

WEEK 1

CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS STUDIES

THIRD TERM SCHEME OF WORK FOR JSS 2 2019/2020

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WEEK 2

THE PASSION OF JESUS CHRIST

This refers to all the events of the last week of Jesus on earth. They are the events that brought about the suffering and death, of Jesus Christ.

These events are:

- The triumphant entry
- The last supper
- The betrayal and arrest
- The trials and denial by peter
- The crucifixion
- The death and burial of Christ

THE TRIUMPHANT ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM (Matthew 21: 1-11, Mk 11:1-11, Luke 19:28-44)

The triumphant entry means entry of Jesus into Jerusalem as a king. After Jesus ministry in Galilee. He decided to carry the gospel message to the religious capital of the Jews Jerusalem, with his disciple.

On their journey to Jerusalem, they travelled through Samaria and entered Jericho, from there they came to **Bethphage**, near the Mount of Olives. At Bethphage, Jesus sent **two** of his disciples to a near by village known as **Bethany** to bring a colt of an ass which had not been driven by anyone. If they were confronted by anyone, they should say that the master or lord had need of it and would send it back. The two disciples went and brought the colt to Jesus.

On arrival, some people spread their garments on the ass for Jesus to sit on it, others spread **palm fronds / leaves and their garments** on the road for Jesus to ride over with the colt. This was to show their love and honor to Jesus.

As Jesus moved on the colt slowly towards Jerusalem, the crowd who had gathered in Jerusalem at that period for the feast of Passover followed him shouting His praise.

“Hosanna, blessed is he who comes the in the name of the lord! Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is coming! Hosanna in the highest”.

However, some of the **Pharisees** among the crowd told Jesus to silence or caution his disciples and the crowd from shouting. But Jesus answered them, I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out.”

The Pharisees were Jealous the people recognised Jesus as the messiah during his triumphant entry.

IMPORTANT POINTS TO NOTE:

1. “Hosanna” is an old hebrew word meaning save now or ‘help’. It was used as a prayer to God for help and also a shout of triumph or victory. But later, it came to mean **“praise”**.
2. According to Matthew’s gospel, Jesus riding on the colt of an ass into Jerusalem fulfilled the prophecy of **Zechariah in** Zechariah 9:9. This state that the expected king would come mounted on an ass.
3. The gospel of **Luke** contains additional information of the account of triumphant entry;
Firstly: Jesus was placed on the colt when it was brought by the two disciples.
Secondly: The words uttered by Jesus followers were different in Luke. They said, “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord peace in heaven and glory in the highest”.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TRIUMPHANT ENTRY:

This great event shows the whole world that Jesus is the messiah of peace into the world. He had bring peace into the world. He had not come as a warrior and so did not ride on a horse which is a symbol of war and pride. Instead, he rode on the symbol of peace and humility Jesus is the prince of peace.

Christians all over the world celebrate the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem as Palm Sunday

WEEK 3

THE LAST SUPPER

(Matthew 26:17-30)

The last supper is the last mealjesus had with His disciples in Jerusalem before his death. It took place during the **Passover feast** which was a yearly event when the Jews celebrated their freedom from bondage or slavery in Egypt. The Passover feats usually last for **seven days**.

On that day, which was the first day of unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus and asked him, “where will you have us prepare for you to eat the passover?”.

Jesus said, "Go into city to a certain one and say to him, 'the teacher says, my time at hand; I will keep the passover at your house with my disciple'". The disciples did as Jesus directed them and prepared the passover.

AT evening, Jesus and his disciples gathered in the upper room for the last supper and as they were eating, He said, "Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me". They became very sorrowful and began to say to him one after another, "Is it I, Lord?"

Jesus said to them, "He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me, will betray me. The son of man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the son of man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born". Judas also asked "Is it I, master?" and Jesus said to him, "You have said so".

As they were eating, Judas also asked "Is it I, master?" and Jesus said to him, "You have said so".

Took bread and blessed it. He broke it and gave it to the disciples saying "Take, eat, this is my body". And he took a cup, and when he given thanks he gave it to them, saying, drink of it, all of covenant which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I shall not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my father's kingdom".

Finally, Jesus and His disciples sang a hymn to end the last supper after which they left for the **mount of olives**.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE LAST SUPPER

In the last supper, Jesus gave the passover a new meaning. It now signifies the spiritual liberation or freedom from sin for all who believe. It is no longer to remember when the Jews were set free from political bondage in Egypt.

