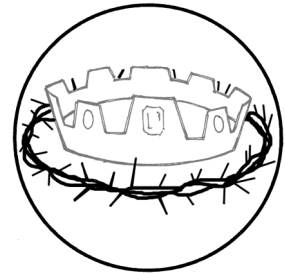


**Lesson #4-27*****The Kingdom's Power***

John 19:1-16a

**Key Verse:**

“Pilate said to them, “Here is the man!”  
John 19:5b

**The Point:**

Religious leaders cry, “Crucify him,” Pilate dodges responsibility, and Jesus goes to the cross.

**Unit Theme (March 11—March 25):**

God's Kingdom Revealed

***Surprising Straws***

*Things are not always as they appear.*

*You will need:*

- † Clear glass half filled with water
- † Drinking straw

*Instructions:*

1. **I have a couple of simple items here that you have all seen and used before: a glass of water and a straw. I am going to put the straw in the glass. When I do that, lean over so your eyes are level with the glass. What do you**

**notice about the straw?** *[It appears to be bent.]* If students do not agree, have them focus on the point where the straw enters the water. That is where it appears to be bent.

2. **Do you think the straw is really bent?** *[No.]* **Of course not! It was straight when we put it in there.**
3. **Do you know why it appears to be bent?** *[Our eyes use light to see things. When the light travels through different things such as air and water, the light changes direction just a bit. The light bends. The fancy word is*



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## *Surprising Straws*

*“refracts,” for when it passes from air to water or water to air. So the straw looks bent because part of it you are seeing through water and part of it you are seeing through air. The two substances bend the light differently.]*

4. **It reminds me of our story today. Just like we would expect a straw to be straight, we would also expect certain things from someone we call a king. Yet we have heard that Jesus was not what the Jewish leaders expected. He was from a different kingdom. He was a servant. He came specifically to tell us about God and then to die for us. Ask the following questions:**
  - a. **What do you think the Jewish leaders were expecting in a messiah or king?** *[A political leader. Someone to save them from their enemies and people who oppressed them. Someone who acted like they did.]*
  - b. **If Jesus were to return and live on earth today, what types of things do you think he might do?** *[Answers will vary.]* **I bet Jesus would surprise us today, too. Jesus shows his great love in ways that are very unpredictable.**
5. **Things are not always as they appear, are they? The straw is not really bent. And the Jewish leaders were wrong about Jesus. Jesus *was* a king. He was the king of heaven and earth.**