STORY

8/17/04

The Death and Burial of Jesus - (Matthew 13, Mark 14, Luke 23, John 19)

TEACHER PRAYER

Lord Jesus, help me to bring into focus for these children the wonderful, self-sacrificing attitude You had even as You died on the cross, and please send Your Spirit to capture their hearts with Your love for them. Amen.

OUTER AIM

Jesus suffered, died, and was buried.

INNER AIM

God's plan for our redemption required that One Substitute must die for the sins of the world, and we are happy that Jesus died for us.

BACKGROUND

(Rupprecht Bible History References Vol.2, pp. 412-422)

Just a quick review of a couple of minutes at Calvary as we hear Jesus say goodbye to his mother. His foster-father Joseph was no longer alive; Jesus' younger brothers and sisters (Mt.13:55) were not yet converted to His fellowship (Jn.7:5), so Jesus provided Mary with the support of a Christian son (John); His younger siblings became members of the Christian Church sometime later(Acts 1:14). John was happy to become her adopted son.

Application: This is a practical example of spiritual (church) fellowship applied in real life by Jesus Himself! St. Paul did not invent the doctrine of church fellowship, for Jesus already here was practicing it in a most personal way. We are closer to Jesus than His blood relatives were, as He Himself claims in Mt. 12:46-50. What an honor for us!!

At the scene of Jesus on the cross, from about noon until 3:00 pm, Jewish Standard time:
Luke 23:44-45 tells us that there was darkness at midday over all the earth, for the sun was darkened (obscured) as in a total solar eclipse, yet this was not the moon obscuring the sun, because Passover was always at full moon, when the moon and sun are on opposite sides of our planet. This miracle was recorded even by heathen writers, for it darkened the whole hemi-sphere of the planet facing the sun for three hours. Comment: Perhaps this miraculous darkness was a byproduct of the struggle of Jesus against the "Prince of darkness," who was doing his infernal worst to penetrate Jesus' self-sacrificing attitude of love for us. The light of heaven was denied Jesus, as it would be denied to us if He had not endured this brush with hell.

Mt.27:46

- "And about the ninth hour (with no sun shining, it would have been difficult to be very precise about "clock" time), Jesus cried out with a loud voice..."
- Even after three hours of losing blood and his cardio-vascular system going into shock, He summoned enough energy to call out with a LOUD voice "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" In Hebrew/Aramaic *El* is the form of direct address for *God*, and the *i* suffix means *my*, as Jesus spoke the words of Ps. 22:1 when He felt the pain of being abandoned by His own Father in heaven.
- We will never plumb the depth of what Jesus felt, but we may ponder: "Why..."-- (What have I done to deserve this treatment?) have You -- (You, the eternal Creator and Architect of the plan of salvation, the merciful God who does not desire the death of even the wicked) forsaken--(abandoned, cut off from all rescue or desire to salvage) Me?"-- (the one Person

who has done nothing to deserve being cast overboard like this, the only totally flawless, blameless human who has ever lived.)

Matt 27:47

- ”Some of those who stood there, when they heard that, said: ‘This man is calling for Elijah.’" These Scripturally illiterate bystanders did not recognize Ps.22:1 and perhaps mistook *Eli* as a shortened form of *Elijah*.

John 19:28

- ”After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said: ‘I thirst.’" Again Psalm 22 came to Jesus’ mind as it befit His agony of thirst (due to the parching effect of raging fever and heavy panting in pain).
- We most note that ”knowing that all things were now accomplished" carries a depth of meaning: by the Spirit John reports that Jesus had arrived at the conviction that His sufferings had accomplished their purpose, for He had gone through the torments of hell, and nothing was left undone that He had been commissioned to do as the Lamb of God for sinners slain. The life He had lived in perfect loving obedience and self-sacrifice could now come to a successful close.

John 19:30 and Luke 23:46 tell us that when He had received the sour wine, He cried with a loud voice, ”It is finished!" and ”Father, into Thy hands I commend My spirit" (cf. Ps.31:5); He then breathed His last and gave up His spirit. These are the sixth and seventh ”words" from the cross, and both of them came during His last conscious moments.

”It is finished" means more than ”I am a goner," for it is a loud echo of ”all things are now accomplished.." In spiritual content, everything that had ever gone wrong and needed righting in the court of divine justice had been taken care of and properly completed; the obstacle of sin, sins, and sinfulness was successfully removed to the last iota in that moment of His death. The head of Satan had been crushed, and Paradise opened for all mortals. The loudness of His vigorous announcement should ring from every Christian pulpit and echo in every sinner’s heart, as Paul expresses: ”But thanks be to God, Who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!" (I Cor.15:57).

When His spirit (soul, ”ghost") left His earthly body, the God-man really died. He entrusted His eternal future into the loving care of His Father, and OUR Father. Hallelujah!

Mt. 27:51

- ”And behold, (the Spirit expressly points these out as deserving our attention, due to their import) ”the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom."
- This three-inch thick, 60’ tall by 30’ wide room divider between the Sanctuary and the Most Private Sanctuary normally protected the privacy of God’s Ark of the Covenant from any intrusion, symbolizing God’s unapproachable presence. The only exception was that once a year on the Day of Atonement *(Yom Kippur*) the High Priest was authorized to come in with sacrificial blood to sprinkle on the ”Mercy Seat" (place of mercy) for atonement of sins.
- Since Jesus ”by His own blood entered in once [and that was enough!] into the Holy Place, having obtained eternal redemption for us" (Heb. 9:12), the obstructive curtain had no further function; the Old had been superseded by the New!
- --"and the earth quaked and the rocks were split" in testimony that a corner of history had been turned; a new Era had been opened by God’s almighty hand.
- ”...and the graves were opened and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to

many."

- First of all, we remember that these were not underground graves, but grottos in hillsides; in these little caverns our brothers and sisters came alive, and on Easter morning they got out to return to their old neighborhoods and their families to prove that the Resurrection was no theory!
- Thus God added a few more instruments of orchestral accompaniment to the grand symphony of victory over death and the grave--in resurrecting some Christian folks who knew from personal experience that Jesus was indeed Savior and LORD.

