An experience of some of the sights, sounds, and scents of the Passion of our Lord. You will find exhibits representing many of the scenes from the last hours of Christ's life here on earth. Draw closer to Christ as you meditate on the Easter Story... His love and sacrifice for you.

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Redlands Community Church Chapel 2327 Broadway Grand Junction, C0 81507 245-9020

> Good Friday 3:00 - 9:00 p.m.

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Experience the PassionWelcome

We're glad you've joined us today. You are invited to experience some of the sights, sounds, and scents of the Passion of our Lord. You will find exhibits representing many of the scenes from the last hours of Jesus' life here on earth. Some items will invite you to touch, some will invite you to smell, some just to look. Please feel free to linger a while and read about and meditate on what Jesus did...for you.

This program will guide you through each station. The following map (and helpful ushers) will help direct you through the chapel. An approximate timeline of events is at the back of this booklet. Feel free to keep this booklet for your own personal devotions or deeper study.

Rooms are available nearby if you would like to pray with a pastor or elder in private.

Thank you for coming.

Overview

The first parts you read provides a brief description of each station will give you some background information to put things in context.

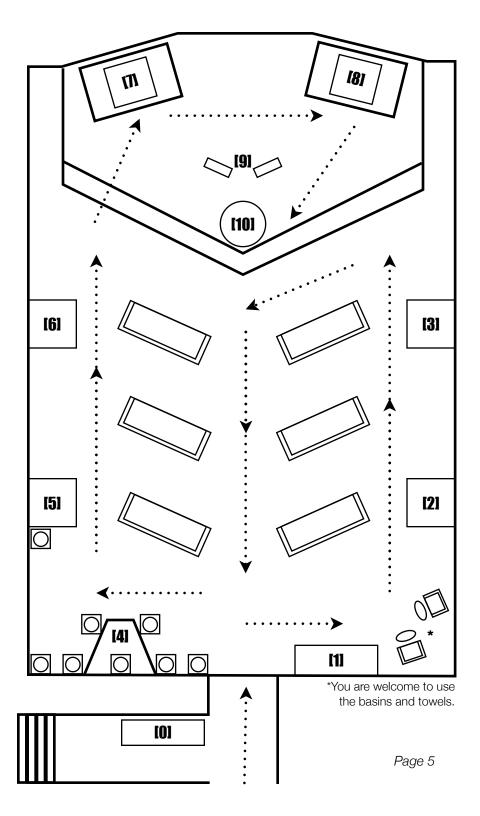
Several questions are listed to share with your children and to ponder yourself.

Following the questions will be some scripture passages¹ to read. This is the truth from God's Word and the details that are given help bring to life some of the objects you see.

Additional references:

There are extra scriptures to refer to on your own.

¹ Scripture quotations are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, © 1996, 2004, 2007 by Tyndale House Foundation.



[0] The Temple

What happened here?! The events leading up to the Passover brought Jesus into Jerusalem with some local pomp as He was hailed as King by the people. Later, in righteous anger, Jesus cleared the temple (again) of the money changers, reclaiming the temple for His Father.

The temple was the place where people from all over the world would come so that they could worship God. It was divided into four main parts: the holy of holies, which the high priest would go into once a year to make offering for the sins of Israel; the court of Jewish men; the court of Jewish women; and the court of the Gentiles, where all other non-Jewish people came to worship God. It was in this court of the Gentiles that the money changers and animal sellers had set up their booths. It was very noisy in this part of the temple.

> Would you be able to think about God and worship Him in such a noisy place?

What would you be watching? Smelling? Hearing?

Why would Jesus get upset at the animal sellers and money changers? Were they helping the non-Jewish people worship God?

The next day, the news that Jesus was on the way to Jerusalem swept through the city. A large crowd of Passover visitors took palm branches and went down the road to meet him. They shouted, "Praise God! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the LORD! Hail to the King of Israel!"

