Date | April 10, 2022 Family Theme | The Crucified Christ Study Text | Matthew 27:11-54

Objective: All in your household trust in Christ's sacrifice and live for Him in appreciation for what He has done for us.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: This lesson shows us how Christ died on the cross to pay the penalty for every person's sin. The entire Old Testament looked forward to Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, and the New Testament described His life, death, and resurrection and how this good news began to be taken to all people.

Bible Basics: Memorize Philippians 2:10-11 this week and work with family members to do so as well.

Read the Word: Matthew 27:11-54

Disciple Your Kids

Talk with your children and grandchildren about how we can be saved by trusting in Christ's sacrifice on the cross and live for Him in appreciation for what He has done for us.



Key Truth: Jesus, Who Had No Sin, Paid the Penalty for Our Sins (Matthew 27:11-26)

The Lord's repeated encounters with the religious leaders finally came to a head. They handed Jesus over to Pilate hoping the Romans would put Him to death. After questioning, Pilate realized that Jesus was no threat to the Roman regime and sought to let Him go. The chief priests and elders would not accept this, however. Pilate tried a custom of the day in which the governing authorities, in an act of good will toward the people, would release one prisoner of the crowd's choosing. He hoped the people would request that Jesus be set free. Pilate's plan backfired as the people shouted to free a criminal named Barabbas and to crucify Jesus. Jesus was then scourged or flogged, and delivered to the soldiers to be crucified.



Key Truth: Jesus' Crucifixion Made a Relationship With God Possible (Matthew 27:27-54)

Jesus was stripped nearly naked, beaten, mocked, insulted, and jeered at by the soldiers. He was then led away to a place called Golgotha to be crucified along with thieves. John's account informs us that Jesus started out carrying His own cross (John 19:17). However, being weak from the beatings and loss of blood, Jesus apparently was unable to carry the cross all the way to the site of crucifixion, as was the custom for criminals. In an act of mercy or impatience on the part of the Roman soldier, a man named Simon, likely in Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover, was forced to carry the cross the rest of the way to Golgotha. The insults, mockery, and derision continued from passersby, religious leaders, soldiers, and even the men who were on the crosses beside the Lord. Darkness covered the land at noon. Jesus sensed a separation from the Father that He had never experienced before and that He would never know again. He was now bearing in His body the sins of the world and was suffering on our behalf. He endured humanity's abuse in a mental, physical, and emotional sense, and God turned His back on Him in order to punish sin, causing a spiritual suffering unimaginable to us. The tearing of the Temple curtain from top to bottom illustrated how Jesus' death made it possible for the barrier between a holy God and sinful humanity to be removed. We can now come into God's presence through Christ.

Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with family members this week. Questions in **bold** will be good to use with elementary age children.

- · Why was it necessary for Christ to die on the cross?
- · How is it true that Christ, who was innocent, died for those who are guilty?
- · What penalty that we deserved did Christ take on Himself on the cross?
- · In what ways did Christ suffer on the cross?
- How did Christ's death on the cross make it possible for us to be in right relationship with God the Father?
- · How should we respond to what Christ did for us on the cross?

Everyday Extras

Find a dogwood blossom to remind your children about the crucifixion of Jesus. Remember that each blossom has the shape of a cross. Each petal has a pink stain—like the places Jesus' hands and feet were nailed to the cross. In the middle of the blossom is another tiny group of petals that make us think of the crown of thorns placed on His head. The dogwood blooms every year around Easter to remind us of Jesus' death on our behalf. Even though the Crucifixion was painful and sad, it was still beautiful because it fulfilled God's purposes and paid for our salvation. Read more about the "Legend of the Dogwood" together and share the story with others.

Preschool Highlights for SQUARE & ROUND

Today your child began learning **Jesus Is the Risen King.** He or she learned Jesus was arrested when He was praying to God. The disciple, Judas, betrayed Jesus and led the men who did not like Jesus to Him. People told lies about Jesus and a crowd of people wanted Jesus to die on a cross. But the Bible tells us He is alive. **Jesus Is the Risen King.**