Mt. 27:54

- The earthquake and its impact on the cemetery scared these tough soldiers, for they made the correct connection between Jesus and God, recognizing that His death had disturbed the universe. Luke comments that the centurion "glorified God" by his recognition that Jesus was a righteous man.
- Perhaps we shall see this man in heaven, a firstfruit of Jesus' promise: "If I be lifted up from the earth [upon the cross], I will draw all persons unto Me" (Jn.12:32).

Luke 23:38

- "And the whole crowd who came together to that sight, seeing what had been done, beat their breasts and returned."
- Perhaps they felt as did the Publican of Luke 18, sorry for their cruelty and repentant of their guilt in participating in Jesus' crucifixion.

v.39:

- "But all His acquaintances, and the women (among whom were Mary Magdalene, Mary mother of James and Joses, and the mother of Zebedees' sons--Mt.27:36) who followed Him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things."

The *coup de grace*: John 19: 31-37

Saturday, the Sabbath, was only a couple of hours away, since it started at sundown. Mosaic Law required that a corpse not be left exposed overnight (Deut. 21:22-23), so the Jewish officials wanted to move quickly. First, they would brutalize the three men crucified so as to snuff out any flicker of aliveness from their bodies. Breaking their thigh bones with a sledge-hammer would do it, and so this was done with the two criminals.

"But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs." They could see that Jesus had stopped breathing, and other clinical clues [not to be discussed with children] told them that He was past further torture.

"But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out." This was a fail-safe and less strenuous way to be sure He was dead; one sharp jab up under the ribcage would puncture liver or heart or aorta; the blood did not spurt as from a beating heart, but as from a pool in one of the ventricles. It is more difficult to figure whether this and the water (clear fluid?) was a miracle or not; the prophecies that were fulfilled as to His bones not being broken (Ex.12:46 as the Antitype of the Passover Lamb) and His side being pierced (Zech. 12:10) are called to our attention, but we have no prophetic notation about the blood or water. Jesus still retains the five deep wound-marks on His glorified body and will retain them through Judgment Day as testimony to both believer and unbeliever (Rev.1:7) of His self sacrifice for sinners.

Matt. 27:56-61 Jesus' corpse awaited claiming by family or friends. The three hours between His death and sundown was a busy time. Joseph went to Pilate with his request to be allowed to claim the body;

Pilate sent for the centurion in charge to see if Jesus had already died; he reported the fact that Jesus was dead; Pilate authorized Joseph's claim to the body, and Joseph (with help from others--though none of the eleven, probably) proceeded with such meager funeral preparations as he could for a hasty entombment so that he and the others could get home yet before sundown.

We are told that Nicodemus (John 19:39-40) was another attendant in this last-hour rush to place Jesus' body to rest. This is the same Nicodemus who had gotten acquainted with Jesus early on (John 3) and was also a member of the Council, who nevertheless had defended Jesus at a Council meeting some six months earlier (Jn.7:50-53) who now came to His side with a large amount (70 to 100 pounds) of pickling spices to pack around the corpse to delay decay; this was the normal Jewish practice for embalming a corpse. Close by was the "garden" with Joseph's cemetery plot, so they could manage to do all this and still get home by sunset if they hurried; whatever else needed doing to complete the burial would have to wait for later, because the Law forbade physical activities on Saturday, the Sabbath.

[Of course, by time they got back to the grave site very early on Sunday morning, it was absolutely too late for a funeral, because Jesus was up before anybody else, wide awake in His glorified body which had been miraculously kept from cellular decay (Ps.16:10)!!]

Joseph of Arimathea deserves some attention because he was also a member of the Supreme Council (Sanhedrin), was a righteous--rather than a hypocritical--Pharisee, had voted against the Council's condemnation of Jesus (Mk.14:64), and had become convinced that the Messiah he had long expected had now arrived in the person of Jesus. In devoted love he quickly wrapped Jesus' body in a clean linen shroud, with helpers carried it to the tomb recently carved out of the rocky hillside for his own use, hurriedly laid the body there, intending to return on Sunday morning to continue the burial (Luke 23:55-56); he (and helpers ?) closed the opening with a large slab of rock that could be rolled into its groove to keep varmints out of the gravesite, and they went home, feeling pretty sad about everything.

STUDENT PRAYER

I am ready and willing to search the scriptures today for the truth about my Savior, and to reflect on who I am in His sight. I want to know Jesus first, myself second, and then everyone else as people You have loved so unselfishly. Amen.

PRESENTATION

Present the lesson by telling the account as a harmony of the four gospels.

APPLICATIONS

1. Regarding Christian funeral, burial, interment: as our Savior brought life and immortality to light, , our death and burial are actually but a process by which we will receive our share in His life and immortality. Our bodies will sleep in the graves until Christ awakens them on Resurrection Morning; until then our souls will be in His keeping pending reuniting with our glorified bodies at the Judgment. Because we don't understand eternity, we don't know how to describe the condition of souls between death and Judgment Day.
2. Further, Jesus' life, death, and resurrection are the three great pillars of Biblical truth and thus of Christian theology. His life, in obedience to the will of God filled up the defects of our sins; His death was a final requirement as payment for the debt of sins; His resurrection provides public notice that the whole program of salvation was successful. The apostle Paul in particular was sponsored by Jesus to spell it out (justification, redemption, atonement, reconciliation) from

a variety of angles and aspects, as we read in the epistles to the Roman and Galatian congregations.

PASSAGES

These passages can be assigned as memory work or simply discussed in class as to how they fit the lesson.

Lower
Phil. 2:8 - He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.
Heb. 2:9 - ...that Jesus...by the grace of God...might taste death for everyone.