Jesus found a young donkey and rode on it, fulfilling the prophecy that said: "Don't be afraid, people of Jerusalem. Look, your King is coming, riding on a donkey's colt." (John 12:12-15)

When they arrived back in Jerusalem, Jesus entered the Temple and began to drive out the people buying and selling animals for sacrifices. He knocked over the tables of the money changers and the chairs of those selling doves, and he stopped everyone from using the Temple as a marketplace. He said to them, "The Scriptures declare, 'My Temple will be called a house of prayer for all nations,' but you have turned it into a den of thieves." (Mark 11:15-17)

Additional References: Luke 19:29-44, Matthew 21:1-13, Zechariah 9:9, John 2:13-22

[1] The Upper Room

Here you will find a Passover meal prepared. Jesus desired to have this meal with His disciples. It was here that He served the disciples in the washing of their feet, and instituted the communion we celebrate.

Be sure to try a sample of the Charoset (apples, raisins, honey, walnuts, spices). This part of the meal is meant to signify the mortar that was used by the Israelites when they were slaves in Egypt.

In Jesus' day when you entered a wealthy person's home they would have a slave who would wash the feet of the guests to make them clean after walking in the dusty, dirty streets.

As Jesus and His disciples entered the house for their Passover meal there was no one to wash their feet so they went up into the room for the meal with dirty, smelly feet. Jesus, seeing that no one would wash His feet or the others' feet, got up from the table and did it Himself. If you were with Jesus in the upper room would you have wanted to wash everyone else's smelly and dirty feet?

Why do you think no one else wanted to wash the feet?

What example did Jesus set for His followers when He washed the disciples' feet?

There are bowls and pitchers of water and chairs set up. Why not take a few moments and wash the feet of your brother, or sister, or mom, or dad?

How did it make you feel?

After washing everyone's feet they began the Passover meal. Passover had been celebrated in Israel since the days of Moses. Passover occurred when the Angel of Death passed over the houses that had the blood on the doorpost when God delivered Israel out of slavery in Egypt. The people who believed in God put the blood of a lamb on their doorpost and then cooked and ate the lamb. They ate the lamb and the rest of the meal dressed as though they were ready for a journey, a journey they would begin very early the next day.

Before the Passover celebration, Jesus knew that his hour had come to leave this world and return to his Father. He had loved his disciples during his ministry on earth, and now he loved them to the very end. It was time for supper, and the devil had already prompted Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had given him authority over everything and that he had come from God and would return to God. So he got up from the table, took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist, and poured water into a basin. Then he began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with the towel he had around him. ...

... After washing their feet, he put on his robe again and sat down and asked, "Do you understand what I was doing? You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and you are right, because that's what I am. And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other's feet. I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you. I tell you the truth, slaves are not greater than their master. Nor is the messenger more important than the one who sends the message. Now that you know these things, God will bless you for doing them."

(John 13:1-5, 12-17)

When the time came, Jesus and the apostles sat down together at the table.

As they were eating, Jesus took some bread and blessed it. Then he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, "Take this and eat it, for this is my body." And he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to God for it. He gave it to them and said, "Each of you drink from it, for this is my blood, which confirms the covenant between God and his people. It is poured out as a sacrifice to forgive the sins of many. Mark my words — I will not drink wine again until the day I drink it new with you in my Father's Kingdom." Then they sang a hymn and went out to the Mount of Olives. (Matthew 26:26-30)

Additional references: Mark 14:22-25, Luke 22: 14-20

[2] Judas, the betrayer

During the Passover meal, Judas left and went to the priests to betray Jesus (with a kiss, no less). Later, filled with grief, he hanged himself.

Did Judas have to kill Himself?

What could he have done instead?

Would God have forgiven Him?

