

Aim: Roger Morneau author of Incredible Answers to Prayer made it a practice to read the crucifixion scene on a daily basis. It shows us God's amazing love for us, and reminds us that no matter what we go through, Jesus has been there before us.

Refer:

Resources:

Over the last 3 weeks we have learned about Jesus' arrest. After being questioned by the priests, they took Him to Pilate, the Roman Governor, who sent Him to Herod, who sent Him back to Pilate. Although Pilate wanted to release Jesus, the Jews wouldn't hear of it, and Pilate gave in and condemned Jesus to death.

John records a couple of interesting things that occurred when Pilate was talking to Jesus.

Have each of these passages read aloud by a good reader, and then go through and read them one verse or phrase at a time (by different readers), considering: What does it tell us? What is interesting? Does it remind you of anything? Does it tell you anything? *Some ideas are listed if needed.*

Read John 18:33-37 (My Kingdom is not of this world)

Read John 19:7-11 (You would have no authority)

Read Matthew 27:27-31 (Beating)

- They were doing this to the King of the Universe!

Read Matthew 27:32-44 (Crucifixion & taunting)

- How does this cruelty compare to the worst thing you have been through?
- If you are the Son of God... the same words that Satan used in the wilderness.
- He could have saved Himself, but if He did, He couldn't have saved us.
- Can you imagine how horrible this would have been for Jesus' friends?

Read Luke 23:34

- We can forgive even when the other person isn't sorry. (Note: Forgiving is not always the same as forgetting – but it helps to free us from anger and bitterness. Note 2: This is something that we need God's help to do.)

Read Matthew 27:45-54 (Death)

- Torn curtain – sacrificial system which pointed to Jesus is finished.
- Dead raised – Jesus succeeded in His mission. Satan has been shown for what he is, God's way has been proven to be best.

From Smith's Bible Dictionary on Biblehub.com

A death by crucifixion seems to include all that pain and death can have of the horrible and ghastly, --dizziness, cramp, thirst, starvation, sleeplessness, traumatic fever, publicity of shame, long continuance of torment, horror of anticipation, mortification of untended wounds, all intensified just up to the point at which they can be endured at all, but all stopping just short of the point which would give to the sufferer the relief of unconsciousness. The unnatural position made every movement painful; the lacerated veins and crushed tendons throbbed with incessant anguish; the wounds, inflamed by exposure, gradually gangrened; the arteries, especially of the head and stomach, became swollen; and, while each variety of misery went on gradually increasing, there was added to them the intolerable pang of a burning and raging thirst. Such was the death to which Christ was doomed. Farrar's "Life of Christ." The crucified was watched, according to custom, by a party of four soldiers, (John 19:23) with their centurion, (Matthew 27:66) whose express office was to prevent the stealing of the body. This was necessary from the lingering character of the death, which sometimes did not supervene even for three days, and was at last the result of gradual benumbing and starvation. But for this guard, the persons might have been taken down and recovered, as was actually done in the case of a friend of Josephus. Fracture of the legs was especially adopted by the Jews to hasten death. (John 19:31) In most cases the body was left to rot on the cross by the action of sun and rain, or to be devoured by birds and beasts.