

MD KIDS CURRICULUM: LUKE

Week 25: The Crucifixion (from Luke 23:26-49)

To the Teacher:

This week we look at the death of Jesus, the perfect Lamb who was slain so we might live. This is a heavy story, but crucial to our faith. Allow the kids to sit in the heaviness for a bit to start to see the cost Jesus paid... but remind them at the end that he didn't stay dead!

- **Big Idea:** Jesus allowed himself to be killed by the very people he came to save, so that they could have life. What love!
- **Question:** Have you ever done something wrong and worried about the consequence? What would it be like if you got in trouble, but somebody else came and took your punishment for you? How would you feel?

- **Story:** from Luke 23:26-49

[READ]

After Jesus ate one last meal with his friends, one of them, Judas Iscariot, betrayed him and brought men to capture Jesus. The disciples were scared. Even Peter, who said he would never leave Jesus, denied knowing him because he was afraid of what would happen to him. The men who captured Jesus mocked him. They brought him before the religious leaders and the Roman officials, who condemned Jesus to die.

And as they led him away, they grabbed a man named Simon from Cyrene, who was passing through town, and made him carry the cross behind Jesus. A large crowd of people followed him, including women who were mourning and crying for him. But turning to them, Jesus said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and the children of Israel."

Two criminals were also led away to be executed with Jesus. When they arrived at the place called The Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals, one on the right and one on the left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, because they do not know what they are doing." And they took his clothes from him.

The people stood watching, and even the leaders were scoffing: “He saved others; let him save himself if this is God’s Messiah, the Chosen One!” The soldiers also mocked him. They came offering him sour wine and said, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” They wrote above him: ‘This Is the King of the Jews’.

Then one of the criminals hanging there began to yell insults at him: “Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!”

But the other criminal said to him: “Don’t you even fear God? You’re facing the same punishment! We are punished rightly, because we’re getting back what we deserve for the things we did, but this man has done nothing wrong.” Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” And Jesus said to him, “I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.”

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three, because the sun’s light failed. The curtain of the sanctuary was split down the middle. And Jesus called out with a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I entrust my spirit.” Saying this, he breathed his last breath.

When the Roman soldier saw what happened, he began to glorify God saying, “This man really was righteous!” All the crowds that had gathered for this spectacle went home mourning, beating their chests. But all who knew him, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching everything.

[Reflection Questions]

- Why did Peter deny he knew Jesus?
 - ▶ He was scared.
 - ▶ He wanted to save himself because he didn’t fully understand yet that it was Jesus who would save him.
- Why do you think Jesus told the women to cry for themselves and their children, instead of crying for Jesus?
 - ▶ Jesus knew he was going to be with his Father and would rise from the dead.
 - ▶ He wanted them to be more concerned with what would happen to them, especially if they did not trust in Jesus.
- One of the criminals next to Jesus mocked him, but the other stood up for him and seemed to believe Jesus was the King. Isn’t it amazing that even though he did wrong things and was a criminal, his trust in Jesus could save him?

- When Jesus died, the sky went black and the curtain in the temple tore.
 - ▶ Jesus is Creator of all things, including the sky. The sky went black because all of creation felt the pain of Jesus' death!
 - ▶ In the temple, there was a very thick curtain that kept people separate from the presence of God. When Jesus died, the curtain tore down symbolizing he has made it possible for all people to draw near to God's presence, if we trust in him!
- Though Jesus' death was sad, we must remember what happens next in the Story... do you know?
- **Prayer:**

Father, we are sorry for every thought, word, and action that is against Your kingdom. We know that rebelling against the Give of Life can only mean death. Thank You for sending Jesus to take that death for us, so that we can have life with You forever. Give us new life by Your Spirit. Amen.
- **Craft:**
 - Use the sheets attached to create a Stations of the Cross booklet. Have the kids color and cut out each section, then help them staple them together in order into a booklet.
 - OR you can use popsicle sticks to create and decorate crosses.
- **BLESS Activity:**

For kids to do during the week

Bless: Do something nice this week for somebody else without them knowing or without them having to ask. Do not expect anything in return, just do it to love them.