Then Satan entered into Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve disciples, and he went to the leading priests and captains of the Temple guard to discuss the best way to betray Jesus to them. They were delighted, and they promised to give him money. So he agreed and began looking for an opportunity to betray Jesus so they could arrest him when the crowds weren't around. (Luke 22:3-6)

The traitor, Judas, had given them a prearranged signal: "You will know which one to arrest when I greet him with a kiss." So Judas came straight to Jesus. "Greetings, Rabbi!" he exclaimed and gave him the kiss. (Matthew 26:48-49) When Judas, who had betrayed him, realized that Jesus had been condemned to die, he was filled with remorse. So he took the thirty pieces of silver back to the leading priests and the elders. "I have sinned," he declared, "for I have betrayed an innocent man." "What do we care?" they retorted. "That's your problem."

Then Judas threw the silver coins down in the Temple and went out and hanged himself. (Matthew 27:3-5)

Additional references:

Matthew 26:14-16, Mark 14:10-11, Mark 14:43-46 Luke 22:47-48, Zechariah 11:12-13

[3] The Priests

The priests held a series of hasty "trials" so that they could find people who would say that Jesus was a criminal and that He deserved to die. After the "trials" (which were neither fair nor legal), the Jewish leaders and priests sent Jesus to the Roman leaders because only the Romans had the power to put someone to death.

Was it right for the Jewish leaders to hold illegal and unfair trials?

Jesus chose not to defend Himself, why did He make that choice?

Jesus said to his disciples, "As you know, Passover begins in two days, and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified."

At that same time the leading priests and elders were meeting at the residence of Caiaphas, the high priest, plotting how to capture Jesus secretly and kill him. "But not during the Passover celebration," they agreed, "or the people may riot." (Matthew 26:1b-5)

- So the soldiers, their commanding officer, and the Temple guards arrested Jesus and tied him up. First they took him to Annas, the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest at that time. Caiaphas was the one who had told the other Jewish leaders, "It's better that one man should die for the people." ...
- ... Inside, the high priest began asking Jesus about his followers and what he had been teaching them. Jesus replied, "Everyone knows what I teach. I have preached regularly in the synagogues and the Temple, where the people gather. I have not spoken in secret. Why are you asking me this question? Ask those who heard me. They know what I said."
- Then one of the Temple guards standing nearby slapped Jesus across the face. "Is that the way to answer the high priest?" he demanded.
- Jesus replied, "If I said anything wrong, you must prove it. But if I'm speaking the truth, why are you beating me?"
- Then Annas bound Jesus and sent him to Caiaphas, the high priest. (John 18:12-14,19-24)

- Then the people who had arrested Jesus led him to the home of Caiaphas, the high priest, where the teachers of religious law and the elders had gathered. Meanwhile, Peter followed him at a distance and came to the high priest's courtyard. He went in and sat with the guards and waited to see how it would all end.
- Inside, the leading priests and the entire high council were trying to find witnesses who would lie about Jesus, so they could put him to death. But even though they found many who agreed to give false witness, they could not use anyone's testimony. Finally, two men came forward who declared, "This man said, 'I am able to destroy the Temple of God and rebuild it in three days.'"
- Then the high priest stood up and said to Jesus, "Well, aren't you going to answer these charges? What do you have to say for yourself?" But Jesus remained silent. Then the high priest said to him, "I demand in the name of the living God—tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God."
- Jesus replied, "You have said it. And in the future you will see the Son of Man seated in the place of power at God's right hand and coming on the clouds of heaven."

- Then the high priest tore his clothing to show his horror and said, "Blasphemy! Why do we need other witnesses? You have all heard his blasphemy. What is your verdict?" "Guilty!" they shouted. "He deserves to die!"
- Then they began to spit in Jesus' face and beat him with their fists. And some slapped him, jeering, "Prophesy to us, you Messiah! Who hit you that time?" (Matthew 26:57-68)
- Jesus' trial before Caiaphas ended in the early hours of the morning. Then he was taken to the headquarters of the Roman governor. His accusers didn't go inside because it would defile them, and they wouldn't be allowed to celebrate the Passover. So Pilate, the governor, went out to them and asked, "What is your charge against this man?" (John 18:28-29)
- Very early in the morning the leading priests and the elders met again to lay plans for putting Jesus to death. Then they bound him, led him away, and took him to Pilate, the Roman governor." (Matthew 27:1-2)

[4] Pilate's Laver

Pilate, awoken early that morning, could find no reason to declare Jesus guilty of the charges that the Jewish leaders made up. He could find no way to release Jesus either. So he cleansed himself of the whole affair. Pilate used a laver, or wash basin, that he would dip his hands into as he made judgments in his palace or courts, to say that he *was not making* a ruling.