Middle any of the above and...
Jn.10:17 - Therefore my Father loves Me, because I lay down my life that I may take it again.
II Tim. 1:10 - Our Savior Jesus Christ has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light.
Jn.12:32 - And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to myself.

Upper any of the above and...
Rom.6:23 - For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Heb. 9:12 - With His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.
I Cor.15:56-57 - The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

HYMN CHOICES

Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain, Sinners Ruined by the Fall (TLH #149)
Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed and Did My Savior Die (TLH #154)
Lord Jesus, We Give Thanks to Thee (TLH #173)
On My Heart Imprint Thine Image (TLH #179)
Lamb of God, We Fall Before Thee (TLH #358)

The Death and Burial of Jesus

Matthew 27:45-66; Mark 15:33-47; Luke 23:44-56; John 19:28-42

The Story

Parents: Review this lesson with your child.

Pontius Pilate, ordered Jesus to be crucified. Pilate was doing just what Jesus' enemies wanted him to do. The soldiers took Jesus away. The soldiers made Jesus carry His own cross. The cross was made out of heavy wood. When Jesus could no longer carry the cross, the soldiers took a man out of the crowd to carry it for Him

That morning, Jesus was crucified. The soldiers nailed His hands and feet to the cross. They put the cross on a high hill. There Jesus was to die.

They also crucified two other men, one on each side of Jesus. These men had stolen things. Jesus prayed for His enemies. "Father, forgive them." A sign was put on the cross. It said, "Jesus, King of the Jews."

As Jesus hung on the cross people made fun of Him. They said, "If You are really the Son of God, come down." Even one of the men on the cross made fun of Him. The other man said, "We have sinned, but this Man has done nothing wrong. Remember me when You go to heaven, Jesus."

Jesus said to that man, "Today you will be with Me in heaven."

Jesus saw His mother, Mary. He said to John, His disciple, "Take care of My mother. You will be her son and she will be your mother."

It became very dark then for three hours even though it was during the day. Jesus said, "I am thirsty." Someone standing nearby gave Him something to drink. Then Jesus said, "It is finished. I am going to die." He died. The rocks broke and the earth shook.

The soldiers went to the cross and found Jesus dead. They did not break His bones, but they took a spear and cut His side to make sure He was dead.

A rich man named Joseph asked to have the body of Jesus to bury it. He and his friends wrapped it in clean white cloths. The grave was a big cave dug out of the hillside.

Some women friends of Jesus watched Him get buried. They decided to come back after the worship day to prepare Jesus' body for burial. The women could not do it this day because it was the Sabbath and not allowed.

The enemies of Jesus came to Pilate. They said they wanted a guard at the grave so Jesus' disciples could not steal His body and say that He rose from the dead. Pilate said they could have guards and that the door to the grave would also be sealed. Soldiers were there to watch over Jesus' grave.

Jesus suffered, died, and was buried.

Jesus died to forgive our sins.

Passage

John 1:29 "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! "

Prayer

Dear Jesus,
Thank you for coming to earth to suffer and die for my sins. Please make me always sure that when I die I will go to heaven to be with You. Amen.

Classroom Activity- Do these sentences make us happy or sad? Read each sentence to the class and have them color the happy or sad face.

Jesus died on the cross.

We are saved because Jesus died.

Our sins were the reason.

Jesus died and rose.

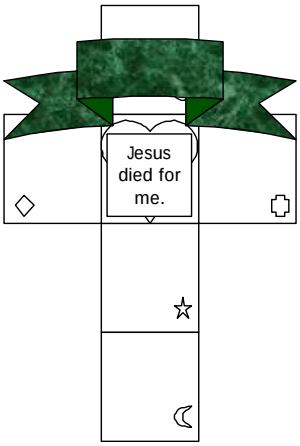
Jesus died to save us.

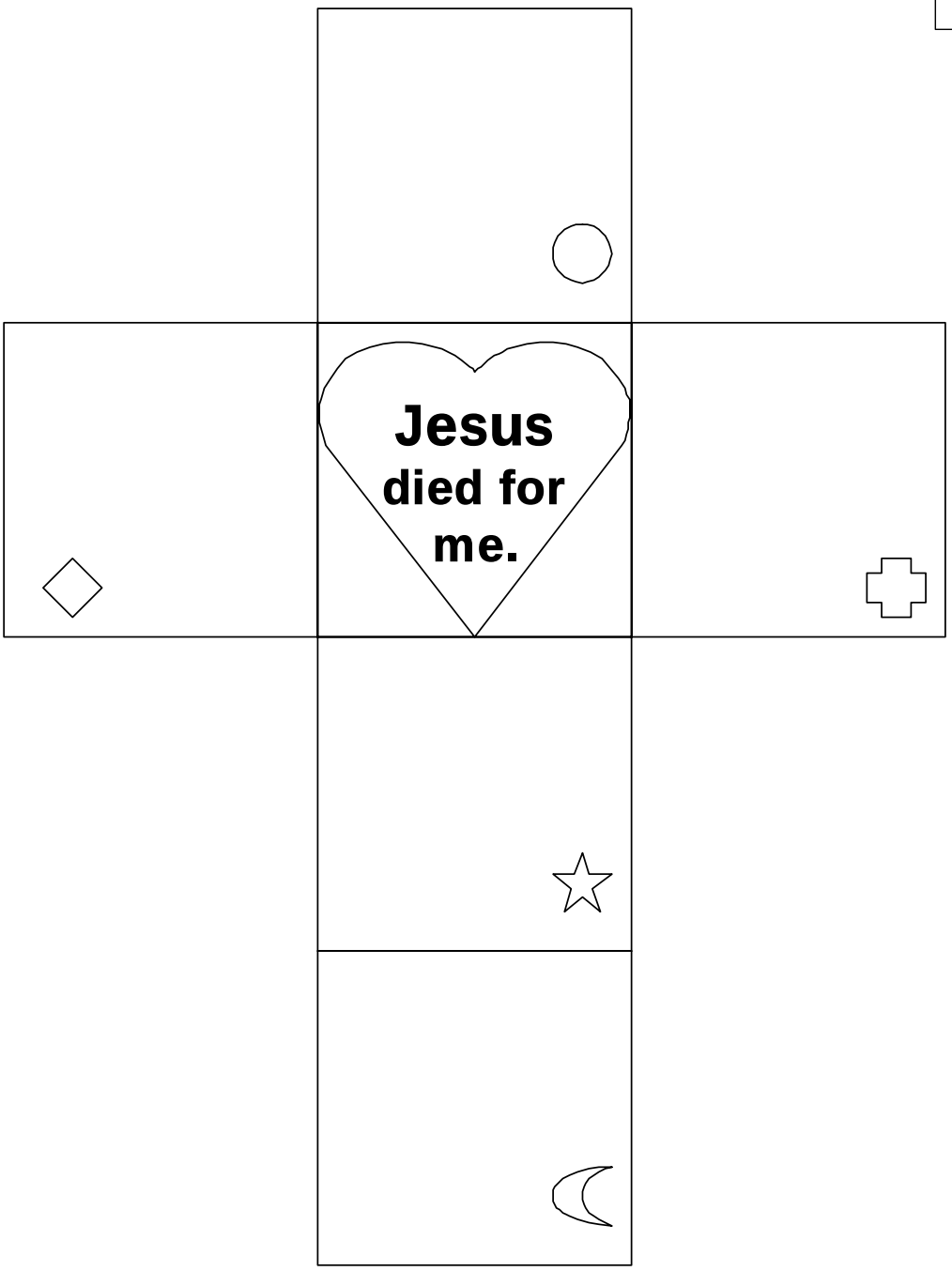
We will go to heaven.

