

THE CHARACTERS OF EASTER THE SOLDIER

Jesus and the Soldiers (Puzzle)

MEMORY WORK

“Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven.” Matthew 5:10 NIV

Introduction:

The Soldiers played a major role in Christ’s death and resurrection. Even though they witnessed these events, they failed to recognize the significance of Jesus’ actions. In today’s lesson, we will learn how the soldiers completely missed the opportunity to acknowledge Jesus as Lord and even deliberately ignored the God-given proofs of His sovereignty.

Read John 19:1-3, 16-24 (The soldiers witness Christ’s death.)

Discussion Questions:

1. How is Jesus treated, and what does he wear? (*He is flogged/beaten and wears a crown of thorns and purple robe.*)
2. How do the soldiers treat Him? (*They mock and slap Him.*)
3. How many people are crucified with Jesus? (*Two.*)
4. What does the sign above Jesus say? (*“Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews.”*)
5. Why do some people disagree with the sign? (*Because they don’t recognize Jesus as King of the Jews.*)
6. What do the soldiers do to Jesus’ clothes? (*They remove everything but His undergarment, divide it into four shares, and cast lots.*)

Read Matthew 28:1-7, 11-15 (The soldiers witness the message of Christ’s resurrection.)

Discussion Questions:

1. Who goes to look at Jesus’ tomb? (*Mary Magdalene and the other Mary.*)
2. Why is there an earthquake? (*Because the angel of the Lord comes down!*)
3. How do the soldiers react? (*They are afraid, they shake, and “become like dead.”*)
4. What is the message to the women? (*Do not be afraid, Jesus is not here; he has risen, go tell His disciples, etc.*)
5. Who do the soldiers tell about the event? (*The chief priests.*)
6. What false plan is created? (*The soldiers are told to lie about Jesus’ resurrection and say the disciples stole His body. They also receive money, or bribes.*)

Conclusion: We learn from the soldiers’ part in Jesus’ crucifixion and resurrection that we can completely miss what God is doing if we are preoccupied or motivated by selfishness. The soldiers’ actions did not stop or alter God’s plan of salvation. We understand that God is always in control even when others mock us, hurt us, and try to keep us from obeying Him.

APPLICATION

Read an age-appropriate current event news story regarding Christian persecution. Help the children understand that the type of persecution used toward Jesus (barbaric, evil, treacherous, and unfair) was also used toward many of His disciples and continues to be used in certain parts of the world today. Take a moment to pray for Christians around the world who face such persecution – that God would give them the strength and comfort they need to continue following Him.

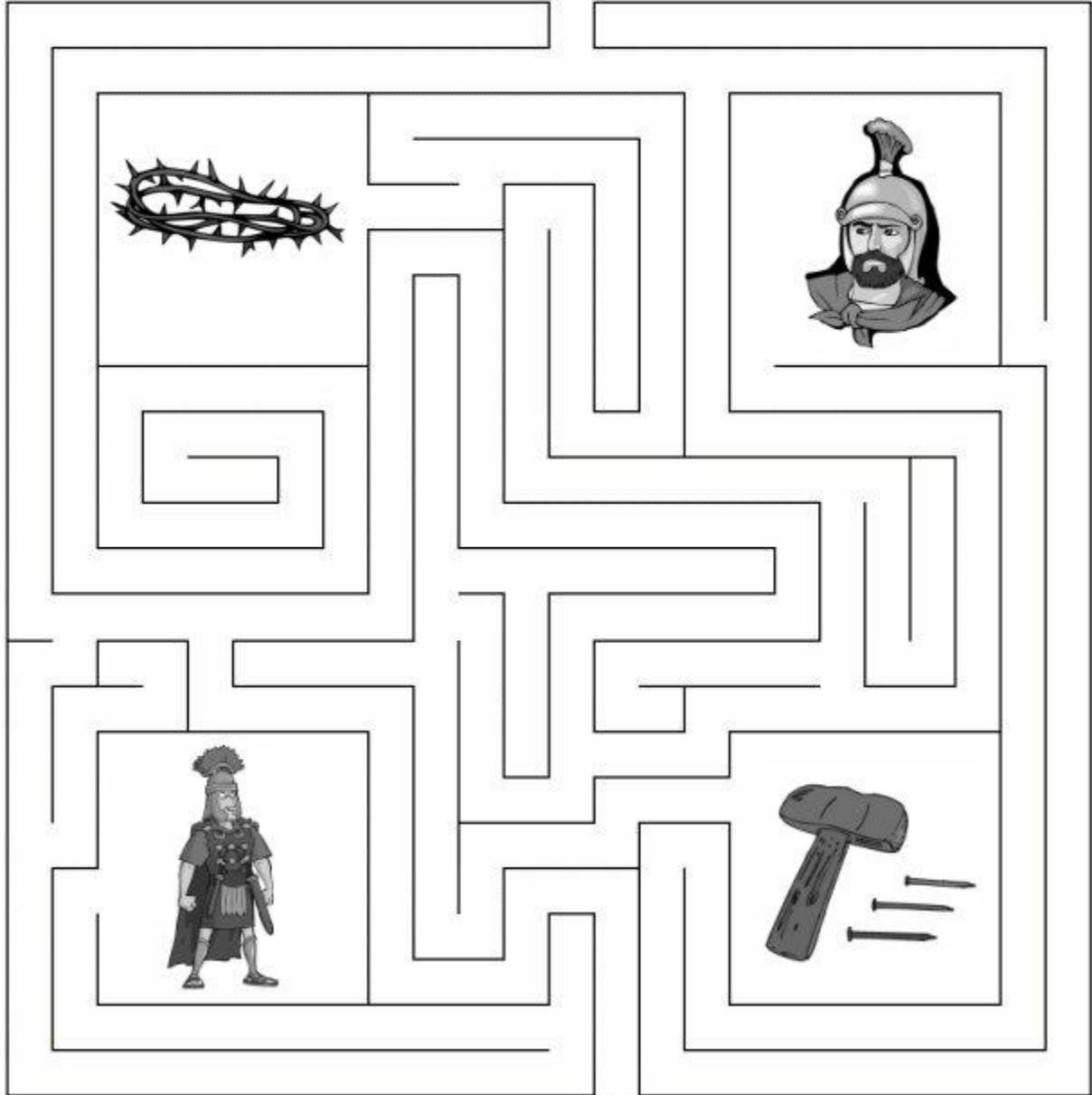
NEXT WEEK

Come back next week to learn about the most important character of Easter.

Jesus and the Soldiers



Start



Finish