Jesus Dies for Our Sins

Lesson Overview

Week 44 | Sunday, November 1, 2026 | Ages 6 to 10

Primary Scripture: Matthew 27

Supporting Scripture: Isaiah 53:5–6; John 10:18; Romans 5:8; 1 Peter 3:18; Hebrews 10:19–22

Big Idea: Jesus willingly gave His life to save us from our sins and bring us back to God.

Memory Verse: "Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures" (1 Corinthians 15:3, selected phrase).

Read aloud narrative: Approximately 13 to 16 minutes, depending on reading pace and participation.

Lesson goal: Help children understand that Jesus is God's sinless Son, that His death was a willing sacrifice for sinners, and that everyone who turns from sin and trusts Him can receive forgiveness and new life.

Main Lesson: One Continuous Read Aloud Experience

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Today, we're going to open our Bibles to Matthew chapter 27, where we will learn about one of the most important events in all of history. It's an event that changed everything, and it helps us understand just how much God loves us.

Before we begin, I want you to think about something. Have you ever done something wrong and wished you could go back and make it as though it had never happened? Maybe you told a lie, hurt someone's feelings, or did something you knew you weren't supposed to do. Even after you said you were sorry, you couldn't change what had already happened.

We've all made wrong choices, haven't we? The Bible calls those wrong choices sin, and sin is much more serious than simply breaking a rule. Sin means we have gone against what God says is right and good. Because God is perfectly holy, which means He is completely good and without sin, our sin separates us from Him.

But here's something wonderful I hope you'll remember. God knew we would sin, and He loved us so much that He made a way for us to be forgiven and brought back to Him.

That way is Jesus.

Our memory verse today comes from 1 Corinthians 15:3, and it says, "Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures." Let's say those words together, because they tell us exactly why Jesus went to the cross.

Now, let's travel back in our Bibles to the city of Jerusalem, where Jesus had spent His final days teaching people about God's kingdom.

For about three years, Jesus had traveled through towns and villages, teaching people about His heavenly Father. He had healed people who were sick, given sight to people who were blind, and even raised people from the dead. He had welcomed children, cared for those whom others rejected, and shown people what God's love looks like.

Jesus had done things no ordinary person could do, because Jesus wasn't an ordinary person. He was God the Son, who had come into the world as a real human being.

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And there was something else about Jesus that made Him different from every other person who has ever lived. Jesus had never sinned. Not once. He always loved His Father and always did what was right.

But some of the religious leaders were angry with Jesus. They did not accept what He taught about Himself, and they wanted Him put to death.

Jesus knew what was going to happen. He had already told His disciples, the men who followed and learned from Him, that He would be handed over to others, killed, and then raised to life on the third day.

I wonder whether the disciples understood just how much their lives were about to change.

The night before His crucifixion, Jesus had eaten a special meal with His disciples. During that meal, He explained that His blood would be poured out for the forgiveness of sins. He was preparing them to understand what He had come to do.

Later, Jesus went to a garden called Gethsemane, where He prayed to His Father. Jesus knew the suffering that lay ahead, and the Bible tells us that He was deeply troubled.

He prayed that if it were possible, the terrible suffering could pass from Him, but He also prayed that His Father's will would be done.

Then Judas, one of the twelve disciples, arrived with a group of armed men, and Jesus was arrested.

Think about that for a moment. The One who had healed the sick and raised the dead was standing before people who had come to take Him away.

Could Jesus have stopped them?

Yes, He could have. Jesus Himself said that His Father could send angels to defend Him. But Jesus did not call for those angels, because He was willingly following the Father's plan to save us.

Jesus was taken before the religious leaders, and afterward He was brought to the Roman governor, a man named Pontius Pilate.

The Romans ruled the land where Jesus lived, and Pilate had the authority to order someone to be executed. That means he could order that person to be put to death.

Pilate questioned Jesus, but he did not find a good reason to condemn Him. Still, the crowd was calling for Jesus to be crucified.

Crucifixion was a terrible kind of punishment used by the Romans. A person was fastened to a wooden cross and left there to die.

Pilate gave the crowd a choice between releasing Jesus or releasing a prisoner named Barabbas. Barabbas was known for taking part in a rebellion and committing murder, as another Gospel tells us.

The crowd chose Barabbas.

Imagine seeing a guilty prisoner being set free while Jesus, who had never sinned, was condemned to die. Barabbas was released, and Jesus was handed over to be crucified.

The Bible doesn't tell us what Barabbas thought as he walked away, so we won't pretend to know. But his release gives us something important to think about. Jesus, the innocent One, was going to the cross while a

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guilty man went free.

And that helps us begin to understand why Jesus came.

Every one of us has sinned. We may not have done the same things as Barabbas, but we have all disobeyed God in one way or another. We need someone who can save us from our sins, because we cannot save ourselves.

Jesus came to be that Savior.

The Roman soldiers took Jesus and mocked Him. They placed a crown made of thorns on His head and dressed Him in a robe to make fun of Him as a king.

