

Lesson: The Rulers (Characters of Easter Story)

Introduction: Rulers and leaders have a big job to do because many people depend on them. In Jesus' time, there were both good and bad leaders just like there are today. Today's lesson will teach us about leaders who made bad decisions about Jesus and how we can learn to make good decisions.

Read Mark 15:1-15 (A leader allows something bad to happen to Jesus.)

Discussion Questions:

1. Who are the rulers, or leaders? *(The religious leaders: chief priests, elders, teachers of the law, members of the Sanhedrin, and the governmental leader: Pilate.)*
2. Who makes the plans for Jesus? *(The religious leaders.)*
3. Who is in charge of punishing Jesus? *(Pilate, the governor.)*
4. What does he do? *(Hears the accusations against Jesus, questions Him, and lets the crowd decide on whether to release Jesus or Barabbas.)*
5. What do the religious, or church, leaders do? *(They stir up the crowd to ask for Barabbas' release and to crucify Jesus.)*
6. What does Pilate say? *(He questions their decision but ultimately grants their wish.)*
7. Which leaders used their power to do bad things? *(All of them!)*

Conclusion: Some rulers, or leaders, make bad decisions, but we should always try to do the right thing. God will help us obey Him even when leaders don't do what is right.

Read the following statements and ask the children to clap for the good sayings and "boo" the bad sayings:

1. "God is with me, and I can be a loving leader." *(CLAP)*
2. "Because I am a leader, I get to do whatever I want." *(BOO)*
3. "Everyone has to listen to me because I'm more important." *(BOO)*
4. "I will be kind to someone even when they are mean to me." *(CLAP)*
5. "Because I am a leader, it's my job to treat others with respect." *(CLAP)*
6. "I am the leader, and I don't care what other people think." *(BOO)*