

Jared could not believe it! Jesus had been condemned to die on a cross. There was no question in anyone's mind that Jesus was innocent. The crowd knew the charges were false. He had been set up by the Pharisees who hated Jesus. Pilate knew it too. It was so easy to see the contrast between the murderer Barabbas and the innocent Jesus. But still the crowd had cried out "Crucify Jesus!" It just made no sense at all.

The crowd mocked Jesus as He struggled to carry the heavy cross that had been prepared for Barabbas. He had been beaten twice, the crown of thorns caused streaks of blood down His face. He was weak. He had not eaten or drunk anything. Jesus just could not carry the heavy cross. Jared wished he was big enough to step in and do that for Jesus. Then he saw a big, bearded man, Simon of Cyrene, show some sympathy as he watched. Jared had seen him with his sons, Alexander and Rufus, and knew that his sons believed in Jesus. The soldiers saw he was sad for Jesus and roughly grabbed him and forced Simon to carry the cross. Simon did it gladly and he too became a believer. Out through the city of Jerusalem. Out to Golgotha. Jesus was put in the centre between the two companions of Barabbas. Nails through His wrists and feet. Roughly lifted up and dropped heavily into the hole in the ground. Such pain! Yet Jesus did not complain, instead Jared heard Him ask for forgiveness for His persecutors. How could He do that?

The disciples were scattered in the crowd. But Jesus' mother Mary and John were right near the cross. Jared listened as Jesus spoke to John and asked him to look after his mother. He listened in astonishment as he heard one of the other men on the cross recognize that Jesus was the Messiah, and ask Jesus to help him. Even while Jesus was suffering in intense agony, He thought of others and assured the thief he would be part of God's eternal kingdom. That seemed to make the difference for that man.

About midday something weird happened. It grew as dark as night. Jared shivered and could not understand it. He heard Jesus speak several times in the darkness. It lasted for about three hours. Then just as the afternoon sacrifice was due to be offered in the Temple, things changed dramatically.

The sun came out, except for around the cross of Jesus. People looked around fearfully. What was going on? He heard Jesus call out in a loud, triumphant voice, "It is finished!" And His head dropped, and Jesus had died.

But that is when it all went so incredibly different. A massive earthquake. The darkness had shifted from the cross, now lit with piercing sunlight, to settle over the city of Jerusalem. Graves and tombs were opened. Destruction from the earthquake was significant. The Temple was affected too, as Jared heard later. The huge thick curtain that separated the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place was ripped in half. He had never seen that curtain. But he knew the pride that the Jewish people spoke about that curtain. Thicker than a man's hand. In fact, they boasted that a team of horses on either side would never be able to tear the curtain it was so strong. But when Jesus died – the curtain just tore like a piece of wet paper from top to bottom.

Jared stood there in shock. Jesus had died. The crowd dispersed. After-all, it was nearly Sabbath and they wanted to go back to be ready for that. Mary and John and a few other believers gathered around the cross in disbelief. They watched as the soldiers confirmed Jesus was dead by thrusting a spear into His side. Then two wealthy men, Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus, came and took Jesus body down from the cross and sadly wrapped it. They put His body into the new tomb that Joseph had prepared to use for himself one day.

It was a very sober Jared who made his way home that Sabbath evening.

Would he have really been brave enough to carry Jesus' cross if he was able?

What would happen now that Jesus was dead? Would Jesus really rise up from the grave as He had promised?

Why did Jesus die?

Sabbath

Have you ever been in trouble for something that wasn't your fault?

How did it make you feel?

Have you ever said that you did something so that someone else wouldn't get in trouble?

This week we are learning how this happened to Jesus. Jesus volunteered to take the punishment for someone else!

Year 3, Quarter 2, Week 11, Level: "Pre/Teen"

Copyright © 2024 Delwyn McPaul - www.kidsbiblesource.org

Photos of Betty Lukens Felts used by permission

Refer: Matthew 27:1-2, 11-56; Mark 15:1-41; Luke 23:1-49; John 18:28-19:30 NLT; *The Desire of Ages* p741-764; *The Bible Story* vol9 p88-128

Sunday

The priests who had arrested Jesus took Him to Pilate, the Roman governor. (Although they did not go inside because that would make them unclean - Pilot had to come out to them.) They accused Jesus of causing trouble for the Roman government, telling the people not to pay taxes, claiming to be a king and so on. Jesus did not answer their accusations, so Pilot took Jesus inside and asked if He was the King of the Jews, Jesus replied, "My Kingdom is not of this world. I was born into this world to bring the truth."

When Pilate found out that Jesus was from Galilee, he sent them to see Herod Antipas.

Herod had heard about Jesus and wanted to see Him perform a miracle. He asked Jesus lots of questions, but Jesus didn't say anything. Then Herod and his soldiers began mocking and teasing Jesus. Finally, they put a purple robe on Him and sent him back to Pilate.

