

7th Grade New Testament (Gospels)**Lesson Plan:** Jesus' Passion**Learning Goals:** Students will analyze the depth of physical suffering Jesus endured in the event leading up to and during his crucifixion.**Question:** What is the worst pain you have ever experienced?

Prayer

Discuss Question on Board

Physical Sufferings:

With Scribes and Pharisees (Luke 22:63-65)

- The men holding Jesus were mocking him as they beat him
- spit in his face
- Hit him with their fists
- slapped him
- blindfolded and tormented him "Prophesy! Who hit you?"

Read Mark 15:6-32; (Matthew 27:24-44; Luke 22:63-65)**Romans Beating/Mocking/Flogging**

- Jesus was "scourged" (verberatio)
 - purpose to cause great pain but to humiliate as well
 - To scourge a man was to beat him worse than one would beat a stupid animal. It was belittling, debasing, and demeaning.
 - The flagellum was a whip with several (at least three) thongs or strands, each perhaps as much as three feet long, and the strands were weighted with lead balls or pieces of bone. This instrument was designed to lacerate.
 - The church historian Eusebius of Caesarea recounts with vivid, horrible detail a scene of scourging. He says, "For they say that the bystanders were struck with amazement when they saw them lacerated with scourges even to the innermost veins and arteries, so that the hidden inward parts of the body, both their bowels and their members, were exposed to view" (Ecclesiastical History, Book 4, chap. 15).
- They stripped him and placed a robe on him (to mock him)
- Crown of thorns was placed on his head - pressed down hard
- mocked him as they knelt down saying "Hail King of the Jews"
- spit on him
- He was beaten with a reed

Simon of Cyrene

- Simon was compelled to carry his cross
- Probably only the crossbeam as the vertical piece was usually buried in the ground

Crucifixion

- the most gruesome death for the lowest of criminals
- Not given to Roman citizens. They received "humane" treatment like beheading.
- The cross would have been either a t, T, X, or on a scaffold

- Crucifixion was performed near a major road so that people who walked by would be discouraged from disobeying Rome
 - Most died from some form of suffocation (not getting enough air in but getting Carbon Dioxide out) - had to push up on the nails in feet to be able to exhale (CO2 poisoning)
 - Sometimes they provided a ledge to sit on while you were on the cross to prolong suffering
 - Some on the cross would live for days and be swarmed by insects and flies while dogs tried to attack the dying victim
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Lesson Summary/Review:

Students should review and highlight the following vocabulary terms and concepts from this lesson in their notes:

- Praetorium
- Scourge
- Flagellum
- Crucifixion
- Simon of Cyrene
- Golgotha
- How did Jesus suffer at the hands of the Romans?
- What were the five ways we talked about that the Romans would crucify people?