But even by doing this, he did make a ruling.

How did Jesus use a wash basin earlier in the tour?

How did Pilate's use of the basin differ from Jesus' use of a basin?

Who was Jesus thinking of? Who was Pilate thinking of?

Now Jesus was standing before Pilate, the Roman governor. "Are you the king of the Jews?" the governor asked him. Jesus replied, "You have said it."

But when the leading priests and the elders made their accusations against him, Jesus remained silent. "Don't you hear all these charges they are bringing against you?" Pilate demanded. But Jesus made no response to any of the charges, much to the governor's surprise.

Now it was the governor's custom each year during the Passover celebration to release one prisoner to the crowd—anyone they wanted. This year there was a notorious prisoner, a man named Barabbas. As the crowds gathered before Pilate's house that morning, he asked them, "Which one do you want me to release to you—Barabbas, or Jesus who is called the Messiah?" (He knew very well that the religious leaders had arrested Jesus out of envy.)

- Just then, as Pilate was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent him this message: "Leave that innocent man alone. I suffered through a terrible nightmare about him last night."
- Meanwhile, the leading priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas to be released and for Jesus to be put to death. So the governor asked again, "Which of these two do you want me to release to you?" The crowd shouted back, "Barabbas!"
- Pilate responded, "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" They shouted back, "Crucify him!"
- "Why?" Pilate demanded. "What crime has he committed?" But the mob roared even louder, "Crucify him!"
- Pilate saw that he wasn't getting anywhere and that a riot was developing. So he sent for a bowl of water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood. The responsibility is yours!"
- And all the people yelled back, "We will take responsibility for his death—we and our children!" (Matthew 27:11-25)

Additional references:

Mark 15:2-5, Luke 23:4-22, John 18:29-19:22

[5] The Flagrum

Pilate gave in to the mob's demands and turned Jesus over to the Romans soldiers to be scourged.

A flagrum was a multi stringed whip that had bits of bone and metal woven into it's ends. The goal of whipping (scourging) a person was not to kill them but instead to cause them much pain by tearing into their skin with the bits of bone and metal. Pilate had this done to Jesus when he thought Jesus was innocent and deserved to be set free.

> What kind of person does Pilate show himself to be? Do you ever do anything mean to someone who is smaller or weaker than you?

Then Pilate had Jesus flogged with a lead-tipped whip. (John 19:1)

Many were amazed when they saw him. His face was so disfigured he seemed hardly human, and from his appearance, one would scarcely know he was a man. (Isaiah 52:14)

Additional references: Matthew 27:26, Mark 15:15, Luke 18:31-33, Isaiah 53, Isaiah 50:6

[6] The Crown and Robe

The soldiers decided to make fun of Jesus and insult Him further by mocking Him as a king.

Have you ever been made fun of? How did you feel? Have you ever made fun of someone else?

The soldiers took Jesus into the courtyard of the governor's headquarters (called the Prætorium) and called out the entire regiment. They dressed him in a purple robe, and they wove thorn branches into a crown and put it on his head. Then they saluted him and taunted, "Hail! King of the Jews!" And they struck him on the head with a reed stick, spit on him, and dropped to their knees in mock worship. When they were finally tired of mocking him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him again. Then they led him away to be crucified. (Mark 15:16-20)

Additional references: Matthew 27:27-31, John 19:2-3

[7] The Crucifixion

After the cruel punishment, mockery, and stumbling through the streets of Jerusalem, Jesus was nailed to the cross and cursed.

