

Listen to my voice

John 18.33-37

This is an account of what happened on the morning after Jesus was arrested. Pilate focuses on laws while Jesus focuses on living in the truth and being part of community, and makes it clear that he has come to make the truth known.

Now read **John 18.33-37** see p.2 for text.

A note on the passage

What is truth and where do we find it? We hear many promises in the media about so many things but are they always true? How do we work out what truth is and how to live it out in our lives?

Write

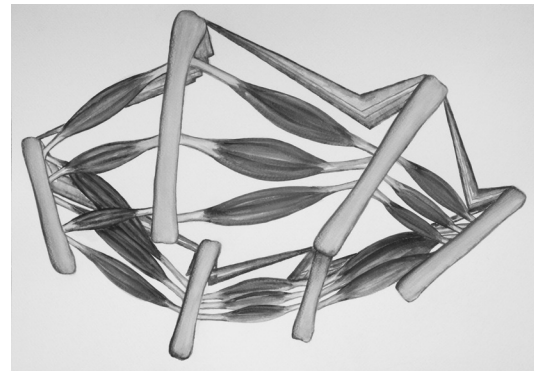
Write the word 'TRUTH' in large letters down the centre of a piece of paper. Write the word 'TRUST' across the paper using the 'U' as the centre of both words. In each corner or quadrant write one Bible truth. You could use an internet search to help you. Here are some examples (based on the CEV): Nothing will separate us from the love of God (see Romans 8.39); God will never leave us (Deuteronomy 31.6); God wants us to have the best life possible (John 10.10). Each day, read your truths and ask God to help you always trust in the truth.

ACROSTIC

Make an acrostic using the word TRUTH. That is, write the word down vertically, then use each letter to write something else that will help you remember to look to the Bible for words of truth. Here is an example (if you are not sure about how to do this, start with this and change it bit by bit):

Trust God's word
Rely on God to guide you
Understand that God loves everyone
Take time to be with God
Help others to hear the truth

Keep it somewhere where you can see it as a daily reminder.



This painting is called 'Crown' – how might it help us think about the beauty of what is hidden?

STONES

Jesus said, 'I am the way and the truth and the life' (John 14.6). Find three smooth stones (e.g. from the park or your garden). Paint, or use permanent pens to write, one word on each stone: way, truth, life. As you do so, think about what Jesus' words mean for you, and how what he says influences your life each day. Put your stones somewhere – inside or outside – where you will see them from time to time, as a reminder to follow the way of Jesus.

TRUE OR FALSE?

Which of these statements are true? Penguins sleep with one eye open. The planet Mercury is bigger than Jupiter. Giraffes can't swim. Use the internet to find the right answers. Use it again to find out three fun facts about something of interest to you. Some truths are easy to find out. Some are more difficult. How do we know what is true from what we are told? Can you think of something you have been told which turned out not to be true? How did you feel when you found out? How important is it to you that people tell the truth?

LISTEN

Look around your home. How many things 'speak' to you in some way? There are so many things that do, so many voices that can influence our daily lives. How do we know where to find truth? Who or what do you listen to in your life? For a while – e.g. two minutes – turn off everything that might be speaking to you. Sit in silence (on your own or with others). How does it feel? What are you aware of that you couldn't hear before? Does it seem like a long time? Repeat this a few times during the week, and ask God to help you to listen for his voice.

Choose a version of the passage to read. The first is the ROOTS version for children, the second is the NRSV text which may be suitable for older children, young people and adults.



Jesus was arrested and taken to a Jewish court. They decided to send him to the Roman rulers, because only the Romans could sentence someone to death. Pontius Pilate was the leader in charge.

Pilate was worried that Jesus wanted to be the king and would get rid of the Romans from the land of Judea. Pilate tested Jesus by asking him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?'

Jesus answered, 'Is that your own question? Or did somebody else tell you to ask me this?'

Pilate replied, 'I am not a Jew and so I am not interested in Jewish ideas. Your own people and your own chief priests have handed you over as a prisoner to me. Now, what is it that you have done wrong?'

Jesus answered, 'My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to stop me from being handed over as a prisoner. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.' Pilate asked him, 'So you are a king?' Jesus answered, 'You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to speak up for the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.'

John 18.33-37

Did you know?

- Pontius Pilate was a Roman governor, in charge of the province of Judea from AD 26 to 36.
- When Jesus says, 'kingdom', he doesn't mean a place, but the power of God's love in people's lives.

John 18.33-37 (NRSV)

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' Jesus answered, 'Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?' Pilate replied, 'I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?' Jesus answered, 'My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed

over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.' Pilate asked him, 'So you are a king?' Jesus answered, 'You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.'