The **Bread** represents the body of Christ which was broken at his death on the cross while the **wine** represents the Blood of the new covenant which he shed on the cross for the forgiveness of sins.

Therefore, the last Supper represents the sacrificial death of Christ on the cross which saves us from our sins.

Christians all over the world celebrate the last supper from time to time as **Holy communion or the Eucharist**.

As we celebrate the Holy Communion, we have fellowship with Jesus Christ and with one another.

THE BETRAYAL AND ARREST OF JESUS CHRIST **(Matthew 26A: 47-58, Mark 14:26-52)**

When Jesus and his disciples got to the mount of olives after the last supper, Jesus told them; “You will all fall away, for it is written, I will stricke the shepherd and the sheep will be scattered, but after I am raised up I will go before you to Galilee”. Peter siad to him “though they all fall way, I will not”. Jesus said to him “Truly, I say to you this very night, before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times. But peter said to him, Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you. And all the disciples said the same.

On getting to a place known as **Gethsamane**, Jesus said to the disciples, “sit here, while I go yonder and pray”. He then took with him peter, james and john and went a little furhter to pray. He was greatly distressed and troubled and he said to them “My soul is very sorrowful even to death, remain here and watch with me”.

Jesus left them and went up to pray saying, “Abba, Father, all things are possible with thee, remove this cup from me, yet not what I will, but let your will be done”.

After a while, Jesus came to his three disciples and found them sleeping and he said to peter, “so, could you not watch with me for **one hour**. Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation, the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak”.

Jesus went back and prayed on two more occasions and when he came back, he still met the three disciples sleeping.

He disclosed to them that the hour is at hand and the son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.

Judas Iscariot (the traitor) had already made an arrangement and collected 30 pieces of silver to lead the enemies of Jesus to him . Jesus was still speaking when judas came in the company of a grat crowd with sword and clubs to arrest with Jesus.

Judas came to Jesus and said, “Hail, master and kissed him. Immediately, the crowd arrested Jesus. Peter brouht out his sword at once and cut off the ear of the servant of the high priest. But Jesus ordered peter to put back his sword into the sheat, for all how take the sword will perish by the sword. Jesus stated that his arrest was to fulfil Gods purpose in the scriptures.

All the disciples left Jesus and fled but a young man known as John Mark followed him and was almost arrested.

Those who arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas (the high priest) where the scribes and elders had gathered. But Peter followed him at a safe distance to see what they would do with Jesus.

WEEK 4

THE TRIAL OF JESUS CHRIST AND PETER'S DENIAL

(MATTHEW 26:59-68, 69-75)

After the arrest of Jesus by the soldiers, He was taken to the house of Caiaphas the high priest, before the Jewish council known as the Sanhedrin for trial. The council is made up of the scribes, the Pharisees, the elders with the high priest as the presiding officer.

Many false witnesses came to give false accusations against Jesus but there was no evidence to support their claims. At last, two false witnesses came forward and said, "This fellow said, I am able to build it in three days".

Jesus did not respond to any of these charges because they were false.

The high priest then asked him whether he was the Christ, the son of God and Jesus answered "You have said so. But I tell you, hereafter, you will see the son of man seated at the right hand of power and coming on the clouds of heaven",

Then the high priest was very angry and tore his robes saying, "He has uttered blasphemy, Why do we still need witnesses?" He then asked the crowd their own judgment and they all said; "He deserves to die.

As soon as they condemned Jesus to death, the crowd spat on his face, they struck him, some us, you Christ, who is it that struck you?"

PETER'S DENIAL: (Matt 26:69-75)

As the trial was going on, Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard of the high priest. He was sitting near the fire together with the guards, warming himself.

Then a maid of the high priest came to Peter and said, "You also were with Jesus the Galilean". But Peter denied it saying, "I do not know what you mean."

When Peter went outside to the gate, another maid saw him and said to the bystanders, "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth".

And again Peter denied it an **Oath** saying, "I do not know the man".

After a while, the bystanders came up and said to Peter, "Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you".

Again Peter began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear saying, "I do not know the man".

And immediately, the cock crowed and Peter remembered the saying of Jesus, "Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times". And he went out and wept bitterly.

Note: This was not the end of Jesus' trial. He was also tried before Governor Pontius Pilate and also King Herod. From Herod he was sent back to Pilate where Pilate condemned him to death.

