# Title: Jesus on trial

**Key Questions:** Is joy a feeling or a choice? Are there times when I choose to be joyful even if I don’t feel happy? For whom/what are we thankful? How do we show others that we are thankful?

**Key Concepts:** Joy, Changes, Transformation, Inspiration, Impact.

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| **Learning objectives** | **Activities** | **Resources** |
| LO: to explore the events of Jesus’ trial and examine the key question of Jesus’ identity. | Have around 5 images of well-known, and ideally controversial, personalities around the room. Give the students sticky notes and ask them to write one or two words that describe the people and stick them beside the images. Share the descriptions and discuss.  Explain that just as people have different ideas about the people in the images, so opinion is divided over Jesus. This lesson we are looking at some answers to the question: ‘Who is Jesus?’ as we look at his trial.  Read Matthew 26:57-68, Luke 23:1-12, and Matthew 27:11-26, found on Worksheet 2.  Students make notes as if they were court scribes during Jesus’ trial. (Jesus’ trial was actually lots of different hearings, which happened over 18 hours in front of different people trying to get rid of him.)  Write ‘I am…’ on the board and ask the students to finish the sentence about themselves.  How have the students chosen to describe themselves? And reflect on what this might say about them.  Write ‘Jesus is…’ on the board and ask the students to complete this sentence based on what they have learned so far.  Students share their ideas and list them on the board.  Jesus chose to identify himself with the following ideas from John’s Gospel (Worksheet 3):   1. I am the Bread of Life (6:35) 2. I am the Light of the World (8:12) 3. I am the Gate (10:9) 4. I am the Good Shepherd (10:11) 5. I am the Resurrection and the Life (11:25) 6. I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life (14:6) 7. I am the True Vine (John 15:1)   Look at the quote from C.S. Lewis: ‘mad, bad, or God?’  From all that they have heard and read, which word or phrase would they use as a newspaper headline relating to Jesus and his trial? | <http://request.org.uk/>  There are various books and websites to support this lesson. YouTube also has excerpts of films depicting this event.  Matthew 26:57-68 (Trial by the Sanhedrin); Luke 23:1-12 (Trial by Pilate and Herod); Matthew 27:11-26 (Trial by Pilate)    *John 8:58*  John 6:35; John 8:12; John 10:9; John 10:11; John 11:25; John 14:6; John 15:1  Book: ‘Mere Christianity’ by C.S. Lewis  [Lewis’s Trilemma](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lewis%27s_trilemma) |