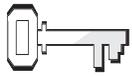


# The Day Jesus Died



### References

Matthew 27:34–56;  
Mark 15:21–39;  
Luke 23:26–49;  
John 19:16–30;  
*The Desire of Ages*,  
pp. 741–764



### Memory Verse

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16, NIV).



### Objectives

The children will:  
**Know** that Jesus’ death is the ultimate (greatest) demonstration of God’s love.

**Feel** a desire to show others how much God loves them.

**Respond** by lovingly meeting a real need in others.



### The Message

We serve God when we share His love with others.

### Monthly Theme

God wants us to show others how much He loves them.

### The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Jesus is led out of the city to the place of execution, where He is crucified with two thieves. The insults and the mocking continue right to the end. During the last few hours on the cross, Jesus feels abandoned by His heavenly Father, and cries out to Him in despair. Finally Jesus dies, and the earth shakes in reaction to the death of the Creator. God the Father and all heaven suffer with Jesus.

### This is a lesson about service.

The Crucifixion story is at the heart of every Christian’s belief system. Here is the ultimate demonstration of God’s unending love for sinners. This is the core of reason for living, the theme of every song, every sermon, every prayer. And in the context of service, this is the message we are to give to others, the gospel of God’s saving grace. This is what attracts sinners to a different way of life: the timeless story of Jesus dying for them, sacrificing for them, offering them eternal life.

### Teacher Enrichment

“But this great sacrifice was not made in order to create in the Father’s heart a love for man, not to make Him willing to save. No, no! ‘God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son.’ John 3:16. The Father loves us, not because of the great propitiation, but He provided the propitiation because He loves us. Christ was the medium through which He could pour out His infinite love upon a fallen world. . . . God suffered with His Son” (*Steps to Christ*, p. 13).

“The spotless Son of God hung upon the cross, His flesh lacerated with stripes; those hands so often reached out in blessing, nailed to the wooden bars; those feet so tireless on ministries of love, spiked to the tree; that royal head pierced by the crown of thorns; those quivering lips shaped to the cry of woe. And all that He endured—the blood drops that flowed from His head, His hands, His feet, the agony that racked His frame, and the unutterable anguish that filled His soul at the hiding of His Father’s face—speaks to each child of humanity, declaring, It is for thee that the Son of God consents to bear this burden of guilt; for thee He spoils the domain of death, and opens the gates of Paradise” (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 755).

### Room Decorations

See Lesson 1.

## Program Overview

Lesson Section	Minutes	Activities	Materials Needed
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled	
<b>1</b> Readiness Options	up to 10	A. <i>Love in Action</i>  B. <i>Precious Possession</i>	table, paper bags, sign saying "Love in Action," various objects (see activity) a precious possession, paper and crayons
<b>Any Time</b> Prayer and Praise*	up to 10	Fellowship Songbook Mission Offering Prayer	none <i>Sing for Joy</i> <i>Children's Mission</i> offering container none
<b>2</b> Bible Lesson	up to 20	Experiencing the Story  Memory Verse Bible Study	wooden cross, table, hammer, small nails, picture or felt of Jesus or abstract paper figure to fit cross, "Jesus, King of the Jews" sign <i>Sing for Joy</i> Bibles
<b>3</b> Applying the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Mimes</i>	none
<b>4</b> Sharing the Lesson	up to 15	A. <i>Jesus Loves Me</i> B. <i>Jesus Loves You</i>	<i>Sing for Joy</i> Jesus Loves You pattern (see p. 140), paper, art supplies

\*Prayer and Praise me be used at any time during the program.

## Welcome

Welcome students at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Listen to last week’s memory verse and encourage the children to share any experiences from last week’s lesson study. Have them begin the readiness activity of your choice.



## Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

### You Need:

- table
- paper bag for each child
- sign saying “Love in Action”
- various objects (see activity)

### A. Love in Action

In advance, put one object in each paper bag (one bag for each child) on the table. Put a big sign above the table saying “Love in Action.” Tell each child to take one paper bag and look inside. Say: **As you take the object out of the bag, tell how you can use it to share God’s love with someone.**

Suggested objects: handkerchief (wipe tears of little baby), crochet needle (crochet a doily for someone), book (read a book, etc.), plastic cup (give a drink), piece of bread, pencil, notebook, sponge, broom, etc.

### Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Was it easy or hard to think of how you might use the object you found in your bag to share God’s love? How do you feel when you think about Jesus helping others? Was it easy or hard for Jesus to find ways to help others? What was the greatest way He helped us? (He died on the cross.) Our Bible story today is about just that—how Jesus sacrificed Himself for us so we could have everlasting life. God also sacrificed by allowing His only Son to die for us. That’s what our memory verse is about: “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16). When we do kind things for others, it’s one way we can share God’s love and sacrifice with them. Today’s message is:**



**WE SERVE GOD WHEN WE SHARE HIS LOVE WITH OTHERS.**

**Say that with me.**

### You Need:

- a precious possession
- paper and crayons

### B. Precious Possession

Bring to class your most treasured, precious possession (it may be a person).

Show it or pass it around, if possible, and tell why it is so valuable to you. Then distribute paper and crayons. Ask: **What is your most precious possession, the thing most important to you? Take a few minutes to draw what that is, and let’s talk about it.**

Allow time to draw, then let each child explain their picture. Say: **Give your picture to the person to your right.** When everyone has passed their picture on, say: **Now I want everyone to tear up the picture in your hand.** The children may be upset.

### Debriefing

Ask: **How did you feel when the person next to you tore up your picture?**

(angry, upset, surprised) **Was that picture your most precious possession? Jesus was God's most precious possession. He sent Jesus to die for us.**

**Can you imagine how God felt when the soldiers beat Jesus and nailed Him to the cross? (sad, upset, hurt) God made a huge sacrifice for us when He allowed His only Son to die to save us. Why did He do that? Our memory verse says: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16). Our Bible story today is about just that—how Jesus made the greatest sacrifice for us so we could have everlasting life. And we want to tell others about it. Today's message is:**



**WE SERVE GOD WHEN WE SHARE HIS LOVE WITH OTHERS.**

**Say that with me.**

## Prayer and Praise



### Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Allow time for sharing experiences from last week's lesson study and review last week's memory verse. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special warm greeting to all visitors.



### Suggested Songs

- "For God So Loved the World" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 26)
- "O, How He Loves You and Me" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 28)
- "For God So Loved Us" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 36)
- "Thank You, Jesus" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 101)
- "O, How I Love Jesus" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 114)
- "Redeemed!" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 68)



### Mission

Share a story from *Children's Mission*. Emphasize service in the story.



### Offering

Say: **When we give our offering, we are sharing God's love with others in a small way.**

#### You Need:

- offering container



### Prayer

Thank Jesus for loving us so much that He died for us. Ask Him to help us share His love with those around us.

## Bible Lesson

### You Need:

- wooden cross (from room decoration)
- table
- hammer
- small nails
- picture or felt of Jesus or abstract paper figure to fit cross
- “Jesus, King of the Jews” sign

### Experiencing the Story

#### Setting the scene:

In advance, prepare a sign that says “Jesus, King of the Jews” to fit over the cross. Also prepare an abstract paper cut-out of Jesus if you do not have a felt or picture that fits on the cross.

#### Read or tell the story.

Do you remember from last week’s story when Jesus walked to the hill where He would be crucified? A man named Simon—a man who was just visiting the town that day—was forced to carry Jesus’ cross. *[Point to wooden cross.]* Simon must have been shocked at what was happening. It’s very likely that if he could have stopped the execution he would have. But he couldn’t stop anything, so he helped Jesus do what He was being forced to do.

Simon carried the cross to a hill called Calvary. There he laid the cross down on the ground. *[Lay the cross on a table.]* Two other crosses were already up, with a robber bound to each one of them. A place for Jesus waited between those two crosses.

