

RE: This term we are exploring the following

Umbrella Question: Does religion bring peace?

For this week's lesson, our Key Question is:

What do Christians mean by sacrifice?

At the time of Jesus, the lands mentioned in the Bible were occupied by the Romans and the people were subjected to harsh Roman rule – the people had also been oppressed by rulers from other lands for centuries. Oppressed means that the people were not free to live how they wanted but had to follow everything that their rulers ordered, without being allowed to question it. They had been waiting for the promised messiah/saviour to come and save them.

Use one of the outlines of a person and write the title The Suffering Servant above it.

Read the Bible passage, Isaiah 53 (on a separate sheet) This is an Old Testament prophecy that a messiah will come. The Old Testament is the first half of the Bible, set in the times before Jesus was born. The people believed the prophecy that a messiah (saviour) would come to save them from oppression. A prophecy in the Bible is something that is predicted will happen by someone who believes they have been told by God will happen in the future.

After you have read it, think about what kind of person is being described.

Inside the person outline, write down all the things that he has done or not done .

Around the outside of the person, write down all the things that have happened to him.

List the similes that have been used. How do they contribute to the description of the person? How does this person compare to the kind of messiah that the people were waiting for? (an exalted king that would sit on a throne)

Read the Gospel of John 19: 16-42 (this is from the New Testament – the half of the Bible that is about the time that Jesus was born and onwards) highlight or underline any clues in the text that also depict (show) Jesus as the suffering servant.

Compare what you have noticed in the two texts – what are the similarities between the prophesised messiah in the Old Testament and John's account of Jesus in the New Testament?

John 19 v16-42

¹⁶ Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified.

The Crucifixion of Jesus

So, the soldiers took charge of Jesus. ¹⁷ Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). ¹⁸ There they crucified him, and with him two others—one on each side and Jesus in the middle.

¹⁹ Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. ²⁰ Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek. ²¹ The chief priests of the Jews protested to Pilate, "Do not write 'The King of the Jews,' but that this man claimed to be king of the Jews."

²² Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written."

²³ When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom.

²⁴ "Let's not tear it," they said to one another. "Let's decide by lot who will get it."

This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled that said,

"They divided my clothes among them
and cast lots for my garment."²⁵

So, this is what the soldiers did.

⁵ Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, "Woman,²⁶ here is your son," ²⁷ and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

The Death of Jesus

²⁸ Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." ²⁹ A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips. ³⁰ When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

³¹ Now it was the day of Preparation, and the next day was to be a special Sabbath. Because the Jewish leaders did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down. ³² The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other. ³³ But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. ³⁴ Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. ³⁵ The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe. ³⁶ These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled: "Not one of his bones will be broken," ³⁷ and, as another scripture says, "They will look on the one they have pierced."³⁸

The Burial of Jesus

³⁸ Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jewish leaders. With Pilate's permission, he came and took the body away. ³⁹ He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds.⁴⁰ Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs. ⁴¹ At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid. ⁴² Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.