

## Jesus Gave His Life for Us: A *Play*

**Reader 1:** While Jesus was speaking to the apostles in the garden, Judas came with men armed with swords and clubs. Judas kissed Jesus as a sign that the men should capture him. They arrested Jesus, and the apostles ran away. Jesus was led to the high priest's house. There the high priest questioned Jesus.

**Jesus:** Why do you question me? Question those who heard me. They know what I have said.

**Reader 2:** One of the guards struck Jesus.

**Guard 1:** Is this the way you answer the high priest?

**Reader 3:** The guards made fun of Jesus. They blindfolded him, hit him, and mocked him.

**Guard 2:** Play the prophet! Tell us who it was that hit you!

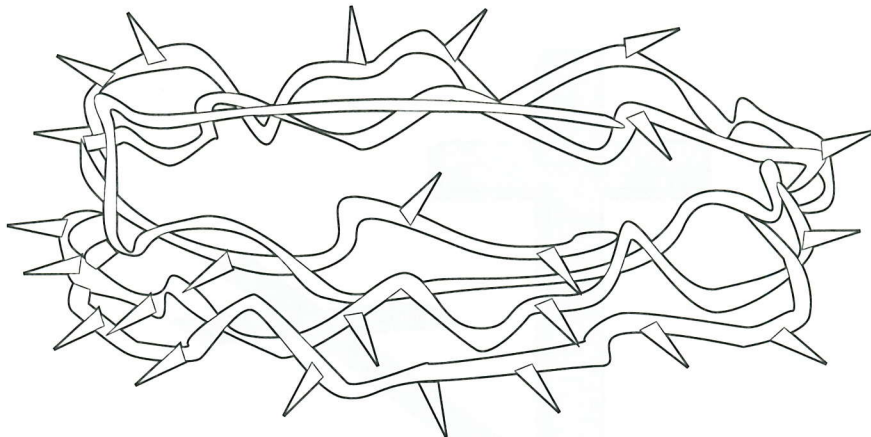
**Reader 4:** Jesus kept silent.

**Reader 5:** Early the next morning they bound Jesus and led him to Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor. The chief priests accused Jesus of many things, but Pilate had some doubts.

**Pilate:** This man has done nothing that deserves death! I will have him whipped and then let him go.

**Reader 6:** So Pilate ordered Jesus to be whipped. The soldiers made a crown of thorns and placed it on his head. They threw a cloak about his shoulders and placed a reed in his hand. They knelt before him and struck him on the head with the reed.

**Soldiers:** Hail, King of the Jews!



**Reader 7:** Then Pilate had Jesus brought before the crowd in the courtyard.

**Pilate:** Behold the man!

**Crowd:** Crucify him! Crucify him!

**Pilate:** Why? What crime has he committed?

**Reader 8:** Pilate feared that a riot would begin. He took water and washed his hands as a sign that he would have nothing to do with this case.

**Pilate:** I find no guilt in him.

**Reader 9:** But Pilate handed Jesus over to be crucified. They led Jesus outside the gates of Jerusalem to a place called Calvary. They crucified him there. The people who passed by kept making fun of him.

**People:** Ha! Save yourself, if you are the Son of God, and come down from that cross!

**Reader 10:** The chief priests and scribes also joined in and mocked him.

**Priests:** He saved others, but he cannot save himself! Let him come down from the cross now. Then we will believe in him!

**Reader 11:** At noon, darkness fell over the whole land. At three o'clock, Jesus cried out with a loud voice.

**Jesus:** It is finished! Father, into your hands I entrust my spirit!

**Reader 12:** Then Jesus bowed his head and died. When the centurion guarding Jesus saw how he died, he was amazed.

**Centurion:** Truly this man was the Son of God!

adapted from Mark 15:1–47; Luke 23:13–49; John 18:19–24; 19:5–6; Matthew 27:15–44