Men buried Jesus in a grave.

Jesus died for me.

Classroom Art Activity- Help the children cut out the squares at the bottom of the previous page and glue them to the matching space in the cross. You may wish to cut out the completed cross and decorate with a purple ribbon.



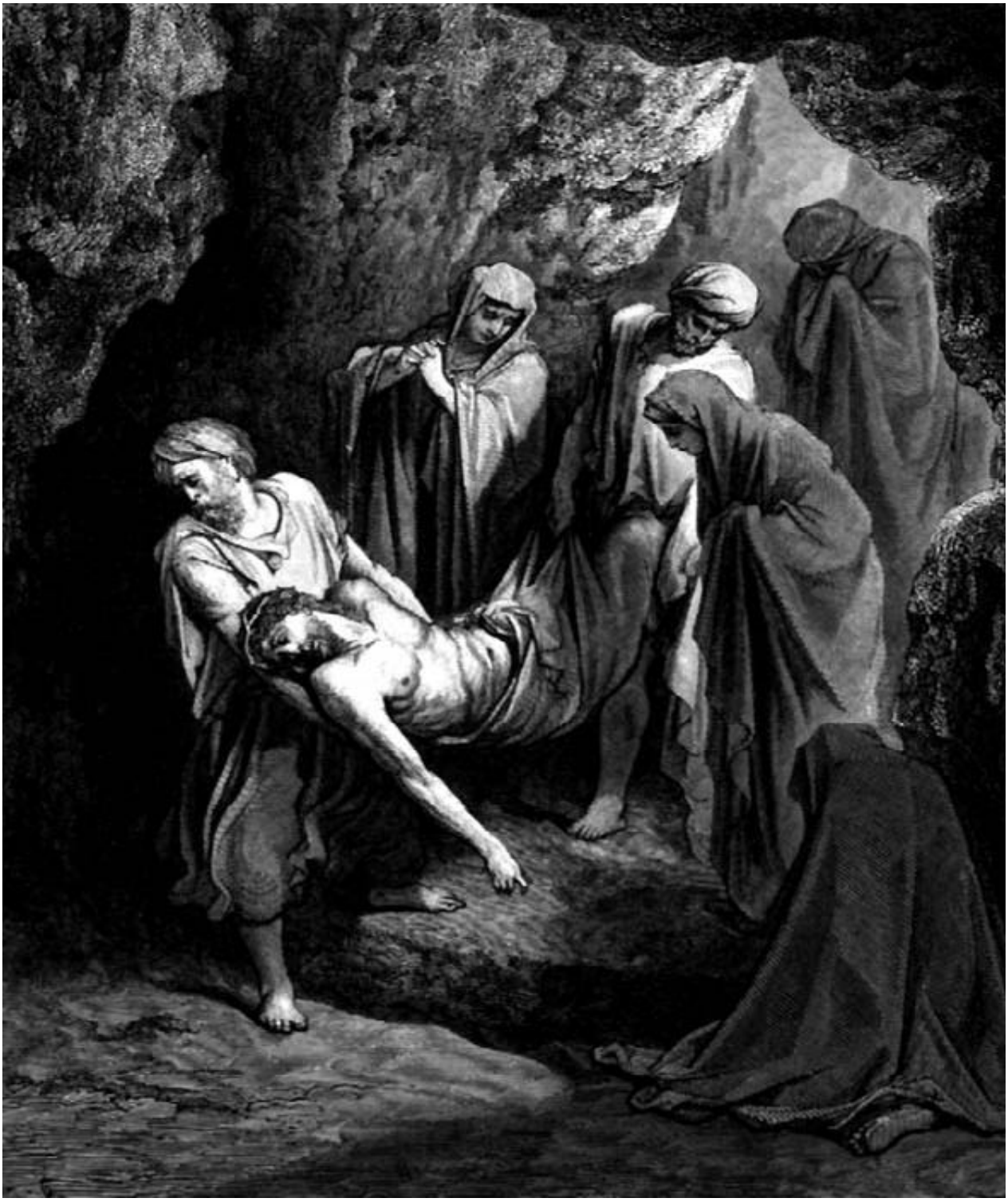


Review- Use these directions to color the picture.

1. Color the men carrying Jesus blue. What was the name of one of the men?
2. Color the women green. What were they planning to do the next day?
3. Color the body of Jesus red. How does Jesus' dying help you?

