

Holy Week – A Crushing Truth

Bible Passage: Matthew 27:11-66

Bible Story: Jesus is Crucified

Resources (next four pages)

Lesson 5 Opening

Lesson 5 Handout

Mosaic Cross Craft

Scripture Snapshot

The events of Christ's crucifixion unfold in a series of brutal and bloody vignettes: questioned before Pilate, mocked and abused by the Roman guard, nailed to the cross. Jesus hangs between life and death – abandoned by His Father – yielding up His life at the moment He chooses. Multiple witnesses see where Christ is laid in a borrowed tomb.

Talking Points

Pilate gave orders that Jesus should be killed even though he knew Jesus was innocent. Why did this happen? You deserve death because you are guilty of sinning, yet God gives you life. Why does this happen?

Why did Jesus have to die on the cross?

Why did God the Father forsake Jesus while He was crucified?

Because Jesus suffered and died in your place, what precious gift do you receive?

During the Passover, people remembered God's rescue from death thanks to the blood of the lamb. How does this connect to Jesus? *Jesus is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. That means that He took our place and died for our sins.*

The Romans mocked Jesus with thorns and a robe. The sign on His cross read, "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews." What kind of king is Jesus? *Jesus is the King of kings. He is the Son of King David, the Promised One. He rules over all things, even winning over death.*

Crucifixion is still one of the worst deaths someone could go through. Why would Jesus suffer so much for us? *Even though we were sinners, Jesus loved us and died for us. He still loves us, and He forgives our sins.*

Other Ideas

Walk through your home, having children find all the crosses. Share where each cross came from. Ask them questions like "Which is the biggest? Which do you like the most?"

Song – [Do You Know Who Died for Me?](#)

Song – [The Lamb](#)

Song – [Go to Dark Gethsemane](#)

Song – [Were You There](#)

...when they crucified my Lord

...when they nailed Him to the tree

...when the sun refused to shine (I had never heard of this verse!)

...when they laid Him in the tomb

...when He rose up from the dead

[The Skit Guys Present Good Friday: Six Accounts Leading up to Christ's Death on the Cross](#) – you do not have to pay to watch these; scroll down and check out the other videos on this site, too, or click on Videos near the top

Douglas Talks – [Jesus Died for You](#) (3 min 40 sec)

LESSON 5 OPENING

A CRUSHING TRUTH: JESUS IS CRUCIFIED

Act sad or concerned. Ah, good morning, children. *Look at the bill.* I'm so concerned about this bill that I'll have a hard time keeping my mind on today's message. This is the electric bill for our church. It's kind of high, but it's really no surprise. Each time we turn on a light switch or operate the air conditioning, we use electricity. The organ uses electricity, and so do the machines in the office. We used the electricity, and now we must pay for it. Maybe some generous person will pay the bill, but maybe not.

This electric bill reminds me of the words Peter spoke as part of a sermon he preached to the people on Pentecost day. "This Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. God raised Him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for Him to be held by it" (Acts 2:23-24).

Sometimes we think it was a bad mistake that Jesus died on the cross. The Bible says that although He did nothing wrong, He was accused of a crime and killed for it. But the Bible also says Jesus was "delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God" (v. 23). In other words, Jesus' death was no mistake or accident. God purposely sent Jesus to die on the cross. Sounds cruel, doesn't it?

When people sin, God says, "You're not living the way I told you to live. Now you must pay for your sins." If we think this electric bill is high, just think about the bill for our sins! We couldn't pay it. Neither could anyone else. So God, because He loves us so much, decided to help. God decided that Jesus could pay for the sins of everyone in the world. In today's lesson, we will hear more about just how Jesus did that.

Since someone had to pay for our sins, Jesus did it Himself. That's like the electric company paying for the electricity they supplied and we used! It's unlikely to happen. Nobody loves us the way God loves us. Jesus paid for our sins with His suffering and death.

That's the Good News we hear so clearly every Sunday. Jesus isn't dead anymore! On the third day after Jesus paid for our sins, He came back to life. Jesus rose from the dead. He's with us right now, and He'll stay with us wherever we go. He took away our sins, and someday He'll also take us to heaven.

Pray: Dear Jesus, thank You that You paid the price for my sins. Help us to share the Good News of the forgiveness You earned for us through Your suffering, death, and resurrection. In Your name we pray. Amen.

LESSON TEXT

Matthew 27:11-66

BIBLE TRUTH

Jesus died for our sins.

FAITH FOCUS

The Second Article, Part 2

LAW & GOSPEL

We are all sinful and deserve eternal death.

Jesus paid the price for the sin of the world by His suffering and death on the cross.

BIBLE VERSE

Christ died for our sins.
1 Corinthians 15:3

VISUAL HELPS

Bill from electric company or other company

A CRUSHING TRUTH—JESUS IS CRUCIFIED

Unit 3, Lesson 5

Jesus' Crushing Path for Us

Directions: The day that Jesus died for our sins is filled with many crushing events. At each spot on the path below, read or listen to the Bible reference and write down in a few words what happened there to Jesus.

1 Matthew 27:11–14

2 Matthew 27:15–23

3 Matthew 27:24–26

4 Matthew 27:27–31

5 Matthew 27:32–44

6 Matthew 27:45–56

7 Matthew 27:57–61

8 Matthew 27:62–66

Why did Jesus walk this path of suffering and death? _____

Mosaic Cross Craft

You Need:

Cross Outline (next page)

Colored paper – whatever colors you want

Glue

Steps:

1. Print the Cross Outline.
 - a. If you do not have a working printer, draw a cross on a piece of paper.
2. Tear the colored paper into small pieces.
3. Apply glue to the cross outline.
4. Put pieces of the colored paper on the glue.
 - a. Could have children just put the colored pieces inside the cross.
 - b. Could have children apply one color to the inside of the cross and another color to the outside of the cross

This craft was found on this site: <https://meaningfulmama.com/mosaic-cross-craft-for-easter.html> In her post, the author includes pictures of her 2 and 4 year old children doing this craft.

I (Megan) liked how the author wrote this about the craft, “What I love about the cross mosaic idea is that Christ was broken for us. The shreds of paper can represent how Christ was stripped of life. However, that’s not the end of the story. The pieces were put together and Christianity thrives today because after time in the grave, he rose on the third day. Without that truth, we would have nothing to celebrate.”

