

# Sunday School at Home - "I Am Pilate" – Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>

## For Younger Kids

**Activity:** Time to play the classic game "Hot Potato!". You can play with a potato if you like, but you can also use a **small pillow, soft children's toy, a small ball**, etc. Have someone start with the object you'll be using and set a timer for 30 seconds. As soon as the time starts, start tossing the object around! For the sake of not taking people out of the game, whoever has it last will stay in, but you can say they are "potato-ed" (and make up a dramatic story of how potato soup is dripping down all over their head☺)! Do this a couple times, and get a good amount of laughter going!

**Scripture:** Read Matthew 27:20-26. If your child can read, have them read it, or go around in a circle taking turns, reading it verse by verse.

**Lesson:** Before Jesus was brought to Pontius Pilate, quite a few other leaders tried to find Jesus guilty but couldn't, so they kept passing Him along. It's as if Jesus was the object you just passed around, and as soon as someone got Him, they'd say "I don't know what to do...you take Him!", and kept passing him off. *(Parents, you can illustrate this by taking your object, placing it in a child's hands and saying "Do you know what to do with Jesus?" and have them respond "Nope!", and continue doing this with as many kids as you have).* Once Jesus came to Pilate, Pilate wasn't quite sure what to do either. Pilate knew He hadn't done anything wrong, yet when he asked the crowd what to do, they all responded, "Crucify Him!" *(Have everyone repeat that a few times..."Crucify Him! Crucify Him!")*. Pilate ended up washing his hands, which showed people that whatever happened to Jesus would not be his fault *(have everyone mimic washing their hands)*. Pilate knew that Jesus wasn't guilty, but he didn't stand up for Jesus.

Have you ever done that...not stood up for someone? Maybe someone was saying unkind words to someone else, but you turned and looked the other way. Or maybe you saw something happen that you knew was wrong, but you didn't have the courage to say something. *Talk for a moment about different examples everyone can think of.* Just like Pilate didn't stand up for Jesus, we sometimes don't stand up for other people either. Even though Pilate didn't stand up for Jesus, Jesus wasn't offended by it, because he knew that He needed to die on the cross. Jesus' death was very sad, and very cruel too, but because of it, we have new life! Jesus death means that we are free from our sin and get to live forever with Him in heaven!

**Prayer** *(have kids repeat lines in between brackets):* [Dear Jesus], [thank you] [for dying on the cross] [and going through a painful death] [so that I can be free from sin]. [Help me] [to trust in you] [at all times]. [In Jesus' name I pray], [Amen].

## For Older Kids

**Scripture:** Read through Matthew 27:11-26 and think about these questions:

- 1) Why do you think Jesus stayed silent when chief priests and the elders were accusing Him in verse 12? And when Pilate asked him in verse 13-14?
- 2) Do you think you would have been someone in the crowd who said "crucify him!"? Why or why not?
- 3) How does it make you feel that Pilate didn't stand up for Jesus? Would you have stood up for Jesus?
- 4) What does it mean to you that Jesus endured an unfair trial and was sent to the cross for crimes that He didn't commit?

**Prayer:** The World & It's Leaders – Your Community – The Weak – Your Family – You