The Death and Burial of Jesus

Matthew 27:45-66; Mark 15:33-47; Luke 23:44-56; John 19:28-42



The Story

The Roman judge, named Pontius Pilate, ordered Jesus to be crucified. Pilate was doing just what Jesus' Jewish enemies wanted him to do. The soldiers took Him away. The soldiers made Jesus carry His own cross. The cross was made out of heavy wood. When Jesus could no longer carry the cross, the soldiers took a man out of the crowd to carry it for Him

That morning, Jesus was crucified. The soldiers nailed His hands and feet to the cross. They put the cross on a high hill. There Jesus was to die.

They also crucified two other men, one on each side of Jesus. These men had stolen things. Jesus prayed for His enemies. "Father, forgive them." A sign was put on the cross. It said, "Jesus, King of the Jews."

As Jesus hung on the cross people made fun of Him. They said, "If You are really the Son of God, come down." Even one of the men on the cross made fun of Him. The other man said, "We have sinned, but this Man has done nothing wrong. Remember me when You go to heaven, Jesus." Jesus said to that man, "Today you will be with Me in heaven."

Jesus saw His mother, Mary. He said to John, His disciple, "Take care of My mother. You will be her son and she will be your mother."

It became very dark then for three hours even though it was during the day. Jesus said, "I am thirsty." Someone standing nearby gave Him something to drink. Then Jesus said, "It is finished. I am going to die." He died. The rocks broke and the earth shook.

The soldiers went to the cross and found Jesus dead. They did not break His bones, but they took a spear and cut His side to make sure He was dead.

A rich man named Joseph asked to have the body of Jesus to bury it. He and his friends wrapped it in clean white cloths. The grave was a big cave dug out of the hillside.

Some women friends of Jesus watched Him get buried. They decided to come back after the worship day to prepare Jesus' body for burial. The women could not do it this day because it was the Sabbath and not allowed.

The enemies of Jesus came to Pilate. They said they wanted a guard at the grave so Jesus' disciples could not steal His body and say that He rose from the dead. Pilate said they could have guards and that the door to the grave would also be sealed. Soldiers were there to watch over Jesus' grave.

Jesus suffered, died, and was buried.

Review- Use these directions to color the picture on page 1.

1. Color the men carrying Jesus blue. What was the name of one of the men?
2. Color the women pink. What were they planning to do the next day?
3. Color the body of Jesus red. How does Jesus' dying help you?

Activity- Do these sentences make us happy or sad? Color the happy or sad face.

Jesus died on the cross.

Our sins were the reason.

Jesus died to save us.

Men buried Jesus in a grave.

We are saved because Jesus died.

Jesus died and rose.

We will go to heaven.

Passage

John 1:29 "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! "

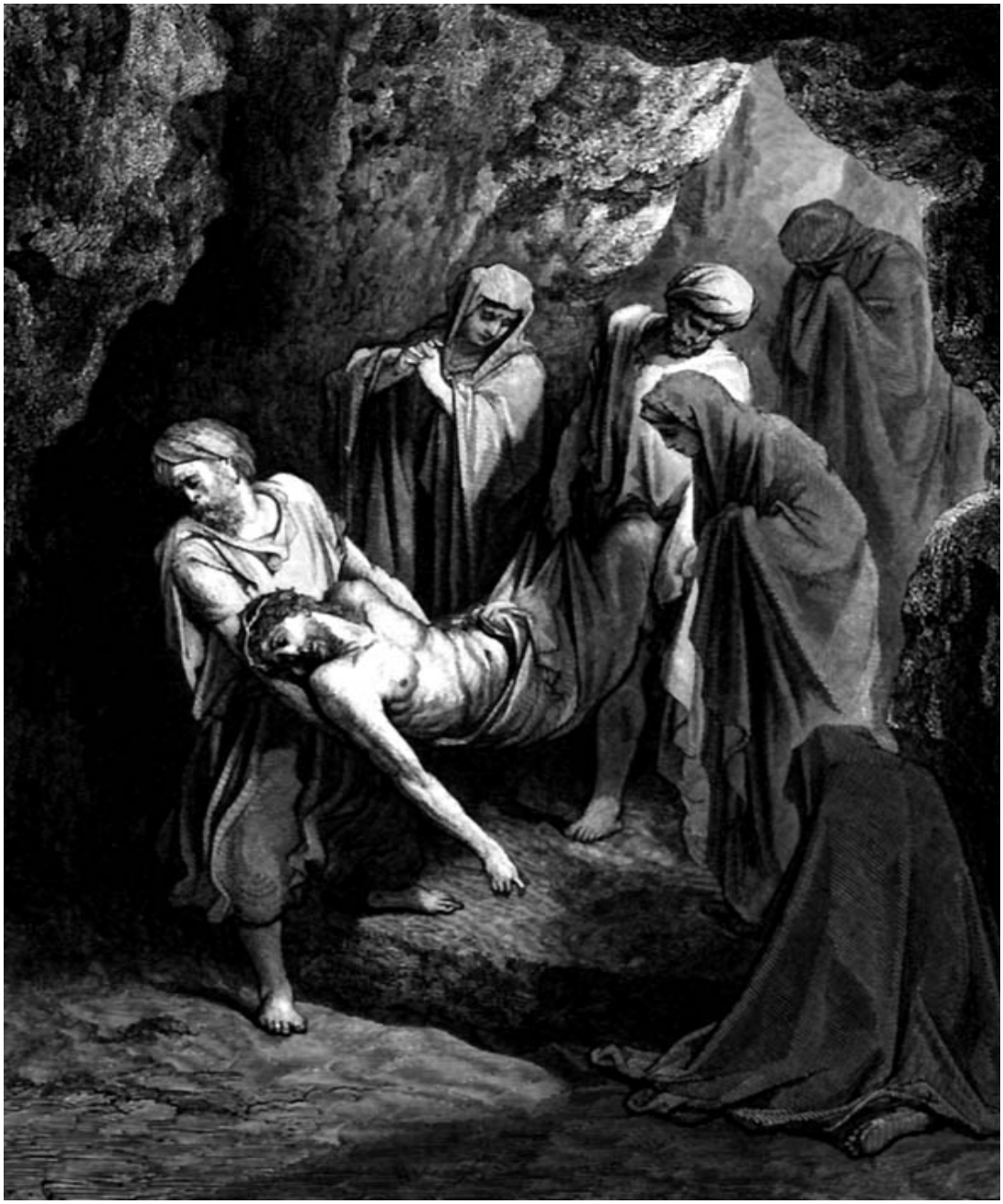
Prayer

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for coming to earth to suffer and die for my sins. Please make me always sure that when I die I will go to heaven to be with You. Amen.