Pilate told the priests, "I find Him innocent; nothing this man has done calls for the death penalty; I will have Him flogged and let Him go."

They said, "Our law say He must die - He called Himself the Son of God!"

Worried, Pilate asked Jesus about this, but He did not answer. Pilate said, "Don't you know I have the authority to crucify you?"

Jesus answered, "You would have no authority over me if it were not given from above."

A message was handed to Pilate from his wife, telling him she had had a terrible dream - Jesus was innocent and Pilot should let Him go.

It was pilot's custom at this time of the year to free a prisoner. So Pilot suggested to them that he should free Barabbas or Jesus. Barabbas was a notorious murderer - famous bad reasons.

But at the urging of the priests, the crowd started shouting, "Crucify Jesus, and free Barabbas!" Pilate argued with them, but they kept shouting, "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!"

Pilate was afraid they would riot, so he called for water, and ceremoniously washed his hands, saying, "It is your choice. I am innocent of this man's blood."

The people shouted, "His blood be on us and our children."

Then Pilate sentenced Jesus to die and ordered that He be flogged.

The soldiers took Jesus, in a purple robe, they put a crown made of thorns his head and a staff in his hand and pretended to bow to Him. They spat on Him and hit Him.

Friday

Why did Jesus die?

John 3:16^{NLT} says Jesus died so that everyone who believes in Him:

Ⓢ	↶	⊘	▪	➡	💧	↓	↑	△	⇓	X	⊃	⬆
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M

Y	♥	€	☞	&	⇒	▶	☯	①	Ω	☀	⑦	👍
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

Ω△⊃ ↘♥➡ €➡⌘△➡↑
 ↶⌘➡ ↑Ⓢ①➡
 ➡➡➡⌘↘Ⓢ⊃ ⊃△💧➡

Think of **some** of the **things you've done** wrong. Like **being** cross with **sister** or brother, not **obeying mum**, **taking something** that's not yours, saying **something** that's not really true, or just **not** being as nice or **patient as** you **could** be. **Because** you **have sinned** you can't **live** forever.

But if you ask **Jesus** to take your **punishment**, you can live **forever** when Jesus **comes back**, and if you ask Jesus, He will help you to do the right thing.

Find the bold words.

F Y O S O M E R J E S U S Y
 C O M E S U O U F O I R Y O
 U U F S O M E T H I N G O F
 R V Y O O U F O A R N Y O O
 U E F M O O R Y V O E U F R
 O R Y E O B U F E O D O N E
 R P A T I E N T Y O U F O V
 R U Y H O Y U A F L O R Y E
 O N U I F I O K S I S T E R
 R I Y N O N U I F V O H R Y
 O S U G F G O N R E Y I O U
 F H O R Y O U G F O R N O T
 Y M O U F A O B E I N G R Y
 B E C A U S E A O U F S O A
 R N Y O U F O C R Y O U F N
 O T H I N K R K Y C O U L D

Thursday

Even while dying, Jesus took the time to say words of comfort to His mother, and the thief on the cross. Why? Because of love.

Isaiah 53:11 says, "When He sees all that is accomplished by His anguish, He will be _ _ _ _ _ . And because of His experience, my _ _ _ _ _ servant will make it possible for many to be counted righteous, for He will bear all their sins."

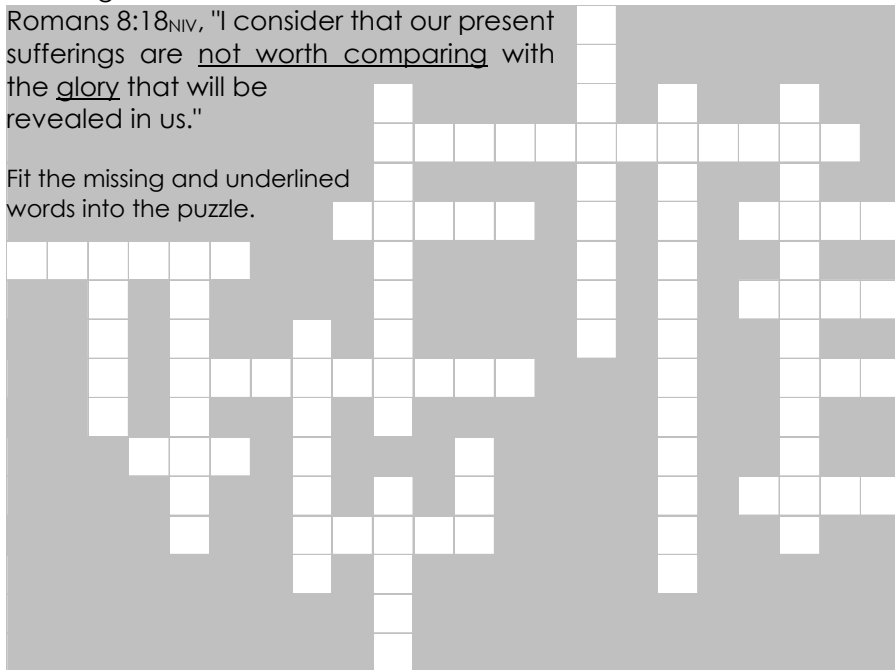
Romans 5:18^{NLT} says, "Adam's one sin brings condemnation for everyone, but Christ's one act of righteousness brings a right relationship with God and new life for everyone."