INSTANCES THAT COULD LEAD CHRISTIANS TO DENY CHRIST AND THEIR NEIGHBOUR

1. Fear of failure in examination
2. False swearing or oath-taking
3. Financial problems
4. Failure to speak the truth for fear of punishment
5. Quest for university education or degree.
6. Telling lies to get some favours.
7. Failure to defend Christian faith.
8. Murder of loved ones
9. Facing serious sickness
10. Quest to get rich quick.

WEEK 5

THE DEATH AND BURIAL OF JESUS CHRIST

THE CRUCIFIXION: (Matthew 27:32-44)

After the Sanhedrin declared Jesus worthy of death, Pilate on his own side even though he found no fault in Jesus, delivered him to be crucified in order to please the Jews. Immediately, the soldiers led Jesus away to be crucified they compelled Jesus to carry a heavy cross to Golgotha (the place of skull) for crucifixion along the way Jesus was tired and could no longer carry the

cross. The soldiers saw a passer – by known as **Simon of Cyrene** and forced him to help Jesus carry the heavy cross.

At Golgotha, the soldiers gave Jesus wine mixed with gall to drink but when he tasted it, he could not drink it. Later, they crucified Jesus, nailing him on the cross between two thieves. The soldiers divided his garments among them by casting lots. On top of the cross, they placed an inscription of the charge against him which states, “This is Jesus the king of the Jews”.

While on the cross, the passerby mocked him saying, “Aha, you who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself and come down from the cross”.

Also the priests and scribes mocked him saying, “He saved others, he cannot save himself let the Christ, king of Israel come down no from the cross that we may see and believe”.

Even one of the robbers on his left side mocked him by telling him to save himself and also save them, if he was the Christ. But the robber on the right hand side rebuked his co-robber saying that they were suffering for the crimes they committed but Jesus committed no crime worthy of his suffering. Then he turned to Jesus and told him to remember him in his kingdom Jesus immediately promised him, “Today you will be with me in paradise”.

SEVEN WORDS OF JESUS ON THE CROSS

1. “Eli, Eli, Lama Sabachthani” which means “my God, my God, why has thou forsaken me”. (Matt 27:46)
2. “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do”. (Luke 23:43).
3. “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise” (Luke 23:43).
4. “Woman, behold your son, son behold your mother” (John 19:26& 27).
5. “I thirst” (John 19:28).
6. “Father into thy hands I commit my spirit” (Luke 23:46).
7. “It is finished” (John 19:30).

WEEK SIX THE DEATH OF JESUS CHRIST (Matt 27:45-56)

The crucifixion of Jesus Christ took place at about the third hour of the day (9:00amm) and Jesus was on the cross for three hours.

By the 6th hour (12noon), there was total darkness all over the land which lasted till the 9th hour (3pm) for three hours, Jesus then cried with a loud voice, “Eloi-Eloi, lama sabacthani?” this means, “my God, my God, why has thou forsaken me”. Some of the Jews around though he was calling o Elijah to come and save Him. One person for the crowd ran, filled a sponge with vinegar and gave him to drink.

Later, Jesus cried again with a louder voice saying the same word and he died on the cross. Immediately Jesus died, the curtain of the temple was torn into two from topto bottom. There was a great earth quake which shook the whole place. The rocks split apart and some to tombs were opened. May dead bodies of the saints came back to life and after his resurrection they went to the holy city and appeared to many.

When the centurion and other soldiers with him who were keeping watch over Him saw all these, they said, “Truly, this man was the son of God”.

Others people who witnessed the wonderful events were, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and John and he mother of sons of Zebedee. These women stood afar, watching, crying and wailing at the sufferings Jesus passed through on the cross.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE DEATH OF JESUS

1. Jesus atoned for our sins by His death.
2. His blood which He shed on the cross is to wash way our sins and save us from the consequences of sin.
3. God used the blood of Jesusto establish the new covenant.

THE BURIAL OF JESUS

(Matt 27:57-61)

The same evening that Jesus died on the cross, Joseph of Arimathea went to Governor **Pilate** and demanded for the body of Jesus so as to bury him. Joseph was a rich man and a member of the secret disciple of Jesus and was not in support of His death.

Pilate agreed to his request and he took Jesus body from the cross and wrapped it with clean linen cloth.

He took the body and laid it in his (Joseph) new grave which no dead person had been laid. This shows that his grave was not contaminated with decay.

He rolled a large stone against the entrance of the tomb. Some women disciples like Mary the mother of Jesus, Mary Magdalene and other friends witnessed the burial of Jesus.

