



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 14: Our Savior

Suggested Week of Use: May 31, 2026

Core Passage: Matthew 27:27-31,45-54

News Story Summary

Fifteen million Copts trace their ancestry to ancient Egypt, representing the oldest Christian community in the world. However, they are a minority in their own nation, making up only 10 percent of the population. Recently, the Egyptian government has been commended for releasing prisoners held on religious charges and restoring their constitutional guarantees for religious freedom. Under the prevailing Islamic law, though, Christians are treated as second-class citizens. They have been detained, isolated, abused, and even killed. They often face charges such as joining a non-Muslim group, harming national unity, spreading false news, and blasphemy. Women, children, refugees, and converts from Islam are the most vulnerable. The Egyptian national identification list includes each person's religion, which often determines the rights and job opportunities available to people.

For more about this story, search “Christian persecution in Egypt 2026.”

Engage

To supplement the Engage activities, ask: *Why do you think Jesus's death is so important for us today? What emotions do you experience when you think about His arrest and trials?* Allow time for several responses then share the information from the news story summary. Lead a brief discussion about what Christian persecution looks like in other parts of the world compared to our country. Ask: *How does suffering like what believers in Egypt face compare to Jesus's suffering?* Emphasize that Jesus suffered as the Savior of the world. Note that His suffering was different, but His suffering gives us hope when we suffer.

Challenge

To supplement the Challenge activities, ask: *What do the four supernatural events that occurred during the crucifixion reveal about Jesus's death? How would you respond if you witnessed these events?* Discuss responses. Refer to the content from the news story summary. Note that Jesus's suffering on the cross means physical suffering for many Christians around the world. Lead the group in praying for Christians enduring persecution for their faith in Christ, especially in Egypt. Thank God for His precious gift of Jesus, our Lord and Savior.