The Death and Burial of Jesus

Matthew 27:45-66; Mark 15:33-47; Luke 23:44-56; John 19:28-42



The Story

As Jesus hung on the cross, suffering all the pain of hell for our sins, darkness covered the land from noon until 3:00 in the afternoon. Then Jesus cried with a loud voice, ”My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?” Because of the Hebrew words He used some people thought he was calling Elijah.

Jesus then said, “I thirst.” They brought him a sponge soaked with sour wine and lifted it to his lips with a stick.

Jesus knew that he had paid for all the sins of the world. He said his last words, “ It is finished,” and “ Father into thy hands I commend my spirit,” and He died.

When Jesus died several miracles happened:

- The earth shook,
- Rocks were split,
- Believers came out of their graves and appeared to people in Jerusalem, and
- The thick temple curtain, which kept the people from ever seeing the Most Holy Place, tore from the top to the bottom.

The centurion in charge of the soldiers at the cross said, ”Surely, this was a righteous man. Surely, this was the Son of God.”

Because it was getting late on Friday, and the next day was the Sabbath, the Jewish leaders did not want Jesus and the two other men left hanging on the crosses. They went to Pilate and asked him to have his soldiers break the legs of the three men to cause them to die more quickly. The soldiers were ordered to do this. When they came to Jesus, they were surprised to find that he was already dead. Because the Bible had said that none of his bones would be broken, they instead thrust a spear into his side to make certain he was dead. Blood and water flowed out of the wound.

A rich man named Joseph from Arimathea came to Pilate and asked him for the body of Jesus, to bury it. Surprised to hear that Jesus was already dead, Pilate questioned the centurion. He then granted Joseph permission to take the body of Jesus. Nicodemus, another secret believer, also came to help take Jesus’ body down from the cross. Nicodemus and Joseph wrapped the body of Jesus in fine linen cloth with spices, and laid Jesus in a new grave carved out of rock, which Joseph had prepared for himself. Then a large stone was rolled in front of the door of the tomb.

Mary Magdalene and another Mary watched the men bury Jesus, and then went home to prepare more spices and oils to finish the burial after the Sabbath day.

Jesus’ enemies came to Pilate and said, ”We remember how Jesus said after three days I will rise.” They asked Pilate to put a seal on the stone and soldiers to stand guard so his disciples could not steal the body and claim Jesus had arisen. Pilate gave them permission to make the grave as secure as they could.

Jesus suffered, died, and was buried.

Review

1. By what sign did the earth show how deeply Jesus was suffering?
   a) lightning b) darkness
   c) rain

2. Pick three things that happened as Jesus died.
   a) volcano eruptions
   b) earthquake
   c) strong wind
   d) floods
   e) dead people arose
   f) temple veil split

3. How did a soldier prove that Jesus was dead?
   a) broke His legs b) hit His head
   c) pierced His side

4. Where was Jesus buried?
   a) in the field of blood
   b) in Joseph's grave
   c) in a thieves' tomb

5. Who buried Jesus?
   a) Peter and John
   b) Nicodemus and Joseph
   c) Mary and Joseph

6. Why did they have to bury Jesus in a hurry?
   a) a storm was coming
   b) the Sabbath was beginning soon
   c) someone might steal the body

7. Choose two ways Jesus' enemies made the grave secure
   a) soldier guards
   b) a lock
   c) a seal
   d) guard dogs

For You To Consider

1. Explain how our death will be different from Jesus' death.

2. In what way will Jesus' death be like our death?

Passage - Fill in the blanks with the words given in the WORD BOX.

He _____ Himself and became _____ unto the point of

_____ even the death of the _____. (Philippians 2:8)

cross	humbled	obedient	death

Talking to Jesus

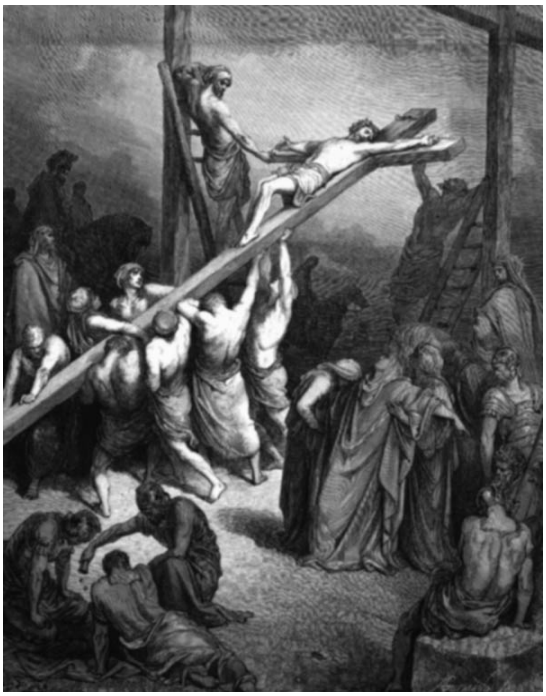
Dear Jesus,

Thank You for coming to earth to suffer and die for my sins. Please make me always sure that when I die I will go to heaven to be with You. Amen.

