

# Luke 23:1-25

## Toward the Cross (Part 6)

**Scripture:** Luke 23:1-25

**Memory Verse:** Luke 23:4 *“Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowd, ‘I find no fault in this Man [Jesus].’”*

**Lesson Focus:** As we wrap up this series following Jesus toward the cross, we see man at his worst, but God at His best! We pray the kids will better understand how Jesus went to the cross for them and respond with loyal praise and loving obedience (WOO!), even when the crowd or the world around them rejects Him (BOO!).

**Activities and Crafts:** Jesus Before Pilate Coloring Picture, Word Search of different terms from lesson, Bring it Home Discussion for 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>.  
Craft for 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: Which Path Are You On?

**Starter Activity:** WOO! vs. BOO!

Consider getting the lesson started with some discussion about things that make you say “WOO!” and things that make you say “BOO!”. First, make sure the kids understand what you mean by these two expressions.

Q: When might you say “BOO”? A: Maybe when you are trying to startle or prank someone, yes, \* but you might also say this when you are NOT pleased with something.

Q: On the other hand, when might you say “WOO!”? A: When you ARE pleased with something. \*

Let me give you a few examples, and I’d like you to give me a “thumbs-up” if you would say “WOO” and a “thumbs-down” if you would say “BOO”.

1a) You Mom tells you the family is going to Waterworld tomorrow! (WOO!)

1b) But you wake up tomorrow morning and there is a huge thunderstorm! (BOO!)

2a) Your Dad says the family has season tickets to the Broncos next year! (WOO!)

2b) The Broncos end up losing every game! (BOO!)

3a) What if we brought in snacks for you in class today! (WOO!)

3b) But what if the snack was brussels sprouts! (BOO!) \*

- **Teachers:** Consider bringing in a snack that most kids would actually like that you can share with them after the lesson if they listen well.

Well, in the same way, when Jesus first entered Jerusalem on a donkey as the promised King and Savior, most of the people were shouting “WOO!”. But now, just a few days later, Jesus has been arrested and we are going to see the people shout “BOO!” at Him as they deliver Him over to be crucified. \* Let’s take a look!

## **Bible Study:**

Last week we read through the account of Jesus's arrest and trial before the Jewish religious leaders. \* Let's pick up the story there.

**Luke 22:70-71:** This was the last straw for the religious leaders!

Q: What was it that Jesus claimed to be? A: The one and only Son of God! Even though Jesus had proven this by His miracles and teaching, the religious leaders were blinded by their jealousy and hatred. From the beginning they were those who had "BOO'd" \* Jesus and now they hand Him over to the Roman authorities to be condemned and destroyed.

**Luke 23:1-2:** This wasn't just a few guys, but an angry mob of religious leaders that brought Jesus before Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor. \* And they accuse Him of several things hoping to persuade Pontius Pilate to put Him to death.

Q: What does it mean to be accused? A: It means to be charged with a crime. If you have siblings, you have probably been accused by them (or you have accused them!) before your parents! \* And you were probably rightly accused many times, but these accusations against Jesus were bogus. \*

**Luke 23:3-4:** Pilate sizes up Jesus and says something very important about Him!

Q: What did Pilate say? A: There is no fault in Him. In other words, Pilate says that He is innocent! \* And He is absolutely right! Not only were the charges false, but Jesus has never done **anything** wrong, being the perfect Son of God. We'll come back to this later!

**Luke 23:5:** Pontius Pilate now has a big problem. He knows Jesus is innocent and that this trial is a sham, but the mob of those pointing their fingers at Jesus demanding His death is growing both in number \* and in intensity. What's he going to do?

**Luke 23:6-7:** He decides to punt Jesus over to Herod who ruled another part of the land but was in town for the big Passover feast. \*

**Luke 23:8:** Notice how Herod responds to getting Jesus punted over to Him.

Q: Does he say "WOO" or "BOO"? A: WOO! He's heard a lot about the amazing miracles Jesus has done and is excited to see Jesus in person.