WEEK 8

THE RESURRECTION AND APPEARANCES OF JESUS CHRIST

After the death and burial of Jesus Christ, He rose up from the dead on the first day of the new week. He appeared to many people both in Jerusalem and Galilee within a period of 40 (forty) days before His Ascension into heaven.

A. THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST: (Matt 28:1-10, Mk 16:1-8, Luke 24:1-13).

Resurrection generally means the act of rising from the dead. For Christians, it is the act of coming back to life after death, to die no more.

By Jesus resurrection, He completed the work of salvation. He died for our sins and rose for our justification.

According to Matthew's gospel, after the Sabbath, early in the morning of the first day of the week, **Mary Magdalene** and the **other Mary** went to the tomb of Jesus; they took spice with them to anoint the body of Jesus. As they were going, they thought of who would help them to roll away the heavy stone used to cover the tomb.

But already, there was a great earthquake as an angel of God came down from heaven to roll away the stone and sit upon it. The angel's appearance was like a **lightening** and his garment as **as white as snow**. For fear of the angel, the soldiers sent to guard the tomb fell on their faces and became like dead men.

The women got to the tomb and saw that the stone had been rolled away with an angel sitting on it. They were afraid but the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen he is not here; see the place where they laid him but go tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee, there you will meet him, as he has told you.

The women departed from the tomb with fear and with great joy to tell the disciples.

As they went, Jesus appeared to them and said; “Hail” they took hold of His feet and worshipped Him. He told them not to be afraid but go and tell other disciples to go to Galilee where they would see Him.

As soon as the women told the disciples that Jesus had resurrected, **Peter** and **John** ran to the tomb to see for themselves. On getting there, they went inside the tomb, saw the linen cloth that was used to wrap the body of Jesus, but they did not see the body of Jesus. This convinced them that Jesus had risen from the dead, and is alive again.

IMPORTANT POINT TO NOTE:

In Mark’s gospel the women that went to the tomb were; Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Salome.

2. In Luke’s gospel, the women were Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and other women with them.

Again Luke recorded that these women saw two men in dazzling or shining garments who asked them a question “why do you seek the living among the dead”

Further more in Luke, when the women gave the resurrection message to the disciples, their words seemed to them like idle tales and they did not believe them.

4. The resurrection of Jesus is celebrated by Christians all over the world as Easter.

THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE RESURRECTION STORY OF JESUS.

These were the women disciples of Jesus who played prominent role in the resurrection story of Jesus. They were; Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Salome.

1. These women went to the tomb to anoint the body of Jesus with spices, but discovered that the tomb was empty. So they were the first to know and see the empty tomb.
2. They were the first to know of Jesus resurrection and see Jesus face to face.
3. They were the people who gave the news of Jesus resurrection to Peter and other disciples.
4. These women were given the message to tell the apostles to meet Jesus in Galilee.

THE SIGNIFICENCE OF THE RESURRECTION:

1. The Resurrection of Jesus from the dead shows Jesus power over death.
2. Jesus victory over death is Christian's hope for eternal life.
3. It also shows that Jesus, as God has control over life and death. He said "I am the resurrection and life".
4. Resurrection is a sign that the power that raised Jesus from the dead will raised every true believer from death of the second coming of Christ.
5. Jesus resurrection was on the first day of the week being Sunday thereby making Sunday the Christian day of worship.

WEEK 9

THE APPEARANCES OF JESUS CHRIST AFTER RESURRECTION

After the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, He showed himself alive to many people both in **JERUSALEM** and **GALILEE** within a period of **FORTY DAYS**.

The appearance of Jesus is the proof of his resurrection.

We shall consider the story of Jesus appearances as recorded by the four gospel; Mathew, Mark Luke and John.

JESUS APPRARANCES INMATHEW'S GOSPEL (MATHEW 28:8-15, MALT 28 16-20)

After the Angel's message to the two women who went to the tomb, they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy. As they ran to tell the other disciples of their experience and said "Hail". The women drew near to him, held his feet and worshipped him. Jesus said to them; "Do not be afraid go and tell my brothers/disciples to go to Galilee, there they will see me".

As the women were on their way, some of the guards at the tomb went into the city and reported everything that happened to the **chief priests**.

The chief priests met with the elders and soldiers or guards with a large sum of money and told them to say; "His disciples came in the night and stole His body away while you were sleeping".

The soldiers did as they were instructed and such story was widely circulated all over the places among the Jews.

