we are going to learn a lesson of Jesus' death. Jesus was taken to a trial before the Roman leader, Pilate, to be sentenced for death. Pilate tried to get the people to let Jesus go, declaring Him innocent of any crimes. But, the people were telling Pilate to free the terrible killer and bring Jesus to death. Pilate told the people they could have Jesus for crucifixion, but he was washing his hands free of the shedding of this man's blood.** Take your bowl of water and place it where the children can see it. Take the sponge out of the Ziploc bag and immerse it into the water with your hand securing the food coloring, acting like you are washing your hands. As you start to lift the sponge up, but with it still in the water, wring out the sponge like you are squeezing out the water. The food coloring will turn the water red like blood. Say: **Hum, I guess that doesn't work. There are no sinners free of shedding his blood, so Jesus must have died for everyone. Jesus told His disciples that they would have to accept the shedding of His blood for forgiveness. We can't just deny Jesus and walk away. We better listen to this story!**

**GO TO THE BIBLE STORY**

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*Get Set!*

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**Option B****SCRAMBLED EGGS**

**Materials:** A frying pan, a spatula, and 12 plastic Easter eggs that open, Resource Page

**Procedure:** Before class, cut the Bible facts out from the Teacher Resource page and place them inside the eggs. Close the eggs and place them in the pan.

In class “scramble” the eggs with your spatula saying, **well these eggs just won’t blend together smoothly. OH NO! I forgot to break the eggs out of the shells! You know a lot of people try to put their lives together without ever breaking open their Bibles! How can they know about God or Jesus? They just end up with scrambled lives of confusion. Many people don’t even know that Jesus died for them. A lot of things happened the day Jesus died, to prove He was the promised Savior.**

Give children an egg and let them see the Bible facts. Read one or two, looking up the verse with the Bible fact showing them this is in the Bible. **Listen and see if you hear your Bible fact in the story. Listen carefully.**

<b>GO TO THE BIBLE STORY</b>
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**Get Set!****Bible Story**

**Teacher Tip:** Provide markers for students to highlight portions of the story in their Bibles

**Teacher Tip:** You may read the story out telling them it is from Mary Magdalene or have a visitor dress up like Mary and come in and read them the story.

It was a difficult time for the followers of Jesus. Things had been going well for a time. Jesus had performed so many miracles, and there was so much talk about the Son of God. Jesus had just raised His friend, Lazarus, who died from sickness, from the dead. Many Jews believed in Jesus. When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, crowds were greeting Him and waving palm branches shouting, “HOSANNA! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” The people had come in for the Passover Feast (a Jewish celebration honoring the exit of Egypt). The twelve disciples were always at Jesus’ side, as well as, many other followers of Jesus. I, Mary Magdalene, a faithful follower of Jesus, anointed Him by pouring her spices in her jar over His head. Jesus spoke of Mary’s action as having done a great thing for Him, for she prepared Him for His burial. (Jewish important people were anointed with a spice of pure nard for official ceremonies and deaths.) Many were puzzled by Jesus’ words. There was much talk of the chief priest wanting to have Jesus done away with. They were the Pharisees, the Jewish priests in the temples. They were making a lot of money off the Roman Government who was in charge of the land in Jesus’ time. The Pharisees had an agreement with Roman officials to have great power and money, and they used the temple to get it. Jesus knew about this and told them many times what they were doing was wrong. They wanted very badly to have Jesus done away with. There was much talk of their plot to betray and kill Jesus. Jesus knew His time was running out before He was to die. He gave a supper meal at the Passover in an empty room to His disciples. He broke a loaf of bread telling them this was His body, broken for them. He gave them wine, telling them this was for His blood shed for them. He also told them, one of them would deny Him. This horrified the disciples, and they said they would never deny Jesus. Then He took them to a garden, called Gethsemane, to pray. Jesus prayed so hard, He sweat blood drops while asking, three times, for this cup to pass from Him, if it be God’s will. By the third time He asked, Jesus accepted His death, as His father’s will. The disciples fell asleep while Jesus was praying. Then, the Roman soldiers came to arrest Jesus. Judas had sold Jesus out by telling the chief priest where Jesus could be found for just coins! Jesus was brought to a mock trial. Many people didn’t believe He was the Son of God. A lot of people, who had just waved palm branches at Jesus, now turned against Him. Pilate, the government ruler, offered the people the horrible killer, Barabbas, to be freed for the Passover. The people shouted to free Barabbas and kill Jesus! Pilate washed His hands in front of the people of Jesus’ blood and allowed Jesus to be taken away even though, He knew Jesus was an innocent man. They whipped Jesus on His back thirty-nine times. They placed a crown of thorns on His head, laughing at His crown and yelling, “Hail, King of the Jews.” Then they led Jesus away to be crucified. Jesus was already in great pain and had shed a lot of blood from the wounds on His back.