The soldiers were laughing and making fun of Jesus. They nailed a sign over the place where Jesus’ head would be that said “Jesus, King of the Jews.” *[Tape sign on cross.]* Then they made Jesus lie down on the wood *[place the figure of Jesus, or the abstract paper cutout, on the cross]*, and they began to do something awful. I need some helpers. It’s so awful, I don’t know how I’m even going to do this! *[Invite volunteers to come forward to hold the cross while you hammer the nails.]*

The soldiers didn’t tie Jesus to the cross, as they did the thieves. No, they nailed Jesus to the cross! First, they hammered huge nails into Jesus’ hands *[do so on the figure]*, and then they put His feet together and nailed His feet to the bottom of the cross *[do so]*.

Then they lifted up the heavy cross, and they let it fall into a hole they had prepared. *[Stand the cross up.]* Don’t you think that hurt Jesus’ hands and feet? *[Nod yes.]*

Some of the people standing around made fun of Jesus. Others sneered, “If You are God’s Son, save Yourself and come down from the cross!” They tempted Him to do a miracle for Himself. But what was special about Jesus’ miracles? They had never been for His own benefit—they were to help others! Jesus never did any miracles to help Himself.

Remember, Jesus had been up all night at His trial. You can imagine how tired He was. And how hungry He must have been. He was hurting, and He could hardly breathe.

The crowd stared at Jesus, wondering what would happen. Some of them shouted at Jesus. Even the robber beside Jesus asked Him to do a miracle and save all three of them. But then one of the robbers said to the other, “We deserve what we’re getting, but this Man has done nothing wrong.” And he said to Jesus, “Remember me when in Your kingdom.” And Jesus promised that robber that He would.

Jesus did one more thing for others before He died. He asked His disciple John to take care of Mary, His mother, and treat her as his own mother. And John agreed to do so.

Suddenly the sun disappeared. It was as dark as the darkest night! It stayed dark

for three whole hours. Jesus felt so lonely! He felt the shame we all feel when we do something wrong, because He carried our sins and took the blame for us.

Finally, through the darkness the people heard Jesus say, "Father, into Thy hands I give My spirit," and He died.

Suddenly there was a huge earthquake! People threw themselves on the ground. Graves opened, and some people were resurrected! In the Temple the great veil between the holy and Most Holy places tore from top to bottom.

The Roman soldiers standing at the foot of the cross stared in amazement. "Truly, this was the Son of God!" they said.

God and all of heaven were watching—and crying. God loved His Son so much! It was hard to see Him suffer and die. But God also loved us so much that He was willing to make that sacrifice to save us.

### Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask:

**While Jesus was on the cross, whom was He thinking about?** (His mother, Mary; His disciples; forgiving those who were killing Him, etc.)

**What were you thinking when you were holding the cross while I nailed the paper figure to it?**

**Do you think Jesus would have gone through all that pain and suffering and then try to keep us out of heaven?** (no) **Does Jesus want everyone there?**

**Are you willing to make small sacrifices to share God's love with others, after Jesus and God have made big sacrifices for you?**

**Do you remember our message? Let's say it together:**



**WE SERVE GOD WHEN WE SHARE HIS LOVE WITH OTHERS.**

### Memory Verse

Write the memory verse where all may see: **"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).**

Teach the children "John 3:16" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 24) if they do not already know it. Then ask them to compare the song to the memory verse and note the differences. Ask: **Is the message the same?** (Yes, the words may be slightly different, but the message is the same.)

Teach the verse as a choral reading.

Girls: For God so loved the world

Boys: That he gave his one and only Son,

Girls: That whoever believes in him

Boys: Shall not perish but have eternal life.

All: John 3:16

### Bible Study

Say: **Let's look at some texts to find some reasons Jesus died.** Help the children find and read Romans 5:7, 8 and Ephesians 1:7, 8. **What do these texts tell us?** (Jesus died to save us from our sins because He loves us; Jesus died to forgive our sins; it was the only way to get rid of sin forever.)