Notice that one of the verses you are about to read was written by Moses over 1400 years before Jesus was born. These statements are called prophecies. God told writers of the Old Testament things that would happen in the future. Many of these things were about His Son, Jesus. As you go through the next few stops on the tour, you will be looking at some verses that were written at least 600 years before Jesus was born. This tells us that Jesus' birth, life, death, and resurrection was not an accident but rather it was the plan of God. God began carrying out this plan a very long time ago. There is a star (*) next to the verses that are from the Old Testament, written long before Jesus came to Earth.

> If you could know what was going to happen tomorrow, would you want to know? Would knowing change the way you live your life?

- Carrying the cross by himself, he went to the place called Place of the Skull (in Hebrew, Golgotha). There they nailed him to the cross. Two others were crucified with him, one on either side, with Jesus between them. And Pilate posted a sign over him that read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." The place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Hebrew, Latin, and Greek, so that many people could read it.
- Then the leading priests objected and said to Pilate, "Change it from 'The King of the Jews' to 'He said, I am King of the Jews.'"

Pilate replied, "No, what I have written, I have written." (John 19:17-22)

"If someone has committed a crime worthy of death and is executed and hung on a tree, the body must not remain hanging from the tree overnight. You must bury the body that same day, for anyone who is hung is cursed in the sight of God. In this way, you will prevent the defilement of the land the LORD your God is giving you as your special possession."

(Deuteronomy 21:22-23)*

Additional references: Matthew 27:32-37, Mark 15:21-32, Luke 23:33-38

[8] The Soldiers

The Roman soldiers fulfilled prophecies, the Lord thirsted, and it was finished.

Smell the sponge in the bowl. Does that smell like something good to drink?

Think about a chore at home that you have to do. When you're done, are you *really* done? Or do you have to do it tomorrow, too?

After they had nailed him to the cross, the soldiers gambled for his clothes by throwing dice." (Matthew 27:35)

They divide my garments among themselves and throw dice for my clothing. **(Psalm 22:18)***

At noon, darkness fell across the whole land until three o'clock. Then at three o'clock Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?"

Some of the bystanders misunderstood and thought he was calling for the prophet Elijah. One of them ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, holding it up to him on a reed stick so he could drink. "Wait!" he said. "Let's see whether Elijah comes to take him down!"

- Then Jesus uttered another loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.
- When the Roman officer who stood facing him saw how he had died, he exclaimed, "This man truly was the Son of God!" (Mark 15:33-39)
- It was the day of preparation, and the Jewish leaders didn't want the bodies hanging there the next day, which was the Sabbath (and a very special Sabbath. because it was the Passover). So they asked Pilate to hasten their deaths by ordering that their legs be broken. Then their bodies could be taken down. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the two men crucified with Jesus. But when they came to Jesus, they saw that he was already dead, so they didn't break his legs. One of the soldiers, however, pierced his side with a spear, and immediately blood and water flowed out. (This report is from an eyewitness giving an accurate account. He speaks the truth so that you also can believe.) These things happened in fulfillment of the Scriptures that say. "Not one of his bones will be broken," and "They will look on the one they pierced." (John 19:31-37)
- In fact, according to the law of Moses, nearly everything was purified with blood. For without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness. (Hebrews 9:22)

Additional references:

Mark 15:24, John 19:23-24, Matthew 27:45-54, Luke 23:44-48, John 19:28-30, Psalm 69:21*, Numbers 9:12*, Psalm 34:20*, Zechariah 12:10*, Psalm 22:14-17*

[9] Two Criminals

There were two others crucified that day, two criminals. One on His right, one on His left. One insulted and was mean to Jesus, the other rebuked the offender (finally). As he recognized Jesus and His power, he was offered eternal life.

Jesus went to the cross, suffered and bled, so that He could take your sins upon Himself. When Jesus takes your sins upon Himself, God is able to forgive you and offer you eternal life with Him.

Would you take the punishment for someone else's wrong actions?