**Get Set!****Bible Story**

Continued. . .

He even had to carry His cross and went to be crucified for you and me. They nailed Him to a cross and placed a sign over His head that said “Jesus of Nazarene – The King of the Jews.” The guards cast lots, gambling for His robe and people spat upon Him. They gave Him vinegar to drink. His mother Mary, her sister, Mary the mother of Clopas and I, Mary Magdalene, were at the foot of the cross. Peter, one of the disciples, had denied knowing Jesus three times. Judas had hung himself. The rest of the disciples were afraid and hiding. There were two other men crucified that day and one had asked Jesus for forgiveness. Jesus was spat upon, abandoned, laughed at and tortured. Still, He asked God to forgive them. He said forgive them “for they know not what they’ve done!”

Then Jesus said, “It is finished.” At that point, He died. The Roman soldiers usually broke the legs of those who were crucified, so they would die faster. They pierced Jesus’ side first, with water and blood coming out. This meant He was already dead, so they did not break His legs. It had been told long before Jesus’ death, that not a bone in His body would be broken.

There were reports of the cloth tearing in the temple when Jesus took His last breath. The earth shook. A centurion keeping guard over Jesus said, “Truly this is the Son of God!” Many people now knew He was truly Jesus, Son of God.

They took His body and wrapped it in white linen and laid Him in a tomb. Pilate was afraid and had the tomb guarded. A huge stone was also placed over the entrance to the tomb. Jesus’ followers and friends mourned deeply. But, the great news is the story doesn’t end here. I can’t wait until our next lesson.

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**Go!**

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**Our Rope Of Hope****FOOD**

**Materials:** A bag of Twizzlers candy, plain sheets of paper for each child

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**Quest Connection**

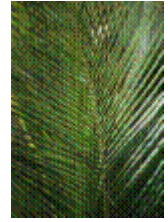
In class give each child a piece of paper. Show them a Twizzler “rope” and how strong the whole rope is and secure when it is all together. Then, take off one string of the candy and tell them each part is very important in our story today, because it proves Jesus really is the Son of God. Discuss with them all the miracles that were witnessed, just like God promised they would be when Jesus died. **Now let’s see if we can make the picture come together with the different parts.**

**Procedure:** Give each child a piece of the candy and let them take apart each string. Then, they may take the strings to draw or write a word that has something to do with today’s lesson. For instance, a cross or they can write Jesus on their paper by pressing the candy strings on the paper. When they are finished they may show their pictures if time allows.

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**Close**

**Isn’t it great how we can take in the sweet promises of Jesus?** They may then eat their candy if they would like to!

**Go!****Palms Are Waving****ART**

**Materials:** Small silk tree or palm looking branches, plain sheets of paper and washable finger paint on a paper plate, music tapes with songs praising Jesus or sing “Give Me Oil in My Lamp” and sing Hosanna in the song

**Quest Connection**

**When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, the people were in a great crowd and they were waving palm tree branches at Him, hailing Him as their King. They shouted, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” Now we are going to honor Jesus our King.**

**Procedure:** Give each child a sheet of paper and small branch (about like a pencil) and finger-paints to share on a plate. Let the children dip their branches in the paint and explain to them that they will draw their praises with their palm branches to Jesus with the rhythm of the music. Then, show how to move their branches to the beat of the music in motions that they feel while they are listening or singing. Let them paint out their rhythms.

