

Life of Christ

Jesus is Crucified and Buried

John 19:17-42

Younger Verse

The LORD laid on him the guilt and sins of us all. Isaiah 53:6 (NLT)

Older Verse

All of us have strayed away like sheep. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the LORD laid on him the guilt and sins of us all. Isaiah 53:6 (NLT)

Bible Story

The following is a summary of the Bible story to help supplement your preparation. In your personal study time, use this summary as a guide, and make notes to help you remember your plans for the lesson. Please do NOT read to the children.

In our last lesson, the story from the first part of John 19, we talked about the beating Jesus received from the Roman soldiers. The Roman leader, Pilate, sent Jesus to be beaten with a whip. Jesus came back wearing the purple robe and crown of thorns they put on Him, to make fun of Him. Pilate had hoped the beating would make the Jewish leaders happy, but all they wanted was to see Jesus nailed to a cross.

Pilate could have stopped Jesus' crucifixion, but He was scared of what the Jewish leaders might do. He sent Jesus away to be crucified. Crucifixion was how the Romans punished and killed people. To be crucified meant to be nailed to a cross. Jesus was to be crucified at a place called Golgotha, or Calvary. Both these words mean "skull." Those were names given to a hill outside of the city of Jerusalem that looks like a skull. Jesus started off toward Golgotha, the place of the skull, carrying His own cross. When Jesus arrived at the place, they nailed Him to a cross and left Him to hang there. Two other men were crucified there, one on either side of Jesus.

While Jesus was hanging on the cross, the Roman soldiers took Jesus' robe and other clothes and each took a part. Jesus had one very nice, long robe, one that would have been very expensive. The soldiers decided not to tear this one. Instead, they rolled dice to see whose it would be. This seems like such a simple thing, but it really is amazing! Why? Because about a thousand years before Jesus was crucified, King David wrote a song about Jesus' death on the cross. In that song it says, "They divide my clothes among themselves and throw dice for my garments!"* Do you think that any of what happened that day on the cross, or even the days before, were a surprise to Jesus? They were not. Jesus even knew that almost everything had happened that needed to

*Psalm 22:18

Lesson Goals

To see Jesus' crucifixion as something He knew about and came for.
To understand that John wrote what He saw so that we might believe.

*Psalm 22:18

before He died. Because He knew this, He told the soldiers that He was thirsty. They lifted up to Jesus a leafy branch soaked with sour vinegar. When Jesus had wet His mouth with the vinegar, He said, "It is finished," and then He died. Jesus had completed everything He came to do!

The Jews were in a hurry to remove the bodies from the three crosses, but the other two men were still alive. To remove them faster, the Roman soldiers broke their legs! Jesus looked dead, but they wanted to be sure. The soldiers didn't break His legs. That is as amazing as the soldiers dividing Jesus' clothing because God had already said over 1,500 years before Jesus was crucified that His legs would not be broken.* Without knowing this, the soldiers took a long spear and pushed it into Jesus' side. They now knew that Jesus was also dead.

Jesus was taken down from the cross. A man named Joseph asked for Jesus' body so that he could bury it. Joseph followed Jesus, but secretly because he was afraid of the Jews. A man named Nicodemus helped Joseph. Does anyone remember who Nicodemus was? He visited Jesus at night. Jesus told him that you must be born again to see God. Jesus also told him, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life." Nicodemus and Joseph put nice smelling oils and spices on Jesus and wrapped him up in linen fabric. There was a garden close by. In that garden was a tomb, or burial cave, that had never been used. They placed Jesus there.

John, the disciple Jesus loved and cared for, was there at Jesus' crucifixion. John stood at the cross with Jesus' mother, Mary, her sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. John saw everything that happened to Jesus that day and he wrote it down. He tells the truth so that we can believe! Do you believe that God loved you so much that He gave His one and only Son, Jesus, to die for you? If you do not know, let's talk. If you do know, are you telling others as John did or are you like Joseph and Nicodemus, keeping it a secret because you are afraid of what others will say and do? Who can you tell today?