The Death and Burial of Jesus

Matthew 27:45-66; Mark 15:33-47; Luke 23:44-56; John 19:28-42

What suffering is Jesus going through in this picture?



Prayer

I am ready and willing to search the Scriptures today for the truth about my Savior, and to reflect on who I am in His sight. I want to know Jesus first, myself second, and then everyone else as people You have loved so unselfishly.
Amen

The Death and Burial of Jesus - A Harmony of the Gospels

And it was about the sixth hour (12:00 noon). Then the sun was darkened. From this hour darkness fell over the whole land until the ninth hour (3:00 P.M.).

And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani!" Which is translated, "My God, My God, why have You (hast Thou) forsaken Me?"

And when some of those who stood by heard that, they said, "Look! This Man is calling for Elijah."

After this, Jesus, seeing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I thirst."

Now a vessel full of sour wine was sitting there. Then immediately someone ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed, on hyssop, and put it to His mouth and offered it to Him to drink. He and the others said, "Let Him alone! Let us see if Elijah will come to save Him and take Him down."

So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!"

And when Jesus had cried out again with a loud voice, He said, "Father, into Your (Thy) hands I commend My spirit." And having said this, He bowed His head and gave up His spirit, and breathed His last.

Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom, and the earth quaked; and the rocks were split, and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and, coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many.

Now when the centurion, who stood opposite Jesus, saw what had happened and that He cried out like this, he glorified God, saying, "Certainly this was a righteous Man." When the centurion, and those with him who were guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they feared greatly, saying, "Truly this Man was the Son of God."

And the whole crowd who came together to that sight, seeing what had been done, beat their breasts and returned. But all His acquaintances and many women also were there, standing at a distance, looking on from afar, watching these things. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary, the mother of James the Less and of Joses, and Salome, the mother of Zebedee's sons. When Jesus was in Galilee, they followed Him and ministered to Him, and they had followed Him from Galilee, ministering to Him. And there were many other women who had accompanied Him from Galilee and came up with Him to Jerusalem.

Therefore, because it was the Preparation Day, that the bodies should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. Then the soldiers came, and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who was crucified with Jesus; but when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs; but one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out.

And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you may believe. For these things were done that the Scripture should be fulfilled, "Not one of His bones shall be broken." And again, another Scripture says, "They shall look on Him whom they pierced."

And after these things, when evening had come, because it was

the Preparation Day, that is, the day before the Sabbath, behold, there came a rich man from Arimathea, a city of the Jews, named Joseph, who himself had also become a disciple of Jesus, but secretly, for fear of the Jews. He was a good and just man, who himself was also waiting for the kingdom of God. He was a prominent council member, but he had not consented to their counsel and deed.

This man took courage and went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus, that he might take it away. And Pilate marveled that He was already dead; and, summoning the centurion, he asked him if He had been dead for some time. And when he found out from the centurion, Pilate gave him permission and commanded the body to be given to Joseph.

Then Joseph bought fine linen and came and took the body of Jesus down. And Nicodemus, who at first came to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds. Then they took the body of Jesus and wrapped and bound it in strips of linen with the spices, as the custom of the Jews is to bury.

Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden, Joseph's own new tomb, that was hewn out of the rock, in which no one had yet been laid. Therefore, because of the Jews' Preparation Day—that day was the Preparation, and the Sabbath drew near—because the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

And the women who had come with Him from Galilee followed after. And Mary Magdalene was there, and the other Mary, the mother of Joses, sitting opposite the grave. They observed the tomb, and where and how His body was laid. And Joseph rolled a large stone against the door of the tomb and went away. And the women returned and prepared spices and fragrant oils. And they rested on the Sabbath according to the commandment.

On the next day, which followed the Day of Preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees gathered together to Pilate, saying, "Sir, we remember, while He was still alive, how that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise.' Therefore command that the tomb be made secure until the third day, lest His disciples come by night and steal Him away and say to the people, 'He has risen from the dead.' So the last deception will be worse than the first."

Pilate said to them, "You have a guard; go your way, make it as secure as you know how."

So they went and made the tomb secure, sealing the stone and setting the guard.

What the Story Tells Us

1. Now from the ____ _____ until the _____ _____ there was _____ over all the land.
2. Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "My God, _____ _____, why have _____ _____ _____?"
3. At the time of Jesus' death the veil of the _____ was _____ in two from _____ to _____ and the _____were opened and many bodies of the saints were _____.
4. The centurion said, "Truly this was ____ _____ ___ _____".
5. When they saw that Jesus was already dead, they did not _____ His _____. Instead a soldier _____ His _____ with a _____.
6. _____ of _____ offered his new tomb for Jesus' body.
7. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses observed where _____ _____ _____.

Outer Aim
Jesus suffered, died, and was buried.

What God Tells Us - Mark each as (T)rue or (F)alse

1. _____ The Roman soldiers fulfilled Old Testament prophesies when they broke Jesus legs and pierced His side.
2. _____ The Holy Spirit filled many believing women to confess Jesus by being near Him at the time of His death.
3. _____ Joseph and Nicodemus were confessing their faith in Jesus when they buried Him.
4. _____ Joseph and Nicodemus placed themselves in no danger by asking for Jesus' body and then burying it.

5. _____ It is always easy to confess our faith in Jesus in our world today.
6. _____ We should confess our faith in Jesus only when it is safe to do so.

Inner Aim

God's plan for our redemption required that One Substitute must die for the sins of the world. And we are happy that Jesus got the job done for us.

Passages

Philippians 2:8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

John 10:17 "Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again.

II Timothy 1:10 "Our Savior Jesus Christ has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

John 12:32 "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself."

Hymn

Find a hymn that talks about why we as Christians should not be afraid to die.

What part of the hymn do you especially like, and why? Explain.

Your Turn

Discuss some situations where it may not be easy to confess Jesus as our Savior.

Discuss ways to overcome our fears in confessing Jesus at all times.

