

Crown of Thorns

The soldiers took Jesus first to the high priest's house, where he was found guilty. The chief priest then took him to Pilate, the Roman governor who agreed to have him crucified.



The governor's soldiers led Jesus away into the palace courtyard. They put a purple robe on him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and placed it on his head. The soldiers mocked, beat and taunted him. When they finally got tired of mocking him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him again.

The Prophet Isaiah said: *"By His wounds you are healed."*

Some people say that when Jesus suffered the pain of the crown of thorns, he healed us of every evil thought we'd ever had.

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- Tell God about your struggles with any thoughts
 - ★ Light a candle (real or battery) and ask God to bring His light and warmth to those places deep inside.

Jesus in chains

Think about the many prisoners in the world today. Some are guilty of many crimes and some are innocent. However, many are prisoners of conscience.

Some people feel like prisoners trapped in their houses by illness or fear.

- Do pray for anyone who comes into your mind right now.



‘When Pilate saw that an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd.

“I am innocent of this man’s blood”, he said. “It is your responsibility!”

*Then he handed him over to be crucified.’ - **Matthew 27:24-26***

The crowd wanted Jesus to die but Pilate knew He was innocent. When Pilate washed his hands, he was symbolically avoiding the issue.

We all want to avoid conflict and sometimes we let innocent people suffer because of it.

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- Think of the times when you did nothing and let others suffered. Tell God and ask for His forgiveness.
 - Water is life giving and cleansing - Wash your hands in the bowl of water as a sign of repentance.
 - ★ Take a strip of paper and stick it together to make a paper chain. Write the names of those who need justice and pray for them.

Carrying the Load

The next day, the Romans led Jesus away to be crucified. They made Jesus carry a huge, heavy cross through the streets and then up the hill called Golgotha (which means Place of the Skull).

The cross was such a heavy load that they forced a passer-by named Simon, a Cyrenian to carry the cross behind Jesus.



- Take a stone or pebble now and hold it. Feel its weight despite its smallness of size.

- What loads are you carrying?

Work pressures? Money pressures? Fears?
Illness? Regret? Family pressures?

There are lots of people in our lives that we can help 'carry the load' in the same way that Simon helped Jesus.

- Who could you help, with an action, a letter, or kind words maybe? Pray and ask God how he can help you.

★ Trace around your hand and then cut out the hand shape. Write or draw a picture of the person on your hand shape. Stick it somewhere to remind you.