



REFERENCES: LUKE 23:26-24:12; THE DESIRE OF AGES, PP. 741-794.

He's Alive!

Have you ever known someone who died? Jesus died. But He didn't stay dead. God raised Him back to life so He could save us and take us to heaven someday.

W

hen Jesus lived on earth, criminals were put to death by nailing them to wooden crosses and leaving them to die. Jesus wasn't a criminal, but He was treated like one.



Three men were to be crucified that Friday: Jesus and two thieves. Soldiers nailed Jesus to the cross with big nails in His hands and feet. Then they lifted the cross and dropped it into a hole in the ground.

Jesus prayed for them. "Father, forgive these people. They don't know what they are doing."

The Jewish leaders looked up at Jesus. "He saved other people," they shouted, "but He can't save Himself!"

The soldiers made fun of Jesus. They put a sign above His head that said, "This Is the King of the Jews."

Memory Verse

"We believe that Jesus died and rose again."

1 THESSALONIANS 4:14, NIV

The Message

We praise Jesus because He died and rose again.

The two thieves hung on either side of Jesus. One began to make fun of Jesus. But the other said, "We deserve to die! But this man hasn't done anything wrong!" Then he asked Jesus to remember him. And Jesus promised him that one day he would be in heaven.

At noontime the sky became dark as night. People were afraid! Soon Jesus died.

Joseph, Jesus' friend, took Jesus' body down from the cross and put it in a new tomb. A big rock was rolled in front of the tomb. The sun went down. It was Sabbath.

Jesus' friends rested on the Sabbath day. But they were very, very sad. They didn't understand what had happened. What would happen next?

Sunday morning some of the women who loved Jesus went to the tomb. The stone had been rolled away, and the tomb was empty!

Two angels in white robes appeared suddenly before the troubled women.

"Why are you looking in a tomb for someone who is alive?" an angel asked. "Jesus told you that He would die, but that He would rise again on the third day."

These women ran to tell Jesus' other friends, and the good news spread quickly. "Jesus is alive! Jesus is alive!"

He is alive today. And the good news about Jesus is still spreading around the world. And this is it: Jesus loves us. Jesus died for us. And He rose from the dead. Jesus is in heaven right now. And when He comes again, He will take everyone who believes in Him to heaven to live with Him forever.



Do and Say

SABBATH

Each day this week, read the lesson story together, and review the memory verse.

“WePoint to self, then others.

believePoint to head.

that JesusPoint upward.

diedPalms up, then turn them down.

and rose again.” . . .Lift hands upward.

1 Thessalonians . . .Palms together, then 4:14 open.

SUNDAY

While reading the story, pause at the appropriate places, and let your child say: “He did it for me!”

Talk about how much you love your child and how you would die for them. Talk about how much more Jesus loved us, to die for all, even those who treated Him cruelly.

MONDAY

Encourage your child to share Jesus’ cross made in Sabbath School. (Or help them draw a picture of a cross.) As they share with someone, remind them to share the good news: Jesus loves us all very much, and He died to save us.



TUESDAY

Help your child look at a calendar and name and count the days that Jesus was dead before He rose again. Let your child hold a big nail as you talk about how much Jesus loves us.

WEDNESDAY

Help your child use a candle to drip some hot wax on a paper. Put a stamp or design in it before it gets hard. Talk about the way Jesus’ tomb was sealed and how the angel broke the seal and rolled the stone away.



THURSDAY

Help your child use two sticks or twigs to make a cross. Tie them together with string. Share them with someone, and tell them that Jesus loved them so much that He died for them. Sing “Oh, Friend, Do You Love Jesus?” For the ending, sing “because He died for me.”

FRIDAY

For family worship, read aloud portions of Luke 23:26-24:12. Have your child open an empty box or jar. Tell them why it is like the place where Jesus was buried. Talk about why the tomb was empty on Sunday morning.

Help your child make a crown and wear it during family worship as you talk about Jesus’ coming.