**Teacher Tip:** Tell them a very important rule is not to swing their branches in the air! They must stay on their papers at all times!

**Close**

**See the motions of our worship to Jesus? Just look at those beautiful pictures of song and worship! Don’t we always want others to see the beauty of Jesus? They may hang their pictures in the room or take them home when they are dry.**



**Go!****Tainted Money****SCIENCE**

**Materials:** Pennies that are dull (not new pennies), small plastic bowls, a pitcher of water, salt, plastic spoons, napkins

**Quest Connection**

**Judas sold Jesus for just 30 pieces of silver. That was just the same price a man had to pay if his ox struck another man's servant. It was a low price! This shows how little Judas and the Jewish leaders thought of Jesus. The thirty pieces of money were dirty or called "blood money," because Judas admitted he took money for an innocent life. The priest therefore didn't want the money in the temple offering. They purchased land called "The Potter's Field" and threw the money out there. It was used to bury strangers.**

**Procedure:** Give each child a bowl and pour a small amount of water, covering just the bottom of the bowl. Give each child about 3 or 4 pennies and a plastic spoon and let them spoon their pennies in the bowl and attempt to wash them, stirring them with their spoons. Say to them **Hum, those pennies are sure dull. We need something else to help. Well, how about this white salt? You know it reminds me how clean and pure Jesus is.** Add 2 to 3 tablespoons of salt to each child's bowl. Now, let them clean the money with their spoons by stirring and rubbing the pennies with the salt. They then can spoon them out on their napkins when they start shining.

**Close**

**Wow that sure made a difference! I guess a bath alone can't wash away our sins. We need Jesus!**

**Go!****Stained Glass Cross****ARTS AND CRAFTS**

**Materials:** Gather some prisms from home, Resource Page, dark colors of construction paper, string, scissors, tape, different colors of cellophane paper, a hole punch

**Quest Connection**

Show the children the prisms you have in the light, and let them see how it reflects all around the room. **Jesus said His body was broken for you and me. It brought light to people all around the world.**

**Procedure:** Give each child a piece of construction paper and have them cut the cross pattern out and trace it on the paper. They need to cut it out into both layers of the folded paper. Give them the sheets of cellophane paper, and let them cut each into long different shapes and tape the shapes inside the folded paper across the cross. They may overlap them. Then, trim off the excess cellophane that sticks out and tape the papers together at the loose end of the fold. Punch a hole through both layers on the top of the paper, and tie string, yarn or ribbon through it. They may hang them in the window or light and watch the different colors shine through.

**Close**

**Jesus sure can bring light and beauty to our dark world! How can you bring light into the world?**

**Go!****Crucifixion Bingo****GAME**

**Materials:** Small cups or bowls, cereal pieces, Resource Page, pencils

**Quest Connection**

Hold up each of the words and ask, **what does this word have to do with the story of Jesus' death?** After you have gone through all the words, explain to them how you are going to play the game.

**Advance Preparation:** Make a copy of the words from the Resource Page for yourself before class and cut the words out individually and place them folded in a container for calling out the game words.

**Procedure:** Give the children eight words that they choose from the list of words and write them in the blank boxes of their bingo card with their pencils. You may have to help them read some of the words. Explain to them that they can only use each word one time, and that they do not want their cards to match anyone else's! Give them cereal as their markers to play bingo with. Have them put the cereal in their center free space, explaining this is the just like our free gift of Jesus paying for our sins.

**Close**

**These words are very important for us to remember. We need to think often about how Jesus gave His life for us!**

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**Go!**

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**No Fear****CREATIVE WRITING**

**Materials:** Coffee can, construction paper, small plastic bag, individually wrapped Lifesavers, Resource Page

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**Quest Connection**

**It is much better to leave your problems with Jesus so He can help with them, than to try and take them into your own hands.**

**Advance Preparation:** Class prepares a coffee size can with construction paper wrapped around the label and draws a cross around the label. Put some individually wrapped Lifesavers candy in the bottom of the can. Take a small plastic trash can liner or plastic bag and line the can over the candy so that it will hide it.