Would you want to be beaten and made to bleed so another person could go free?

One of the criminals hanging beside him scoffed, "So you're the Messiah, are you? Prove it by saving yourself—and us, too, while you're at it!"

But the other criminal protested, "Don't you fear God even when you have been sentenced to die? We deserve to die for our crimes, but this man hasn't done anything wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom."

And Jesus replied, "I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise." (Luke 23:39-43)

Additional references: Isaiah 53:12*, Mark 15:32

[10] The Cross

Each of us is like one of those other criminals crucified with Jesus that day.

Everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. (Romans 3:23)

And that's the *real* test. When is comes right down to it, which criminal are you? How will you respond?

We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are [or what we have done]. (Romans 3:22)

Maybe you've made that step of faith in Jesus but there's something in your life that is hindering your walk with the Lord. Give it over to Jesus and allow Him to help you deal with it. You are invited to write a note to Jesus and nail it to the cross. Maybe you've never trusted in Jesus and now is the time that you would like pray to receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. Here is a suggested prayer:

Lord Jesus, I need You. Thank You for dying on the cross for my sins. I open the door of my life and receive You as my Savior and Lord. Thank You for forgiving my sins and giving me eternal life. Take control of, and sit on, the throne of my life. Make me the kind of person You want me to be. Amen.

If you've just prayed that prayer, maybe you'd like to just write your name on a note and nail it to the cross to signify your faith in Jesus. Also, please don't leave without speaking with one of the pastors or elders so we can rejoice with you and encourage you in your new life in Christ.

Epilogue

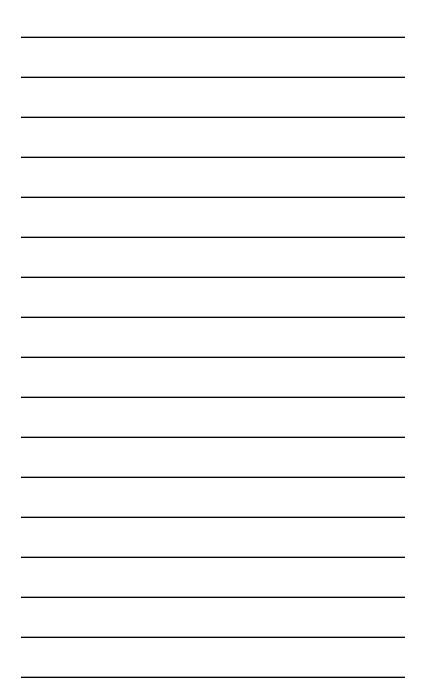
The story is not over, nor complete. On the third day, Jesus rose from the grave, just as He said He would. And He is coming again, just as He said He would.

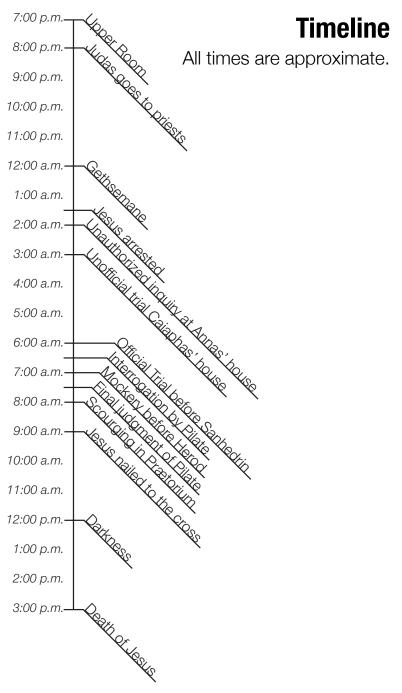
Please join us on the "third day" as we celebrate His resurrection and worship Him as we look forward to His returning...

Resurrection Services This Sunday 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Thanks

Many thanks are due to all who were involved in this presentation. Much time and resources were spent on making several of the items displayed here. Thank you for your dedication to the Lord and offering your service to Him. We have benefited too. God bless you.





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