As Jesus said in John 14:6, "I am the _ _ _ _ , the _ _ _ _ _ , and the _ _ _ _ . No one can come to the _ _ _ _ _ except _ _ _ _ _ Me."

Paul writes in Romans, that we too can look at the things we suffer during our lives and feel the same way that Jesus did about His suffering.

Romans 8:18^{NIV}, "I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us."

Fit the missing and underlined words into the puzzle.



Monday

Planning to crucify Jesus along with two criminals, they ordered them to drag the heavy crosses through the town to the hill called Golgotha or The Skull. But Jesus was too weak to carry the cross, so the soldiers grabbed a man named Simon from Cyrene, to carry it. A large crowd followed, including many weeping, women. Jesus said to them, "Don't weep for me, weep for yourselves and your children, for the time of trouble is coming."

When they arrived, they offered the prisoners a drink of wine mixed with something, but after tasting it, Jesus refused to drink it.

As they nailed Jesus to the cross, He said, "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing."

The criminals were placed either side, with Jesus in the middle and a sign was fastened above Him with the words, "This is the King of the Jews."

The chief priests protested to Pilate about this, but he would not change it.

Four soldiers who stayed to keep guard, they divided His clothes between them but His tunic was woven as one piece, so they gambled to see who would get it.

Some of the crowd said, "He saved others; if He is really God's Son, let Him save Himself." Others shouted, "You said you would destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days - so save yourself!" And others said, "Come down, and then we will believe!" But one of the criminals said, "Jesus, remember me when You come into Your Kingdom." And Jesus replied, "I promise you, you will be with Me in paradise."

Jesus saw His mother standing near the cross, along with the disciple John, so He said, "Woman, here is your son." And to John, "Here is your mother." So after that John cared for Mary, as if she was his own mother.

At noon the sky became dark, and it stayed dark until three o'clock. Then Jesus cried out, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, My God, why have You abandoned Me?" Matthew 27:46,

Someone grabbed a sponge soaked in sour wine to give Him a drink, but others thought He was calling the prophet Elijah and said, "Leave Him alone, let's see if Elijah comes."

Then Jesus shouted, "It is finished! Father, I entrust My Spirit into Your hands!" And with those words He died. At that moment, the curtain in the Temple torn down the middle from top to bottom, the earth shook. A soldier watching, said, "Surely this was the son of God!"

Matthew also tells us that at that moment, that the tombs of some people who had died broke open, as the people came back to life. After the resurrection, these people came into the city and were seen by many people.

Tuesday

Fill in the missing words from the verses and then draw lines to the other verses that talk about the same things. Note they might not use the exact same word but will use something that means the same thing. Some verses will have more than one match.

"But He was _____ for our transgressions, our rebellion, crushed for our sins." Isaiah 53:5a

Matthew 27:12

Look up Isaiah 53:5b (the last sentence) in one of the following versions. NLT, BSB, KJV, NKJV, NSAB, ASV, ISB. What type of punishment is mentioned:_____

Luke 23:24

Matthew 27:26

Luke 23:34

Matthew 27:46

"As a sheep is _____ before the shearers, He did not open His _____" Isaiah 53:7

Mark 15:15

John 19:9

In the first part of the first sentence of Isaiah 53:8 Jesus is _____

John 19:1

Mark 15:34

Jesus last words are from a psalm of David. Psalm 22:1, "My God, my God, why have you _____ Me?"

Mark 15:15

Wednesday

Find the missing words from these verses.

What did Jesus tell Pilate in John 18:36^{NLT}, "My _____ (8d) is not an earthly kingdom. If it were, my followers would _____ (6d) to keep Me from being handed over to the Jewish _____ (11d). But my _____ (10d) is not of this world." And in verse 37, "I was born and came into the _____ (7a) to _____ (13a) to the _____ (1d)."

Later, Jesus said something else to Pilate, John 19:11, "You would have no _____ (12d) over me at all unless it were _____ (9a) to you from _____ (5d).

Previously Jesus had said to the Pharisees in John 8:44, "You are the children of your _____ (14d) the _____ (3a), and you love to do the evil things he does. He was a _____ (16a) from the beginning. He has always hated the truth, because there is no _____ (1a) in him."

The prophecy of Genesis 3:15 was now being fulfilled, where God said to Satan who had disguised himself as the snake, "He, [Jesus] will _____ (15a) your _____ (4a), and you will _____ (17a) His [Jesus] _____ (2d)."