**Procedure:** Have the students write on their Journal Pages. Ask them to draw or write a fear or problem they are having that they want to take to Jesus, so He can help them. Have them fold the papers and place them in the lined can. When they have all done this, take out the liner and tie it up and tell them to continue to pray about the problem, but leave it there with Jesus so He can help them. You may help the children pray about it. Then give them the Lifesavers candy and tell them how we must believe and share with others that Jesus is our Lifesaver!

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**Close**

You may help the children pray about it. Then give them the Lifesavers candy. **We must believe and share with others that Jesus is our Lifesaver!**

**Go!****Springtime Treats****FOOD (Check for food allergies!)****Materials:** Sugar cookie dough, frosting, small plastic knives, sprinkles, Ziploc bags, moist towels for clean-up**Quest Connection**

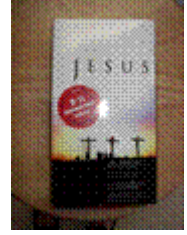
Today we are going to make a special treat. I made you a special cookie. Tell me what shape the cookies are in. That's right, a cross. We see a lot of crosses at Easter time. Who died on the cross? Jesus did. He died for our sins. When someone I love dies or a pet of mine dies, I am very sad. Have you ever been sad? Jesus' friends were sad when He died on the cross. But, then they were very happy. Do you know why? Remember what the angels told Mary? He is not here. He is risen. Jesus was alive again. When Jesus comes back to earth, the people who have died will be alive again. We will all be so happy.

**Procedure:** Ahead of time, roll cookie dough and cut out cross shaped cookies. Bake according to recipe.

**Close**

Let us pray and thank God for giving us His son Jesus!

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**Go!**

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**Jesus Video****MOVIE**

**Materials:** Video entitled “Jesus,” VCR, Bibles, highlighters  
This video is available free from the website [www.jesusvideo.org](http://www.jesusvideo.org)

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**Quest Connection**

**We are going to watch a video today about Jesus. I want you to turn in your Bibles to the book of Matthew. We know that is the first book of the New Testament.**

**Procedure:** According to the amount of time, show the part or the entire video to students. This video is the Scripture being read as it takes place on screen. Stop the video in various places and have them highlight in their Bibles the parts of Scriptures that have been read.

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**Close**

**When we watch movies or read books that are stories in the Bible, it is very important that we are careful. We must always look it up in God’s Word, and make sure someone hasn’t added their own ideas! What did you think about this movie?**

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**Go!**

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**Bookmarks****ARTS AND CRAFTS**

**Materials:** Resource Page, various springtime stickers, poster board, yarn (optional), marker, hole punch

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**Quest Connection**

**Who knows where all the stories that we are learning about come from?** (The Bible.) **We are going to make a bookmark to use in our Bibles.** Hold up cross shape. **Who knows what this shape is?** (Cross.) **Who can tell me who died on a cross?** (Jesus.) **Who can tell us why He died on the cross?** (To save us from our sins!)

**Procedure:** Trace and cut around the cross pattern on the poster board for each child. Write “Jesus died for us” on the cross. Let each child decorate their cross with spring stickers. Help children find today’s story in their Bibles and use the bookmark to mark it.

**Option:** Punch a hole in the top of the cross. Cut a piece of yarn to go around the neck as a necklace. Help children thread yarn through hole and tie ends

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**Close**

**Let us find the story about Jesus and mark it with our bookmarks in our Bibles.**

**Go!****Life And Ministries****COMPUTER**

**Materials:** “The Interactive Kids Bible Series – Life of Jesus” software from [www.sundaysoftware.com](http://www.sundaysoftware.com) or by calling 1-800-678-1948

Each CD in the series has an animated, narrated story section which highlights a key story in the Bible Hero’s life. Fun clicky-do’s on the screen and multiple pages of cartoon graphics make this software an entertaining learning experience

**Quest Connection**

**We are going to use some software on our computers today to help you remember the important events in our story.**

**Procedure:** Have software installed and ready for use, before students arrive. Consider attaching your computer to a video projector so that the whole class can play the games at the same time!

