



Activity

Use the craft on this page and page 42 for the entire age range if you have run an all-age programme.

Alternative activity sheets for 7-11's are on page 43 and page 44.

For the craft, print this page and page 42 onto paper for each child. The children make a booklet that shows how God provided a substitute at various times.

Start with today's story where Jesus died instead of Barabbas.

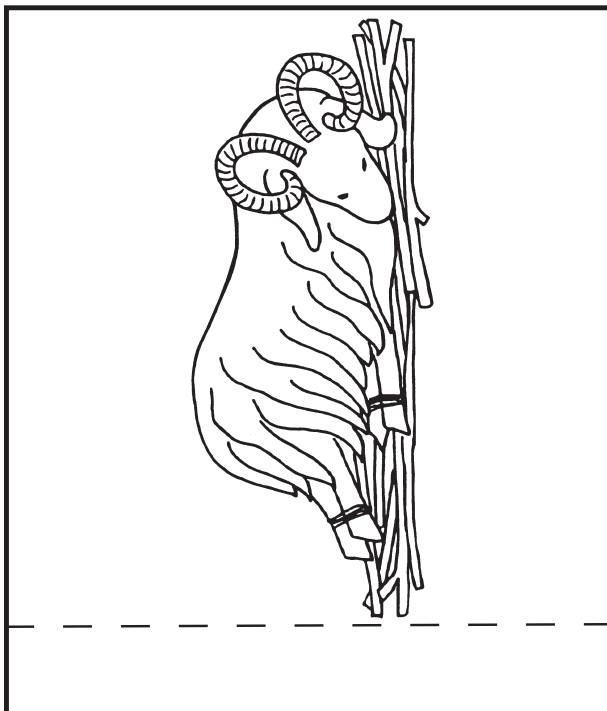
Then remind them how God also provided:

- a ram for Abraham to sacrifice in the place of his son, Isaac.
- a lamb to sacrifice in the place of each firstborn Israelite in Egypt.

Remind the children that the penalty (punishment) for sin is death. We are all sinners (*all do naughty things*). But Jesus died on the cross in our place, he took our punishment.

The children colour the pictures and fold page 42 as shown to make the booklet. They go through the booklet and fill in the missing words (*younger children will need this done for them*). They also glue the edge of the matching picture along the line in the booklet so the substitute covers the other picture.

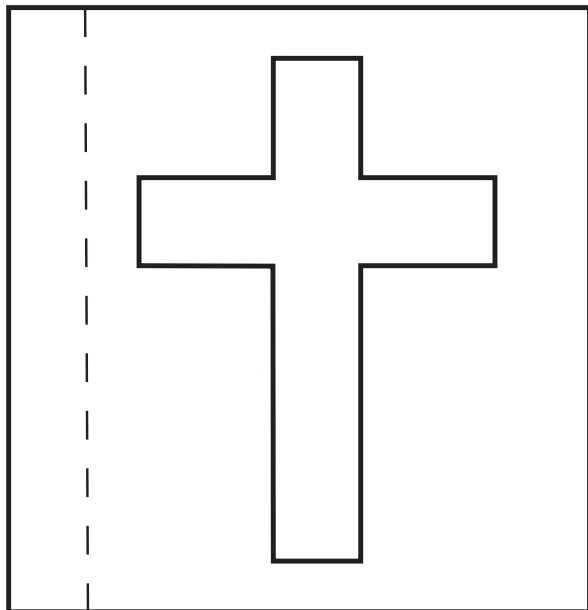
Fold all the pictures along the dashed line so they fold back to reveal the other picture.



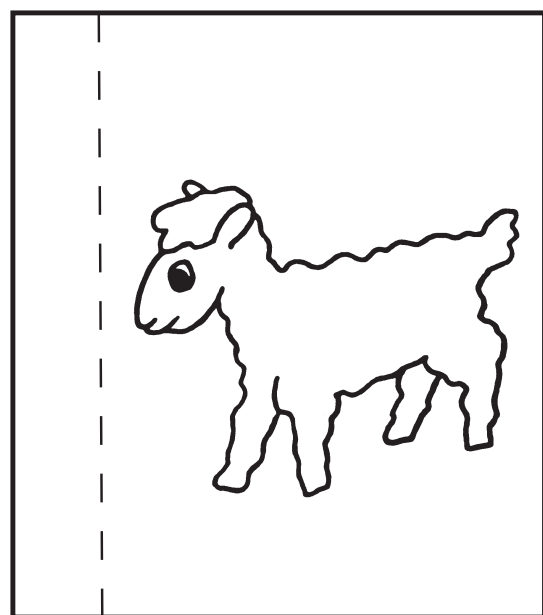
Memory Verse

3-7's Proverbs 3:5a - "Trust in the LORD with all your heart". [NIV]

7-11's Proverbs 3:5 - "Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding". [NIV]



Jesus



ram

lamb

Intro Idea - Puppet Script

A packet of foil wrappings from Easter eggs is on the table. The eggs are not present, only the wrappings.

