



NEW TESTAMENT • LESSON 38

THE CRUCIFIXION OF JESUS

The death of Jesus brings us life.



MONDAY

THE STORY: MATTHEW 27:27-31

Jesus was crowned with thorns. Jesus, who is King of Kings and Lord of Lords, endured the mocking of sinful men so that we might be saved. The soldiers gave Jesus a crown of thorns, a scarlet robe and a staff. They struck Jesus again and again on the head. This was no surprise to Jesus; He knew the fate that awaited Him. Consider these verses, from the book of Isaiah, He would have known from childhood:

“He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces He was despised, and we esteemed Him not. Surely He took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered Him stricken by God, smitten by Him, and afflicted” (Isaiah 53:3,4).

TALK ABOUT IT:

Why did the soldiers mock Jesus' claims to kingship? (Jesus admitted to Pilate that he was the King of the Jews. When people think of a king, they think of worldly power. Jesus was a different kind of king, a heavenly king. He looked nothing like a king, so not knowing who He was, the soldiers mocked His claims.)

Why didn't Jesus fight back, or at least correct the soldiers? (In 1 Peter 2:23-24, we learn that Jesus offered no resistance because He entrusted Himself to God, the judge, and willingly endured this suffering for us.)

PRAY:

Thank Jesus for enduring suffering for us that we might be forgiven.



T U E S D A Y

THE STORY: MATTHEW 27:32-44

Jesus was crucified. Jesus was nailed to the cross and crucified. A sign was placed over His head that announced His title as “King of the Jews.” The soldiers cast lots for His clothing, and a crowd gathered to mock Him.

Jesus endured crucifixion on our behalf. Crucifixion was a terrible way to be executed. It was so horrible that it was reserved for slaves and the most degraded criminals. If the legs of a person who was crucified were not broken, it might take days to die an agonizing death. Once the legs of a person were broken they could no longer support their weight to breathe so they would suffocate.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Why did people mock Jesus? (They did not believe Him, and now seeing Jesus appear defeated, they felt justified in their unbelief. They thought that if Jesus truly was the Son of God, He would save Himself. When Jesus did nothing against the Romans, they mocked Him as a fake.)

How does reading about the Crucifixion affect you? (Parents, draw out your children here. Be prepared to challenge your children to trust in Christ.)

PRAY:

Ask God to bring salvation to every member of your family that you might all believe and trust in Jesus' sacrifice.



WEDNESDAY
WHERE IS THE GOSPEL?

THE STORY: LUKE 23:44-49

The death of Christ is the heart of the gospel. Without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness of sins (see Hebrews 9:22). Jesus was the Lamb of God who was slain for the forgiveness of our sins.

Romans 5:8,9 says "...but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through Him!"

As Jesus was dying, a darkness came over the whole land. At the moment of His death, the temple curtain was torn in two. This is the curtain that divided the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place and blocked men from the presence of God. With Jesus' death, the curtain was torn, and the way between man and God was opened. John records that just before Jesus died He said, "It is finished" (see John 19:30). The wrath of God poured out upon Jesus for the sins of man was exhausted, and the way to God was opened.

Luke 23:46 records that Jesus said, "Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit." He was not entrusting Himself alone but all those who through His sacrifice are "in Christ." Jesus died for all of us.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Why was there a curtain dividing the inner courts of the temple? (The curtain protected the priests from the presence of God. They could only go in once a year

and only with blood, which was offered to cover their sins as well as the sins of the people.)

What happened to the curtain when Jesus died? (The curtain was torn in two from top to bottom.)

What did the tearing of the curtain mean? (The way between man and God never need be blocked again. Jesus, the great High Priest, offered His own blood to God, and His sacrifice was able to purchase our redemption forever, according to Hebrews 9:12.)

PRAY:

Thank Jesus for tearing down the curtain that blocked us from the presence of God. Take time to praise God for all He has done for your family.



THURSDAY

THE STORY: MATTHEW 27:45-61

Jesus died and was buried. While Jesus was on the cross, Matthew 27:46 says He called out, “My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?” For all eternity past, Jesus had been in sweet fellowship with His Father. Now the Father poured out His full wrath upon Christ for our sin, forsaking Him upon the cross. John 19:30 adds that just before He died, Jesus said, “It is finished,” signifying that the wrath of the Father had been fully poured out. It did not take long for Jesus to die. He had been so tortured prior to being crucified that his weakened body did not last long.

Imagine being present, mocking Jesus and watching Him die. This was then followed by earthquakes, the tearing of the temple curtain and the resurrections of many. Those watching were terrified, instinctively knowing that Jesus was the Son of God. John 19:32 records that though the soldiers broke the legs of the criminals to hasten their death, they did not need to break the legs of Jesus, for he was already dead. Instead they pierced Jesus’ side with a spear.

Joseph of Arimathea requested Jesus' body and buried Him in his own new tomb (see Mathew 27:57-60).

TALK ABOUT IT:

Why are the words of John's Gospel account "It is finished" so wonderful? (These words indicate the sacrifice was complete, with the anger of God fully satisfied. The penalty for our sin was paid.)

What are your sins? (As a family take time to one by one confess the sinful patterns of your life. It is good to remember our sins. It is in remembering our sins that we see our need for the remedy of the cross. Gratefulness for the cross wells up in our hearts.)

PRAY:

Thank Jesus for receiving the punishment for our sins in His body.



**FRIDAY
ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS**

THE STORY: ISAIAH 53:5

When we read the account of the soldiers mocking Jesus and striking Him in the head, the connection to Isaiah's words becomes clear. Jesus suffered beatings and was mocked and spat upon by the soldiers on His way to be crucified.

TALK ABOUT IT:

How does reading this account from Isaiah affect you? (Parents, draw out your children and steer them toward gratefulness to Jesus.)

How does Jesus' suffering speak of His love for us? (There is no way to comprehend how much agony He suffered because of the amazing love He has for us. If we thought every hour of every day about the depth of His love, we would still not be able to comprehend its fullness.)

PRAY:

Thank the Lord for enduring so much suffering for us.