**Memory Verse
Activity**

Make a Chain of Sheep. Fold computer paper or manila paper accordion style. Trace a sheep pattern on to the folded paper, making sure pattern touches both ends. Cut around the bottom and top of the sheep figure, leaving sides uncut. Unfold your Chain of Sheep and write the memory verse across the bodies of the sheep.

Preparing for Next Week

Lesson 44
The Tomb is Empty!
John 20:1-18

Preschool Lesson

Jesus is Nailed to a Cross

Sing: “Jesus Loves Me”

Teach: In our last lesson we talked about how the Roman soldiers hit Jesus and how they made fun of Him by putting a purple robe and crown of thorns on Him. The Roman leader Pilate had ordered this. Pilate did not want Jesus to go to the cross, but he did not stop it when he could have. He sent Jesus away to be nailed to a cross. Jesus was going to a place called Golgotha. Golgotha was a hill outside of the city of Jerusalem. Jesus headed to the hill carrying His own cross. When Jesus got there, they nailed Him to His cross and left Him to hang there. Two other men were crucified there. One man hung on the cross on Jesus’ left. The other man hung on the cross on Jesus’ right.

While Jesus was hanging on the cross, the Roman soldiers took His clothes and each took a part. Jesus had one very nice, long robe. The soldiers decided not to tear this one. Instead, they rolled dice to see who would get it. As Jesus hung on the cross, he got thirsty. He told the soldiers that He was thirsty and they lifted a leafy branch up to Him that had been soaked with sour vinegar. After Jesus wet His mouth with the vinegar, He said, “It is finished,” and then He died. Jesus had finished everything He came to do!

Some men were in a hurry to remove Jesus and the other men from the three crosses. Jesus was taken down from the cross. A man named Joseph asked for Jesus’ body so that he could bury it. Joseph followed Jesus. A man named Nicodemus helped Joseph. Does anyone remember who Nicodemus was? He visited Jesus at night and Jesus told him, “For God so loved the world, that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.” Nicodemus and Joseph put nice smelling oils and spices on Jesus and wrapped him up in fabric. There was a garden close by. In that garden was a cave that had never been used. They placed Jesus there.

John, one of Jesus’ disciples, was there when Jesus was nailed to the cross. John stood at the cross with Jesus’ mother, Mary, her sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. John saw everything that happened to Jesus that day and he wrote it down. He tells the truth so that we can believe! Do you believe that God loved you so much that He gave His one and only Son, Jesus, to die for you?

Pray: Thank you, God, for sending Jesus for me!

Activities

- Provide coloring pages and word puzzles that will enhance what you have taught today.
- Cut out squares of linen with pinking sheers. Apply a drop of perfume to each linen square. Pin one to each student or staple them to colored index cards. Talk with your students about Jesus' burial. Review with them how Joseph and Nicodemus came and prepared Jesus' body for burial. They put perfumed oil on His body and wrapped Him in linen.
- Make craft stick crosses.
- Make "God's Eyes" or "Ojo de Dios." You might want to make this with the colors of the salvation bracelets and use it to review the plan of salvation with your students. (Black for our sin, red for the blood of Jesus, white for purity, blue for baptism, green for growth, and gold for eternal life.)
- Make a time line of the last week or night of Jesus' life. Use coloring pages or clip art to represent the story from Palm Sunday through Jesus' crucifixion. Mix up the pictures and encourage your students to arrange them in order.
- For older students: Talk about John 1:29, 36. Jesus is the "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" God gave John the Baptist understanding of this three years before Jesus' crucifixion. Let students tell you how this was accomplished in Jesus' death.
- For older students: Talk about the memory verse. Recall what was learned in the study of John 10. Talk about how we resemble sheep and what it means that God put all of our sin and guilt on Jesus.