

# THE CRUCIFIXION OF JESUS

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: MATTHEW 27:32-54



## The STORY

Read about the crucifixion in Matthew 27:32-54.

**Please note:** *The discussion questions in the following sections are written to serve as a guide in teaching our youngest children. Three to six year olds are not going to be able to answer these questions like their older brothers and sisters. Please refer to the God's Story Preschool Curriculum Outline for additional ideas.*

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion.

- Why did they make someone carry Jesus' cross? (Jesus was hurt very badly by the soldiers who beat Him. In His weakened condition He probably could not carry His own cross.)
- How did the people treat Jesus? (They mocked Him and made fun of Him.)
- Why did the people mock Jesus? (The people thought that if He really were the Son of God, He should be able to perform a miracle and come down from the cross.)  
The nature of sin is to enjoy the suffering of another. God tells us we should cry with those who cry and be careful lest we fall like those who fall, but in our sinful nature we take pleasure when those around us falter.

## CRAFT QUESTIONS

**Coloring sheets have been provided that exemplify today's lesson: Jesus on the cross with His head bowed. Engage the children by asking:**

- Why did Jesus die on the cross? (Jesus took the punishment for our sins and died in our place so that we can spend eternity with God in heaven.)  
Note: Use this question to help the children understand the Gospel message.
- Why did Jesus need to die? (Since God is a holy God, He must punish all sin. Jesus died in order to save mankind from the wrath of God toward sin.)
- What were Jesus' last words? (John 19:30 tells us Jesus' last words were "It is finished." This meant that the wrath of God had been completely poured out on Jesus.)

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### SNACK QUESTIONS

**While the children are eating the snack, engage the children by asking:**

- What did Jesus say to God the Father on the cross? ("My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?")
- Why did Jesus say this? (Jesus was experiencing God the Father's holy anger towards sin.)
- Why is this important for us? (All sin must be punished. Jesus took the punishment for our sin so that we do not have to face God's wrath. Those who trust in Jesus' atonement have no need to fear the wrath of God.)

### WHERE IS the Gospel?

*Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.*

The death of Christ is the heart of the Gospel. Without the shedding of blood, there can be no forgiveness of sins, see Hebrews 9:22. Jesus was the Lamb of God that was slain for the forgiveness of our sins.

Romans 5:8 and 9 says "...but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God."

### SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

#### BE A DOER OF THE WORD

*Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.*