**Close**

**Who can share with the class something they learned about Jesus’ death while using the computer today? Let students share. The most important thing we want to remember, is that He died for us!**



## Resource Page—Bible Facts

People waved palm branches for Jesus, shouting “Hosanna!” (John 12:13)

They placed a crown of thorns on Jesus’ head. (Mark 15:17)

Jesus said, “It is finished,” and died. (John 19:30)

Peter denied Jesus 3 times. (Luke 22:61)

Judas hung himself. (Matthew 27:5)

There were earthquakes. (Matthew 27:54)

The cloth in the Temple ripped. (Luke 23:45)

Jesus had the last supper with His disciples. (Matthew 26:17)

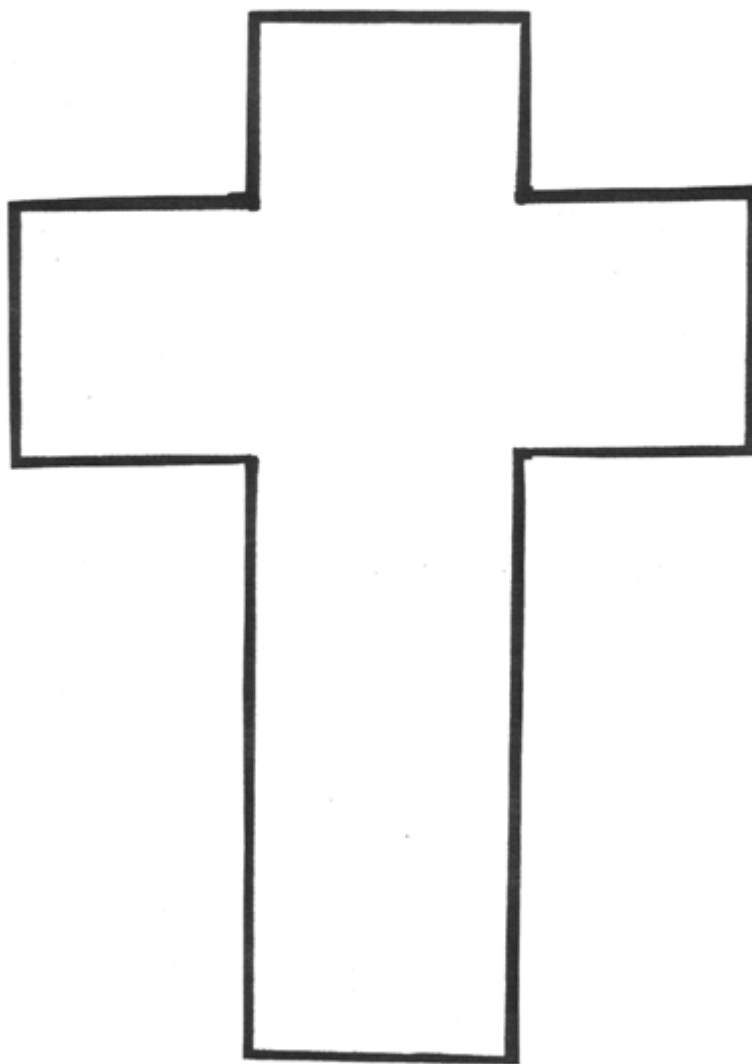
Jesus was taken and flogged. (John 19:1)

The Mary’s were at the foot of the cross. (John 19:25)

They cast lots for His garments. (John 19:24)

They gave Him vinegar to drink. (John 19:29)

**Resource Page—Stained Glass  
Cross & Bookmark**



**Resource Page— Bingo  
Board**


**Resource Page— Bingo  
Words**

**The Marys**

**Jesus**

**Blood**

**Wine**

**Bread**

**Passover**

**Judas**

**Donkey**

**Peter**

**Palm Branches**

**Wept**

**Nails**

**Thorns**

**Lazarus**

**Died**

**Vinegar**

**Pilate**

**Whip**

**Prayed**

**3 times**

**Tomb**

# Journal Page

## JESUS CAN HELP ME!



What I fear most:

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Prayer List:

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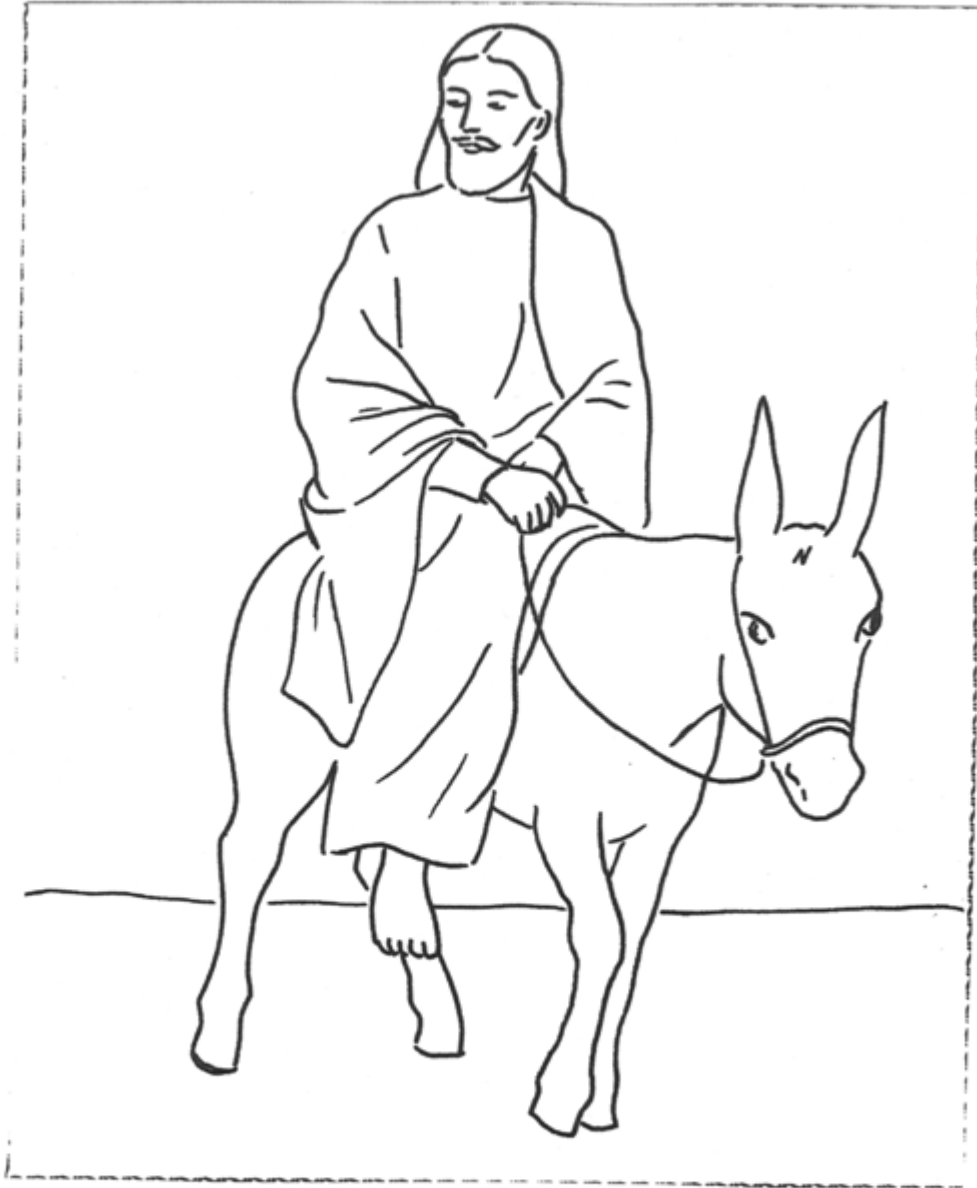
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**“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son” (John 3:16a).**

**Worksheet—Jesus Riding on the Donkey**

Can you draw branches and flowers and clothes on the road for the donkey to walk on?



# Worksheet—Maze

Can you take a crayon and find the way for the men to get to the little donkey?