### Debriefing

**Did God love us enough to send and sacrifice His Son for all of us sinners? Why does He love us so much? Does God want everyone to know about this?** (yes)

**When you show others about God's love for them, you are serving Him. He wants everyone to know about the love He has for them. Let's say our message again:**



**WE SERVE GOD WHEN WE SHARE HIS LOVE WITH OTHERS.**

#### You Need:

- *Sing for Joy*

#### You Need:

- Bibles

# 3

## Applying the Lesson

### Mimes

Form five groups, giving each group one of the following scenarios to mime—acting without saying anything. Allow time for groups to plan.

Say: **Jesus wants us to be of service to others just as He was, even at the last when He hurt so much. Service means “love in action” or “love at work.” What can we do in our neighborhood to help others know that God loves them? That we love them too? Let’s watch and see.**

1. An annoying younger brother is always trying to follow the older neighborhood children and be included in their games. The group decides to let him join in a game of hide-and-seek.

2. You and your family are taking a walk when you notice a yard that badly needs some care. You know that an elderly woman lives there by herself. The lawn is big, the bushes need trimming, and there are weeds growing in the flower bed. Your family decides to do her yard work.

3. Your neighbors tell you they are going on vacation. You offer to take their mail in every day and feed and walk their

dog. They are pleased that you offered and they accept. You do your best work. They happily thank you when they return home.

4. You have a friend whose grandfather just died. You make her a card with a nice colored-pencil drawing on the front. On the inside you write a Bible text. You give it to her at school the next day. It makes her smile.

5. Your cousin broke her arm when she fell off a swing. She has a cast on her arm, and she can’t go to school for a few days. You take her some flowers and a book to cheer her up.

### Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Are these good ways to share God’s love? Can you think of other ways to share with people who may not know Jesus? We can share God’s love by telling them about Jesus, and by showing them that God loves them and you love them too. When you do either of these things, you can know that:**



**WE SERVE GOD WHEN WE SHARE HIS LOVE WITH OTHERS.**

## Sharing the Lesson

### A. Jesus Loves Me

Say: **There is a song we all know that tells us how we know Jesus loves us.**

**You Need:**

- *Sing for Joy* songbook

**In sign language this song is really special because the symbol for Jesus points to the nail prints on His hands.** Demonstrate the following symbols:

**Jesus** Touch the right palm with the middle finger of the left hand, then the left palm with the middle finger of the right hand.

**Loves** Cross your arms over your chest.

**Me** Point to yourself.

Say: **We are going to sing that song now.** Sing "Jesus Loves Me" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 27) as a group. Do the motions as you sing.

### Debriefing

Ask: **Do you know someone who doesn't know Jesus? You can sing this song to them and do the motions. When you do that you will be serving God by sharing His love with others. Let's say our message together again:**



**WE SERVE GOD WHEN WE SHARE HIS LOVE WITH OTHERS.**

### B. Jesus Loves You

In advance, copy the Jesus Loves You pattern (see page 140) for each child. Say: **Please draw a picture of the cross like the one Jesus died on above the words "Jesus loves you so much; He died to save you."**

**You Need:**

- Jesus Loves You pattern (see p. 140)
- paper
- art supplies

### Debriefing

Ask: **Do you know someone who doesn't know Jesus? Take your picture home and send or give it to them. When you do that, you will be serving God by sharing His love with others. Let's say our message together again.**



**WE SERVE GOD WHEN WE SHARE HIS LOVE WITH OTHERS.**

## The Day Jesus Died

### References

Matthew 27:34–56;  
 Mark 15:21–39;  
 Luke 23:26–49;  
 John 19:16–30;  
*The Desire of Ages*,  
 pp. 741–764

### Memory Verse

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16, NIV).

### The Message

We serve God when we share His love with others.

*Do you love someone so much that you would do anything for them? God loves us so much that He sacrificed His only Son to save us. And Jesus was willing to die for us.*

Jesus’ terrible night of insults and beatings was finally over. Now the Roman soldiers were taking Him and two thieves outside the city to crucify them. Simon had carried Jesus’ cross to the place of crucifixion. The awful deed would soon be done.

