



Unit 8, Lesson 30

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY: THE CRUCIFIXION

MATTHEW 27:32-60; MARK
15:21-47; LUKE 23:26-56;
JOHN 19:17-27

THE STORY HOME

Jesus had to drag a heavy cross uphill where soldiers then hammered nails into Jesus' feet and hands to attach Him to that cross. They lifted up the cross, and while Jesus was hanging there the crowds accused, mocked, and insulted Him. As another sign of disrespect, two crooks were crucified with Him, one on each side of Jesus. One asked for forgiveness and Jesus comforted him with a promise of Heaven. Jesus took the pain and punishment for our sins. This is what the Cross offers to all people. Then deep darkness came across the sky and a man named Joseph (not Jesus' earthly dad) begged Pilate for Jesus' dead body so he could take it down from the cross and bury it. Jesus' death was God's victory—it was our deliverance from sin, and the only way to eternal life!

PARENTS & KIDS QUESTIONS:

- Jesus spoke from the cross. I wonder, did the crowd hear Him with all their shouting?
- Why do you think the one crook asked for forgiveness but not the other?
- When Jesus died the sky went dark, a huge temple curtain was torn, and the earth shook. What does it feel like when you're in the dark? Why do you think God tore the temple curtain and shook the earth?

TOGETHER HOME

Children love to cook and be with their parents in the kitchen. This week bake a cake (or other special item) but, make it in the shape of a cross. If you don't have a cross-shaped cake pan, simply cut a single-layer sheet cake in the form of a cross. Review the Bible story, the meaning of the cross, and Jesus' suffering for our sins as you share the cake.

Another option is to take refrigerated breadsticks and twist them into the shape of the cross. You can brush them with melted butter and sprinkle them with cinnamon sugar. The cinnamon can represent the sadness of Jesus' death, but the sugar is the sweetness of hope yet to come.

BIBLE MEMORY HOME

Romans 10:9 promises, "If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." Draw a picture of a cross. Print this memory verse on the cross. Cut out the cross with the verse and tape it on your child's wall by the light switch where he or she will see it each evening before the lights are turned off.

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