Prayer

Lord, please help me to appreciate all that You did for me by dying on the cross for all my sins. Fill me with Your Spirit so that I will confess You always. In Your name we pray. Amen.

The Death and Burial of Jesus

Matthew 27:45-66; Mark 15:33-47; Luke 23:44-56; John 19:28-42

Why did God have the believers rise from the dead when Jesus died?

If you had been one of those believers, how would you have witnessed to people about what happened to you?

Prayer

I am ready and willing to search the Scriptures today for the truth about my Savior, and to reflect on who I am in His sight. I want to know Jesus first, myself second, and then everyone else as people You have loved so unselfishly. Amen

The Death and Burial of Jesus - A Harmony of the Gospels

And it was about the sixth hour (12:00 noon). Then the sun was darkened. From this hour darkness fell over the whole land until the ninth hour (3:00 P.M.).

And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani!" Which is translated, "My God, My God, why have You (hast Thou) forsaken Me?"

And when some of those who stood by heard that, they said, "Look! This Man is calling for Elijah."

After this, Jesus, seeing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I thirst."

Now a vessel full of sour wine was sitting there. Then immediately someone ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed, on hyssop, and put it to His mouth and offered it to Him to drink. He and the others said, "Let Him alone! Let us see if Elijah will come to save Him and take Him down."

So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!"

And when Jesus had cried out again with a loud voice, He said, "Father, into Your (Thy) hands I commend My spirit." And having said this, He bowed His head and gave up His spirit, and breathed His last.

Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom, and the earth quaked; and the rocks were split, and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and, coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many.

Now when the centurion, who stood opposite Jesus, saw what had happened and that He cried out like this, he glorified God, saying, "Certainly this was a righteous Man." When the centurion, and those with him who were guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they feared greatly, saying, "Truly this Man was the Son of God."

And the whole crowd who came together to that sight, seeing what had been done, beat their breasts and returned. But all His acquaintances and many women also were there, standing at a distance, looking on from afar, watching these things. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary, the mother of James the Less and of Joses, and Salome, the mother of Zebedee's sons. When Jesus was in Galilee, they followed Him and ministered to Him, and they had followed Him from Galilee, ministering to Him. And there were many other women who had accompanied Him from Galilee and came up with Him to Jerusalem.

Therefore, because it was the Preparation Day, that the bodies should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. Then the soldiers came, and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who was crucified with Jesus; but when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs; but one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out.

And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you may believe. For these things were done that the Scripture should be fulfilled, "Not one of His bones shall be broken." And again, another Scripture says, "They shall look on Him whom they pierced."

And after these things, when evening had come, because it was the Preparation Day, that is, the day before the Sabbath, behold, there came a rich man from Arimathea, a city of the Jews, named Joseph, who himself had also become a disciple of Jesus, but secretly, for fear of the Jews. He was a good and just man, who himself was also waiting for the kingdom of God. He was a prominent council member, but he had not consented to their counsel and deed.

This man took courage and went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus, that he might take it away. And Pilate marveled that He was already dead; and, summoning the centurion, he asked him if He had been dead for some time. And when he found out from the centurion, Pilate gave him permission and commanded the body to be given to Joseph.

Then Joseph bought fine linen and came and took the body of Jesus down. And Nicodemus, who at first came to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds. Then they took the body of Jesus and wrapped and bound it in strips of linen with the spices, as the custom of the Jews is to

bury.

Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden, Joseph's own new tomb, that was hewn out of the rock, in which no one had yet been laid. Therefore, because of the Jews' Preparation Day—that day was the Preparation, and the Sabbath drew near—because the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

And the women who had come with Him from Galilee followed after. And Mary Magdalene was there, and the other Mary, the mother of Joses, sitting opposite the grave. They observed the tomb, and where and how His body was laid. And Joseph rolled a large stone against the door of the tomb and went away. And the women returned and prepared spices and fragrant oils. And they rested on the Sabbath according to the commandment.

On the next day, which followed the Day of Preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees gathered together to Pilate, saying, "Sir, we remember, while He was still alive, how that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise.' Therefore command that the tomb be made secure until the third day, lest His disciples come by night and steal Him away and say to the people, 'He has risen from the dead.' So the last deception will be worse than the first."

Pilate said to them, "You have a guard; go your way, make it as secure as you know how."

So they went and made the tomb secure, sealing the stone and setting the guard.

Recalling Details

1. What happened for three hours?
2. What did Jesus cry out at the ninth hour?
3. What had Jesus been suffering during those hours?
4. What was Jesus given to drink?
5. What were Jesus' final words?
6. What happened when Jesus died?
7. What confession did the centurion make?
8. Why weren't Jesus' legs broken?
9. What did the soldiers do to Jesus?
10. What did Pilate permit Joseph to do?
11. Who helped Joseph bury Jesus?
12. How was the door of the tomb closed?
13. What prophesy of Jesus bothered the chief priests and Pharisees?

Outer Aim

Jesus suffered, died, and was buried.

Discussion Questions

1. What commandment was Jesus keeping for us by committing the care of His mother to John? How was He keeping that commandment?
2. What did Jesus mean when He said, “It is finished.”?
3. What shows us that the leaders of the Jews were still afraid of Jesus after He was dead?
4. Discuss what was dangerous about what Joseph and Nicodemus did.
5. Find and discuss some Bible passages that should help us to confess Christ even when it may be uncomfortable or dangerous to do so.

Inner Aim
God’s plan for our redemption required that One Substitute must die for the sins of the world. And we are happy that Jesus died for us.

Passages - Read each passage and tell how it applies to the story.

John 12:32 "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself."

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Hebrews 9:12 Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.

I Corinthians 15:56-57 The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Hymn

How does Hymn #186 apply to this story? In the last verse, how is heaven described?

Prayer

Lord, please help me to appreciate all that You did for me by dying on the cross for all my sins. Fill me with Your Spirit so that I will confessYou always. InYyour name we pray. Amen.