The Bible simply says, “They crucified Him.” The people who lived when the Gospels were written knew what that meant. They knew crucifixion caused a slow, painful death. They knew a crowd would often follow the prisoners to the place of execution, shouting insults along the way. They knew soldiers would nail the hands and feet of the prisoners to the cross. They knew those soldiers would drop the cross into a hole in the ground. Yes, they knew it was the worst possible way to die.

And that is exactly what happened to Jesus. The soldiers nailed Him to the cross, then placed the cross between the crosses of two thieves. The crowd that had followed them out of the city gathered around. The mocking that had been going on all night continued.

“If You really are the Son of God, come down from that cross!” one shouted.

“He saved others, but He can’t save Himself,” another sneered.

“Come down from the cross, and we’ll believe in You,” another said scornfully.

“If God wants Him, let God rescue Him,” laughed yet another. “After all, He said He was the Son of God.” And so it went, on and on. Even a thief who was crucified with Him shouted insults at Him.

Although the pain and mocking were terrible, something even worse was happening to Jesus. When He came to earth to die for us, Jesus took our sins on Himself. The guilt of every person who would ever live was resting on Him as He hung on the cross. The sense of sin was so great that He felt God had left Him forever. That feeling of abandonment by His Father caused Jesus to cry out, “My God, My God! Why have You forsaken Me?” Even though He thought He might never see His Father again, Jesus was still

willing to die for us.

But God had not abandoned Jesus. God and all the angels in heaven were watching and suffering with Him. Even the earth reacted to His agony.

Darkness covered the area for three hours, and when Jesus finally died,

“the earth shook and the rocks split” (Matthew 27:51).

Do you love anyone so much you would be willing to die a horrible death to save them? That’s how much Jesus loves you. He loves you so much there is nothing He wouldn’t do to save you. That love is the core of Christianity. It’s the reason for every song we sing, every prayer we pray, everything we do.

That love is the message we are



asked to share with others. Who doesn't need to know they are loved that much? Who couldn't help loving a God who would do absolutely anything to save them? Tell someone you know!

## Daily Activities

### Sabbath

- During family worship, read and discuss Matthew 27:34–44. What happened to Jesus' clothes? Who were among those who mocked Jesus? What did they say? Why did they say it?
- Teach the memory verse to your family. Thank Jesus for dying for you.

### Sunday

- Read and discuss Matthew 27:45–56 during family worship. What happened when Jesus died? Who were among the women at the cross?
- Think of how different your life would be if Jesus hadn't died for you. Would you have heaven to look forward to? Would you know your sins are forgiven when you ask Jesus? Would you have Jesus' love and peace in your heart? Ask Jesus to help you share His love with others.

### Monday

- For worship today, read and discuss John 19:23–27. What happened to Mary, the mother of Jesus? Why?
- Sing the memory verse, "John 3:16" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 24).
- Build a small cross made from two pieces of wood hammered together. Put it in your room this week to remind you of Jesus' great love for you.

### Tuesday

- Share God's love with someone. Give them the picture of the cross you drew in Sabbath School. Or sing "Jesus Loves Me" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 27) for them using the following motions:

**Jesus** Touch the right palm with the middle finger of the left hand, then the left palm with the middle finger of the right hand.

**Loves** Cross your arms over your chest.

**Me** Point to yourself.

- Pray for the person you shared with today.

### Wednesday

- Ask a grandparent or grandparent-type person how they feel when they hear the song "The Old Rugged Cross." Ask them to sing it with you.
- Take a walk around your room and look for objects you could use to serve others. What can you share with someone this week? Tell your family about it during worship today.

### Thursday

- For worship today, read and discuss Matthew 27:50–54 and Luke 23:39–43. What did the Roman soldiers say after Jesus died? What did the thief say?
- Did the thief and the Roman soldiers believe Jesus was God's Son? How do you know? What has helped you believe in Jesus?
- Thank Jesus that you can worship Him in safety.

### Friday

- Ask your parents about the worst pain they've ever felt. What kind of pain did Jesus feel while dying on the cross? Did He feel only physical pain?
- Think about ways your family sacrifices for you. Make a list and share it during worship. Say thank you to them and give them a hug. Talk about Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. Then thank God and Jesus for it.