(Toby enters and looks around.)

Toby: Hello, boys and girls. Are you looking forward to Easter? I am. Do you like Easter eggs? I do. I think they are just SO delicious! *(looks around)* Have you seen Trudy? Will you help me call her? Trudy! Trudy! Where are you?

(Wait for response from audience.)

Toby: That wasn't loud enough. Trudy won't hear you unless you really shout. Try again. On the count of 3. 1, 2, 3 Trudy! Trudy! Where are you?

(Trudy pops into view.)

Trudy: What's all that noise? How can I sleep with all that racket going on?

Toby: Sleep? Do you know what time it is? It's [current time]. You should have been up ages ago.

Trudy: Why? What's so special about today?

Toby: It's nearly Easter. And I really enjoy Easter.

Trudy: So do I. All the lovely things to eat, like hot cross buns and Easter eggs.

Toby: Ummm.

Trudy: *(sees the packet of Easter eggs)* Hey, Toby! Have you seen that packet of Easter eggs?

Toby: Where? Oh, those. Yes, they're mine. Would you like one?

Trudy: Yes please. *(to Leader 2)* Can you hand me one please?

(Leader looks in the packet to find it full of foil wrappings and no eggs.)

Leader 2: Looks like they've all been eaten. There's only foil wrappers here.

Trudy: Have you eaten them all, Toby?

Toby: Um, looks like it. They were very nice.

Trudy: You are greedy, Toby. There's nothing left for me.

Toby: You can always have some of the foil wrappings to make something pretty.

Trudy: I suppose so.

(Leader 2 puts some of the foil wrappings in front of Trudy. Enter Leader 1.)

Leader 1: *(to children)* I've brought a packet of Easter eggs to give you each one and I can't find it anywhere. Have any of you seen it?

(Waits for response from children. Leader 1 looks in the wrong place, but eventually follows the children's directions and spots the packet of eggs. Meanwhile puppets disappear.)

Leader 1: Ah, there they are.

(Leader 1 picks up the packet to find it is empty.)

Leader 1: They're all gone. I know who's eaten them - Toby and Trudy. *(looks around to find they have gone.)* Toby! Trudy! Come back here this minute.

(Puppets slowly reappear in previous place so the foil wrappings are in front of Trudy.)

Leader 1: *(shaking the empty packet)* Which of you has eaten these chocolate eggs? Was it you, Toby?

Toby: No, it wasn't me.

Trudy: Toby, you liar!

Leader 1: Are you sure it wasn't you, Toby?

Toby: How can it have been me? It's Trudy who has the foil wrappers.

Trudy: But, but, but...

Leader 1: Not another word, Trudy. I am really disappointed in you. I thought you knew better.

Trudy: But I ...

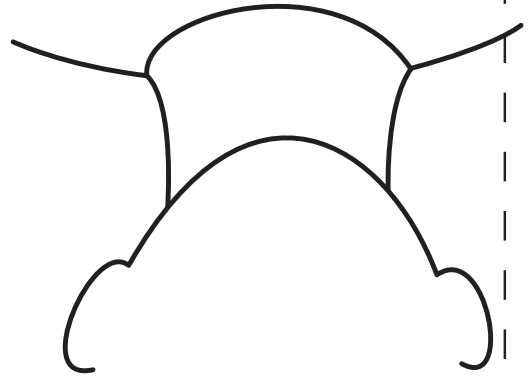
Leader 1: I don't want to hear any excuses. Go to your room. *(To Toby)* You go and get ready, Toby, and we will go to the circus (or similar).

(Toby leaves humming cheerfully.)

Leader 2: *(to children)* Did Trudy eat the chocolate eggs? Should she have been punished? In today's true story from the Bible somebody else gets a punishment they didn't deserve.