2. JESUS APPEARANCE TO ELEVEN DISCIPLES AND THE GREAT COMMISSION :((MATHEW 28:16-20)

Mathew reported that Jesus also appeared to the **ELEVEN DISCIPLES** who went to the mountain at Galilee to meet Him.

When they met Him, some of them believed and worshipped Him while others doubted. Jesus gave them the “All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the father, and the son and of the Holy spirit teaching them to observe all I have commanded you; and 10, I am with you always, to the close of the ages”.

This authority to go and preach to all nations is called the **GREAT COMMISSION**.

B. JESUS APPEARANCES IN MARK’S GOSPEL (MARK 16:9-18)

1. Mark recorded that when Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, He **FIRST** appeared to **MARY MAGDALENE** from whom He cast out seven demons.

She went to tell the disciples but they did not believe her.

1. Secondly, Jesus appeared to two of His disciples as they walked into the country. They went to tell the other disciples and again, they did not believe them.
2. Later, Jesus appeared to the Eleven disciples as they were eating. He rebuked them for their unbelief and refusal to believe their report of those who had seen Him earlier.

He also gave them the Great commission and the signs that will follow them He said to them; “in my name they will cast out demons. They will speak in new tongues. They will pick up serpent, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not harm them. They shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.”

C. JESUS APPEARANCES IN LUKE’S GOSPEL (LUKE 24:13-49)

1. On the first day of the week, two of the disciples were going to a village called **EMMAUS**, about seven miles from Jerusalem. As they went, they discussed about all that happened to Jesus.

Jesus joined them and walked along with them, but they did not recognize Him. Jesus asked them what they were discussing that made their faces sad. One of them called **CLEOPAS** asked Him,

“Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who do not know the things that have happened there in those days “

They began to tell Jesus about how the messiah suffered, was crucified and rose from the dead on the third day. Jesus rebuked them for being slow of heart to believe all that the prophets and scriptures had spoken about Christ.

When they got to Emmaus, they pleaded with Jesus to come and dine with them. At the table, Jesus took the bread and blessed it. He broke it and immediately, their eyes were opened and they recognized that it was Jesus. Suddenly Jesus disappeared from them and due to their excitement, the two men rushed back to Jerusalem that same evening where they informed the ELEVEN DISCIPLES AND THOSE WITH THEM about their experiences.

2. As the two men narrated their story to eleven disciples and the rest Jesus appeared to them and said peace be to you they became afraid thinking it was a ghost or spirit. But Jesus calmed them down by saying; “Why are you so troubled, and why do you question in your hearts see my hands and my feet that it is I myself, handle me and see for a spirit had not flesh and bones as you see that I have”.

When they did not believe it due to joy and amazement, He collected a piece of BOILED FISH from them and ate it in their presence. He expanded the scriptures to them and instructed them to remain in Jerusalem until they are clothed with power from on high.

D. JESUS APPEARANCES IN JOHN’S GOSPEL: (JOHN 20:19-23, JN 20:24-29, JN 21:1-14)

1. In the evening of the same day that Jesus resurrected, He appeared to His disciples apart from Thomas they were in a house with the doors shut due to the fear of the Jews. He said to them; “peace be with you” and showed them His hands and feet. He gave them the great commission and breathed on them saying;”Receive the holy spirit.

Thomas was not there and did not believe the other disciples, insisting that he must see and touch the nail prints on His hands and feet before he would believe.

2. Thus, eight days later, Jesus appeared to all the disciples again as they were in the house and said; “peace be with you”. He turned to Thomas and told him to put his finger in his hands and side. He told Thomas to stop doubting and believe. Thomas then said, “My lord and my God”

House and said; “peace be with you “. He told Thomas then said; “my lord and my god”

3. Jesus also appeared to SEVEN disciples by the sea of tiberias

. They went with peter to fish and toiled all night without catching any fish. In the morning, Jesus appeared and performed a miracle which made them to catch many fish. He also gave them bread and fish for breakfast. Those disciples were; Simon peter, Thomas, Nathaniel, James, John the sons of Zebedee and two others.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE APPEARANCES OF THE RISEN CHRIST

- 1) It is a proof of His resurrection.
- 2) To strengthen the faith and hope of the disciples.
- 3) The disciples were encouraged to rededicate their lives to the service of Jesus Christ.
- 4) It proved that Jesus is the messiah and should be worshipped
- 5) The appearance cancelled the lies of the chief priests and elders that the disciples stole the body of Jesus.
- 6) It shows that Jesus still has power to perform miracles.