

Bible Story 43: JESUS' CRUCIFIXION AND BURIAL

SCRIPTURE: Crucifixion: Matthew 27:32-56; Mark 15:20-41
Luke 23:26-49; John 19:16-37
Burial: Matthew 27:57-66; Luke 23:50-56;
John 19:38-42

MEMORY VERSE: John 3:16, 1 John 4:10 or 1 Peter 2:24

BIBLE STORY:

In Jerusalem early Friday morning, Pilate condemned Jesus to death. After beating Him, the soldiers took Jesus to be crucified at Golgotha, a hill just outside Jerusalem. Along the pathway, the soldiers forced Simon from Cyrene to carry Jesus' cross behind Him. A large group of people followed Him.

When they arrived at Golgotha, they offered Jesus wine mixed with myrrh, but He refused it.

Jesus was crucified on a cross around nine Friday morning. Jesus was placed on a wooden cross and nails were hammered into His hands and feet. A sign was put above His head that read, "**King of the Jews.**" Then the cross was lifted up and placed in the ground. At Jesus' feet, soldiers divided His clothing among them.

Jesus saw the people and heard them yelling insults at Him. Jesus said, "**Father forgive them, because they do not know what they are doing.**"

Jesus' cross was between two criminals. One criminal shouted insults at Jesus. The other criminal said that they deserved their punishment, but Jesus had done nothing wrong. Then he asked Jesus to remember him when He went to His kingdom. Jesus replied, "**Today you will be with Me in paradise.**"

Mary, the mother of Jesus, and His beloved disciple John were standing together close to the cross. Jesus looked at His mother and said, "**There is your son.**" Then Jesus looked at His beloved disciple John and said, "**There is your mother.**" From then on, John took care of Jesus' mother.

From around noon to three in the afternoon, it was very dark over all the land. During that time, Jesus said, "**My God! My God! Why have You forsaken Me?**"

When it was around three in the afternoon, Jesus knew that all was completed. Jesus said, "**I am thirsty.**" A sponge was soaked in a jar of wine vinegar. It was put on a long pole that was lifted up to Jesus' lips.

Jesus said, "**It is finished.**"

Then Jesus said, "**Father, into Your hands**

I commit My spirit."

After Jesus said this, He died.

In the Temple in Jerusalem, the curtain (veil) that divided the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place was torn from top to bottom.

The centurion and guards watching Jesus' crucifixion said, "**Surely Jesus was the Son of God!**"

Soldiers came to break the legs of criminals on the crosses to hurry their process of death. However, when the soldier came to Jesus, he saw that Jesus was already dead. So he pierced the side of Jesus with his sword. Blood and water flowed out of the wound, indicating that He was dead.

Joseph, who was from Arimathea, was a secret follower of Jesus. He went to Pilate, requesting permission to get the body of Jesus and bury Him. Pilate granted him permission to do so.

Nicodemus went and got seventy-five pounds of a mixture of myrrh and aloes and took it to the cross.

Together Joseph and Nicodemus took Jesus' body down off the cross, put the mixture of myrrh and aloes on Jesus' body, and wrapped His body in strips of linen cloth. They carried Jesus' body to a new tomb carved in the rock and placed His body inside the tomb. A large stone was placed at the opening of the tomb. Then Joseph and Nicodemus went away to observe the Sabbath.

Some women, who cared for Jesus' needs and came with Him from Galilee, saw Jesus crucified. They followed from a distance and they watched as Jesus was placed in the tomb. They went home to prepare spices and perfumes to bring after their observance of the Sabbath.

The chief priests put a seal on the stone in front of Jesus' tomb and left guards to watch the tomb. They did not want Jesus' body to be taken away.

Only the guards stood outside Jesus' tomb as the Jewish Sabbath began around six in the evening on Friday.

LIFE LESSONS:

1. Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sins. Believe that Jesus is the Son of God who died on the cross to save you. Pray and ask God to forgive you of your sins. God will forgive you and save you.
2. Only the high priest could pass through the curtain from the Holy Place into the Most Holy Place to pray for the people. At Jesus’ death, the curtain was torn from top to bottom. This shows that anyone can now enter the presence of God through prayer. Pray to God. God will hear your prayers and respond to your prayers.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Who carried Jesus’ cross? Why did Jesus need help carrying His cross?
2. What are some ways we can help Jesus today?
3. Who are some people you know who are in need? How can you help them?
4. What sign was put on the cross above Jesus’ head? Who is Jesus to you? What do you call Him?
5. What did Jesus ask God, His Father, to do to those who put Him on the cross?
6. Jesus hung on the cross between two criminals. What did the criminals say? What did Jesus reply?
7. What did Jesus ask His beloved disciple John to do?
8. What are some ways we can help our parents? Family members? Friends?
9. Joseph from Arimathea was a secret follower of Jesus. What did Joseph do? Why did that take courage?
10. What are some things that take courage to follow Jesus today?
11. How did Joseph and Nicodemus take care of Jesus’ body and bury Him?
12. Do you know someone who has lost a loved one? What are some ways you can help the grieving family?
13. What did the high priests do at the tomb? Who was at the tomb when the Jewish Sabbath began?
14. Why did Jesus die on the cross? Did Jesus die on the cross for you and I? Why?
15. How does Jesus dying on the cross affect you?

SUGGESTIONS FOR THIS BIBLE STORY:

Choose activities that may be used in your specific situation. Consider the age and maturity of each person, locality where the story will be told (customs and traditions), and available resources, time and space.

PRESENTATION:

- Show a wooden cross or a picture of a cross. If it’s not available, draw a picture of a cross. Ask, “What is this?”
- Say, “Today’s story is about a cross.” Using appropriate expressions, tell the Bible story in your own words.
- End the story by saying, “Jesus was buried on Friday evening, but on Sunday there was a miracle! Our next story will tell about that miracle!”

PICK AND TELL:

- Examples of objects: nails, cross, clothing, sponge, curtain, aloes, rock, shape of a heart...
- **Option 1:** Place objects on a table. Each one chooses an object and tells what it represents in the story.
- **Option 2:** With or without a list, each person goes and finds objects. Then share these objects with the group and tell what each object represents in the story.

MEANING OF THE CROSS:

- Discuss the meaning of Jesus dying on the cross.

Forgiveness of sins:

- 1st** Sin is disobeying God’s commandments in the Bible.
- 2nd** In the Old Testament, priests offered an animal (such as a lamb) without defect. The lamb was sacrificed (killed). Its blood was an offering to God for the sins of the people. As a result, God forgave their sins.
- 3rd** At the crucifixion, God gave His only Son, Jesus, as the sacrifice for our sins when Jesus died on the cross.
- 4th** Pray, saying you believe that Jesus is God’s Son who died on the cross for your sins. In prayer, ask God to forgive your sins and tell God you want to follow Him as Lord of your life. As a result, God will forgive your sins and you will have life with Him in heaven.

GUEST SPEAKER:

- Invite someone to come and talk to the group.
- (1) Share encouraging words of overcoming grief in the loss of a loved one.
- (2) Share ways to help a person who has lost a loved one.

DAILY BIBLE READING - Matthew 27:32-66; Mark 15:20-41; Luke 23:26-56; John 19:16-42

1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th
Matthew 27:32-56	Mark 15:20-41	Luke 23:26-49	John 19:16-37	Matthew 27:57-66	Luke 23:50-56	John 19:38-42