

## ASSEMBLY OUTLINE

### 43. JESUS IS CRUCIFIED

Bible Base: Luke 23: 32-43

Key Christian Belief: Jesus is God's chosen King.

Aim: To help children understand that Jesus came to show God's love, not His power.

You will need:

- the attached PowerPoint presentation
- a packet of Smarties

Introduction

Ask the children to guess what you are describing. To make this more fun, present it as a Smartie Quiz. You will give the children the clues, one at a time. Each time a clue is given they can guess as many times as they like - but must guess at least once before you go on to the next clue. Every time they guess incorrectly, you eat a Smartie. When someone guesses correctly they get the rest of the Smarties in the packet.

1. This is a collection of 142 different objects.
2. They are all at least 350 years old and are very valuable.
3. They include a robe, a sceptre and a sword.
4. They are kept in the Tower Of London.
5. They belong to the royal family.
6. They include the crown that the Queen wore on her coronation day.

Show the pictures of some of the Crown Jewels from the attached PowerPoint explaining what they are.

In the past two weeks we have been discovering that Jesus came to be our King - but He was not the kind of king that everyone had been expecting. He had come not to make war but to bring peace. He had come not to be served but to serve.

Today we will hear about the robe and crown that Jesus was given to wear - which were very different from the ones we have seen in the Crown Jewels.

Story

Jesus had ridden into Jerusalem on a donkey. He had knelt down and washed His disciples' feet and now Judas, one of Jesus' friends, had had enough. This wasn't the kind of king he had been looking for or the kind of kingdom he wanted to be part of. So he made a deal with the religious leaders to hand Jesus over to them.

After supper, Jesus took three of his closest friends with Him and went to a quiet garden to pray. Suddenly, Judas arrived along with a crowd of people with swords and sticks. They had come to arrest Jesus and take Him to the religious leaders. Without a fuss Jesus allowed them to lead Him away. He knew the time had come.

First He was taken to the High Priest, where they put together some charges against him, twisting his words so that it sounded like he had said things He hadn't said at all.

Then they took Him to the Roman governor, Pilate and tried to persuade him that Jesus was a troublemaker and deserved to die. Pilate, however, could see that their stories

didn't agree. So he found nothing wrong with Jesus - no reason to have Him put to death. However the religious leaders there had persuaded the people to shout for Jesus to be crucified. They decided that He wasn't the kind of king they wanted, so they did what the religious leaders told them and shouted for Him to be crucified.

When Pilate heard them all shouting, he was afraid of a riot and so he gave in. He allowed the people to do what they wanted with Jesus. So they took Jesus and dressed Him up like a king using a purple robe and a crown of thorns. Then they laughed at Him, whipped Him and led him away to be nailed to a cross with a sign on it saying 'Here is the King of the Jews'. The passers-by also laughed at Jesus and spat on Him.

There were two thieves also being crucified, one on either side of Jesus. One made fun of Jesus and said: 'If you really are God's promised king, why don't you save yourself - and us!' The other thief, however, had watched Jesus and seen something different. He knew Jesus didn't deserve to die. He knew Jesus could have come down from the cross if He had wanted to - and somehow He seemed to know that this was not the end for Jesus. And so he turned to Jesus and said: 'Lord, remember me when you become king!' and Jesus told him he would be with Him that very day in God's forever kingdom.

### Exploring Christian Belief

Once again Jesus showed that He was not the kind of king everyone expected. A king nailed to a cross, wearing a crown of thorns just didn't make any sense! The friends of Jesus thought everything had gone wrong. They hadn't understood yet that this was all part of God's plan and that Jesus had come to give His life for His friends.

No one forced Jesus to give His life for us. He could have come down from the cross if He had wanted to. He could have asked for ten thousand angels to come and help Him and He would have got them. But He didn't. Christians believe that He stayed there willingly because He knew that there was no other way for us to be forgiven and become friends of God again. He did it because He loves us. He had come not to show God's power, but His love.

Christians believe that by sending His own son Jesus to die for us, God has shown us how much He loves us. This was the price that He was willing to pay so that I could be His friend and live with Him in heaven one day. So if I am ever tempted to doubt that God loves me or to think that He doesn't care, I remember what Jesus has done for me and I know for sure then that God loves me and that a love like this will never fail. He will always be there for me. What a wonderful truth: God loves me!

### Song

'I'm Special' by Graham Kendrick would be a good song to finish this assembly with. Ask children to reflect on the words as they sing them and, if they wish, to make them their prayer of thanks to Jesus for what He has done for them.