God provided...

instead of me.
John 11:49-52

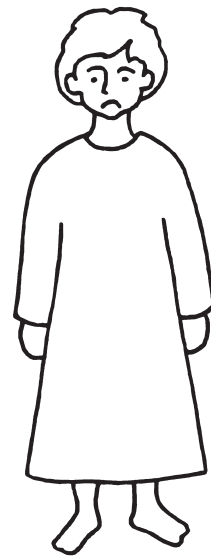
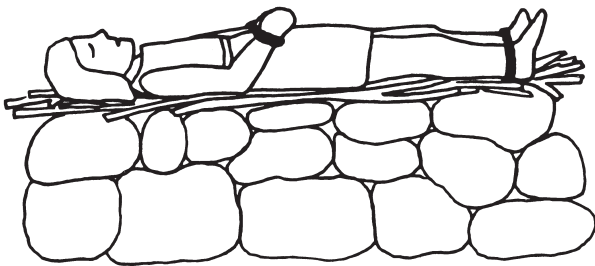


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--- Fold 1 ---

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a l _ _ _ _

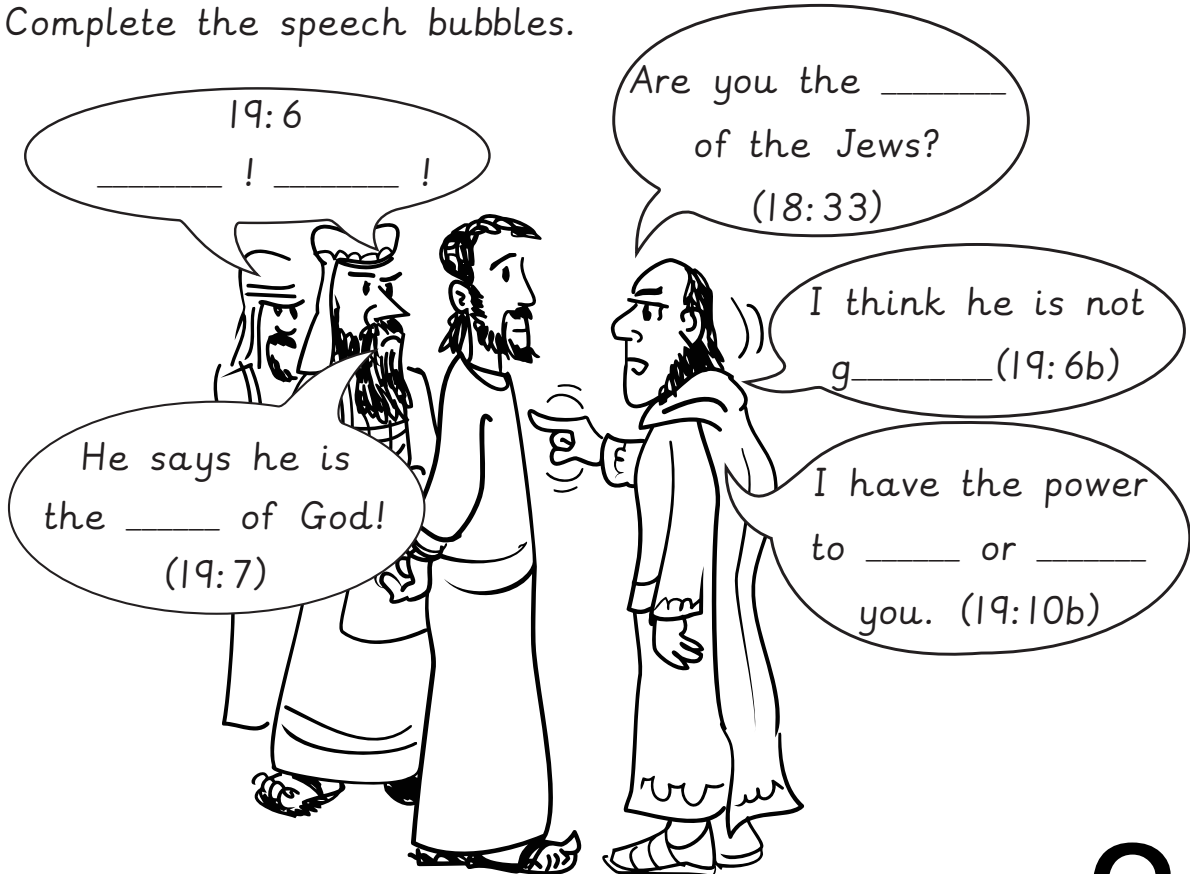


instead of Isaac,
Genesis 22:12-14

instead of the first born,
Exodus 12:3-7

THE REJECTED KING

The story can be found in John 18:28 - 19:42
Complete the speech bubbles.



