

Opposition to Jesus

Keep these ideas in mind as you study **Chapter 19**.

❖ Your faith can help you become aware of God's goodness and presence in moments of joy. In times of sorrow, your faith can help you to believe that God is with you and will bring good out of your troubles.

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❖ Jesus' own path to glory was through suffering. He endured suffering and death for the sake of our salvation. He was the suffering servant prophesied by Isaiah. The apostles did not really understand why Jesus had to suffer and die until the coming of the Spirit at Pentecost.

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❖ Through the Transfiguration, the faith of the apostles was strengthened. This event teaches us that Jesus' glory comes through the cross. At the Transfiguration, Peter, James, and John saw Jesus in glory in the company of Elijah and Moses.

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❖ Jesus faced great opposition on earth. Some people threatened violence, some told him to leave, and some accused him of blasphemy. Through it all, Jesus remained true to his goal—to do the will of his Father and proclaim the kingdom.

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❖ When he heard about Lazarus's serious illness, Jesus said that Lazarus would not die but that the Son of God would be glorified. Jesus waited two days before he went. Lazarus had been dead for four days when Jesus arrived. Martha was worried about the body being in poor condition after that time. Jesus told Martha that he is the resurrection and the life and that those who believe in him will not really die. Read the story of the raising of Lazarus in John 11:1–53.

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❖ As Jesus rode into Jerusalem, the crowd waved palm branches, a sign of welcome for a conqueror. They praised him as the king of Israel. Though the Pharisees wanted to stop the crowds from praising Jesus, they were powerless. The Sanhedrin and the Pharisees worried that Jesus' growing popularity would attract attention from Rome and cause problems for the Jewish people.

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❖ Death is the result of sin. It brings pain and suffering and leads us into the unknown.

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❖ It is natural to fear death. Even Jesus was afraid of death. The night before he died, Jesus was overwhelmed by his fear of death in the garden of Gethsemane.

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❖ Death can be our final yes to God. We can accept it and offer our lives to the Father as Jesus did.

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