

# 33 Jesus' Passion

## Goal

To create a round robin prayer thanking God for Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.

## Gather

- › Bibles
- › Copy machine
- › Paper
- › Pencils or pens
- › Resource sheet:
  - › 11 x 3 = 33 Crossword Puzzle

## Advance Preparation

- › Make a copy of the resource sheet for each participant.

## Guide

Most people think that Jesus was 33 at the time of his death. Since Jesus began his earthly ministry at the age of thirty, and it continued for three years (Luke 13:7), that would mean that Jesus was 33 at the time that he died, was buried, and arose from the grave, victorious over sin and death. For that reason, the number 33 is connected with this prayer lesson.

Begin by distributing a crossword puzzle sheet and a pencil or pen to each student. Challenge the group to answer 11 questions about Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. Note that all of the questions and answers focus on the number three:  $11 \times 3 = 33$ ! Pass out Bibles so the participants may look up Scripture references if they have questions about the answers.

Once the crossword puzzles are solved review the answers.

Gather the participants and ask them to sit in a circle on the floor or on chairs. Invite the students to use the ideas in the questions and answers to create a round robin prayer thanking God for Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. Explain that Round Robin is a cooperative method of telling a story. In this lesson, it is used as a cooperative method of constructing a prayer. In a Round Robin, each participant adds a certain number of words to a sentence or statement. In this case, each person will have an opportunity, in turn, to add three words to a prayer. Begin the prayer for the group with three words, such as "Thank You, God...."

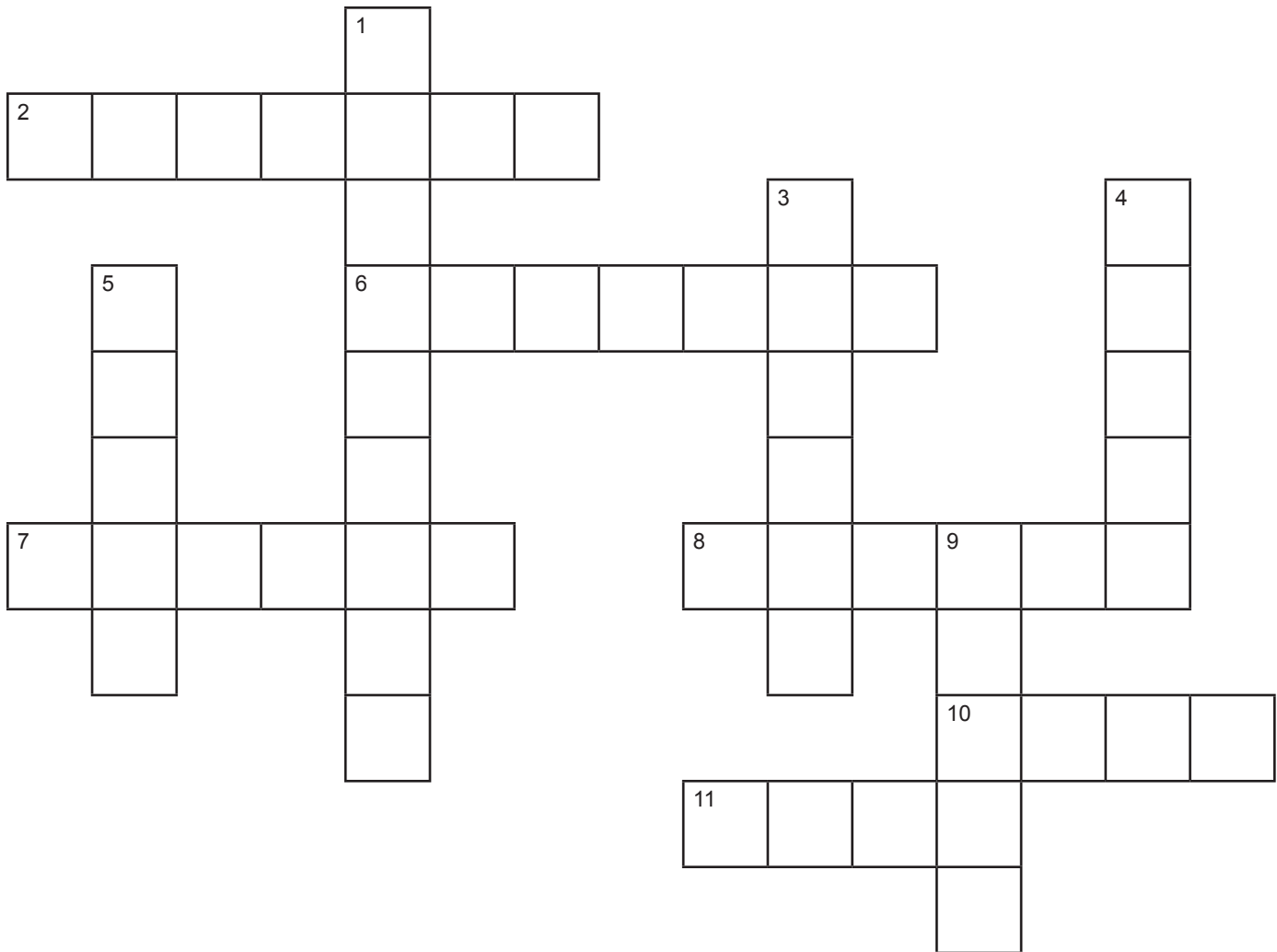
Go around the circle and provide an opportunity, as well as cues and encouragement, for each participant to contribute to the prayer. It might be helpful to structure the activity by introducing new themes such as Jesus' life, ministry, crucifixion, and resurrection. Continue until the prayer seems to be concluded or until the students run out of ideas. End the prayer with a summarizing sentence such as "We love you," or the word "Amen."

Challenge the group to continue to thank God for Jesus' life, death, and resurrection in three ways everyday—through their thoughts, words, and actions.

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# 11 x 3 = 33 Crossword Puzzle



## Clues

1. Peter, James, and John were the three \_\_\_\_\_ in the Garden of Gethsemane with Jesus. (Matthew 26:36-46)
2. God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit are called the \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Peter \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus three times. (Matthew 26:69-75)
4. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ on the third day. (Matthew 28:1-7)
5. Jesus was tempted by \_\_\_\_\_ three times. (Matthew 4:1-11)
6. There were three \_\_\_\_\_ at Calvary. (Matthew 27:38)
7. Jesus, Mary, and Joseph are called the Holy \_\_\_\_\_.
8. The veil of the \_\_\_\_\_ was torn in two at three o'clock, the third hour. (Matthew 27:45-54)
9. After the resurrection, Jesus asked \_\_\_\_\_ three times, "Do you love me?" (John 21:15-19)
10. Jesus was in the \_\_\_\_\_ for three days. (Matthew 27:62-65)
11. The message of Jesus' ministry is summed up in the word \_\_\_\_\_. (John 3:16)

Answers: 1. Disciples 2. Trinity 3. Denied 4. Arose 5. Satan 6. Crosses 7. Family 8. Temple 9. Peter 10. Tomb 11. Love