**Luke 23:9:** So, Herod finally gets his long-awaited audience with Jesus!

Q: But how does Jesus respond? A: Silence! Jesus's miracles weren't a magic show designed to entertain people. They were God's way to get people's attention so that they would repent of their sin and believe in Him! \*

**Luke 23:10-12:** As you can see, Herod had no intention of honoring Jesus and shamefully dishonors Him before punting him right back to Pontius Pilate. \* (**Teachers:** Consider playing a quick game of hot potato to show how neither Pontius Pilate nor Herod wanted to deal with Jesus!)

Q: So after Herod realized he wasn't going to get what he wanted from Jesus, what did he say about Him? A: BOO!

**Luke 22:13-15:** Pontius Pilate finds himself in the same dilemma he was in before.

Q: What did he say he found in Jesus after examining Him? A: NO FAULT! Even Herod agrees that Jesus is innocent.

This is important because if Jesus was NOT innocent, He wouldn't be the perfect, spotless lamb that takes away our sin (**John 1:29**). At the same time all of this is happening, the Jewish people are celebrating the Passover meal where they eat lamb. God had them choose a lamb that is without blemish or fault (**Exodus 12:5**) as a sacrifice for this meal and it harkens back to when God "passed over" their sins when they were slaves in Egypt. Isn't it amazing that while the Jewish people are sacrificing their spotless lambs to remember how God passed over their sins here is Jesus, in which there also is no fault, offering up Himself as the perfect sacrifice so that God might "pass over" our sins!

**Luke 23:16-19:** Pontius Pilate wants to let Jesus go, but the mob gets louder and louder with their "BOOs". In fact, not only are they "BOO-ing" Jesus, they are "WOO-ing" Barabbas wanting him to be released instead!

Q: What was Barabbas in prison for? A: Murder! How could they want such a man released? The blindness and rage of the Jewish mob is only getting worse and worse.

**Luke 23:20-21:** It says that the people are shouting something at Pontius Pilate.

Q: What were they shouting? A: Crucify Him! (**Teachers:** Consider asking this a few times to the kids until they are all shouting this at you!)

Q: What does this mean? A: They want Him sentenced to the cross to die.

**Luke 23:22-25:** Three times Pilate declares Jesus not guilty, but he caves to the demands of the crowd and sentences Him to be crucified all the same. You know what Pontius Pilate deserves for this? A big BOO! \* He is the governor and he is supposed to champion justice. This is NOT justice!

Yet, remember that this is what Jesus came to do! Did you notice how Jesus never once defended Himself? This was all part of God's plan from the beginning! Jesus came to "seek and to save the lost" (**Luke 19:10**). And it was only by Him offering up Himself as the perfect spotless lamb that He could make a way for our sins to be "passed over". \*

**Key Point:** Jesus entered the city on a donkey to cheers of "WOO" by a large crowd. But just a few days later the crowd "BOOs" Him to the cross to die.

Q: Why did they reject Him? \* I suspect that like we saw with Herod, they wanted something from Jesus, but after they realized they wouldn't get that, they rejected Him. They wanted an earthly King to conquer Rome, but that was not what Jesus came for.

Indeed, in Jesus, God gave us not what we wanted, but what we NEEDED: A King to conquer our hearts and deliver us from sin and death! Jesus did this for YOU!

**Boys and Girls:** What do YOU say about Jesus: WOO or BOO? Show me with your thumbs. I pray all of you say WOO your whole lives, even if everyone else says BOO! \* Let's go into this week proud to live for Jesus and call Him our Lord and King!

# BRING IT HOME

Read Luke 23:4  
What did Pilate see in Jesus? Why is this important?

Parent Signature:  
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Parent Challenge:  
Why didn't Jesus defend Himself when He was on trial? (see Acts 2:23)

Read Luke 23:21  
What did the crowd mean by this?