Think?
Spot

How do we know that this is all part of
God's plan? (19:24, 28, 36, 37)

Who should have died instead of Jesus? (18:40)



DISCUSS?

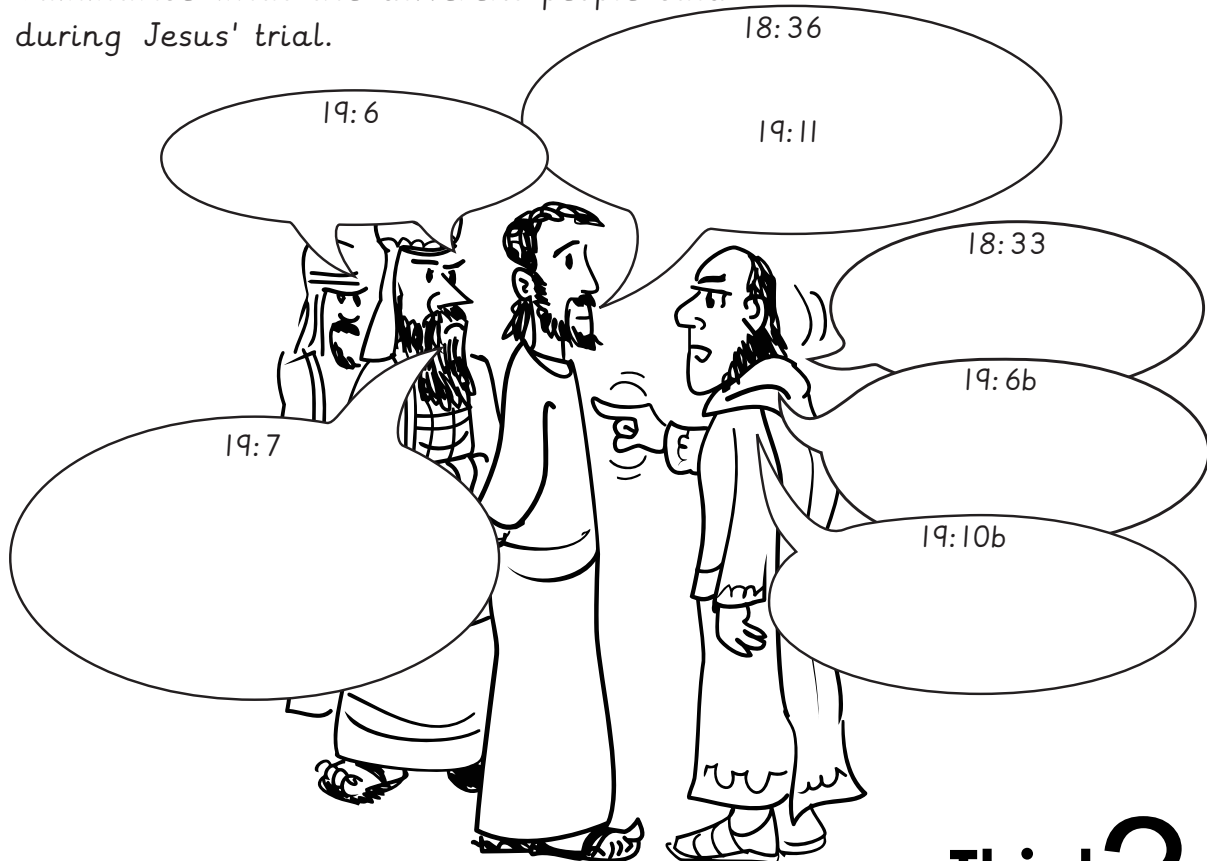
What happened to Barabbas
because Jesus died in his place?

How are we like Barabbas?

Did Jesus die in your place?

THE REJECTED KING

The story can be found in John 18:28 - 19:42
Summarise what the different people said
during Jesus' trial.



Think?
Spot

How do the following verses show that this was all part of God's plan? (19:24, 28, 36, 37)

Who should have died instead of Jesus? (18:40)

DISCUSS?

What does Jesus' death achieve that religion could never achieve?

In what way are we all like Barabbas even though we may not have done all the terrible things he did?

Have you trusted that Jesus' death was in your place?