They did not recognize the wonderful truth about the Man standing before them.

Jesus really was a King, but His kingdom was greater than anything those soldiers understood. He was the promised Savior, the Son of God, and He had come to rescue people from something far greater than Roman rule.

He came to rescue us from sin and death.

After the soldiers finished mocking Him, they led Jesus away to be crucified. On the way, a man named Simon from Cyrene was made to carry Jesus' cross.

They brought Jesus to a place called Golgotha, which means the Place of the Skull.

There, the soldiers crucified Him.

Matthew tells us that they placed a sign above His head identifying Him as Jesus, the King of the Jews. Two rebels were crucified with Him, one on each side.

People passing by insulted Jesus. Some challenged Him to come down from the cross and prove that He was the Son of God. Even some of the religious leaders mocked Him and said that if He was really the King of Israel, He should save Himself.

But Jesus had not come to save Himself from the cross.

He had come to save us through the cross.

There is something important I want us to understand. Jesus was not staying on that cross because He was too weak to come down. He was there because He loved us and had chosen to give His life for our sins.

In John 10:18, Jesus explains that He lays down His life of His own accord. That means He willingly chose to give His life.

And now our memory verse begins to mean even more, doesn't it? Let's say it again together: "Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures."

The Bible tells us that at noon, darkness came over the land and lasted until three in the afternoon.

Think about what that means. Noon is the time of day when the sun is usually high in the sky, yet Matthew tells us that darkness covered the land while Jesus was on the cross.

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Matthew does not explain exactly how God brought about that darkness, and we don't need to make up an explanation. We can trust what Scripture tells us without pretending we know everything it doesn't tell us.

During those hours, Jesus cried out to His Father using words from Psalm 22, a passage written long before Jesus was born in Bethlehem.

His suffering was real. Jesus had become a human being, and He truly experienced pain and sorrow.

But there is something we should be careful to remember. God the Father had not stopped being God, and Jesus had not stopped being God the Son.

The Bible teaches that there is one God in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Father sent the Son, Jesus willingly gave His life, and the Holy Spirit helps those who belong to Jesus grow in faith and love.

God's saving plan was not falling apart at the cross. Jesus was carrying it out.

Many years before Jesus was born, God had spoken through a prophet named Isaiah. A prophet was someone God chose to speak His message to the people.

Isaiah explained that someone would come who would suffer because of our sins. Isaiah 53:5 tells us that He would be wounded because of our wrongdoing.

Hundreds of years later, Jesus fulfilled that promise.

This is why we can say that the cross was part of God's saving plan, not something that surprised Him.

Now, there's a question I think we need to answer together.

Why couldn't God just pretend our sins never happened?

Well, imagine that someone took something that belonged to you and then said it didn't matter because they didn't want to get into trouble. You would know that something wrong had happened, even if the person wanted everyone to forget about it.

God is perfectly good and perfectly fair. He never calls evil good, and He never pretends that sin doesn't matter.

But God is also full of love and mercy.

So God did something we could never do for ourselves. He sent His Son, Jesus, who never sinned, to take the punishment our sins deserve.

Jesus did not deserve that punishment. We did. Yet He willingly gave Himself for us so that we could be forgiven and brought back to God.

That is what makes the cross so important.

The Bible tells us in Romans 5:8 that God showed His love for us through Christ's death while we were still sinners. God did not wait until we became perfect, because none of us could ever make ourselves perfect.

He loved us and provided the Savior we needed.

Then Matthew tells us that Jesus cried out again in a loud voice and died.

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Jesus truly died on that cross.

And at that very moment, something extraordinary happened inside the temple in Jerusalem.

To understand it, we need to know a little about the temple. The temple was the special place where God's people came to worship Him. Inside was an area called the Most Holy Place, separated from the rest of the temple by a large curtain.

Under the law God had given Israel, the people could not simply walk through that curtain. Only the high priest could enter the Most Holy Place, and only once each year, following God's instructions.

That curtain helped the people understand that God is holy and sinful people cannot approach Him in just any way they choose.

But when Jesus died, Matthew tells us that the temple curtain was torn in two, from top to bottom.

Imagine standing inside the temple and seeing that great curtain torn apart. Matthew tells us what happened, although he does not say who was standing there when it happened.

Why was that so important?

Because Jesus had accomplished what the sacrifices offered under the old covenant could never fully accomplish. He had given Himself as the perfect sacrifice for our sins.

The book of Hebrews explains that through Jesus, those who trust Him can come near to God.

We do not need to find an animal to sacrifice for our sins. We do not need to earn enough good points to make God love us. Jesus has already given the perfect sacrifice that makes forgiveness possible.

We come to God through Jesus.

The torn curtain helps us picture that wonderful truth.

Matthew also tells us that the earth shook, rocks split, and tombs broke open. He records that holy people were raised and appeared to many after Jesus' resurrection. The Bible doesn't tell us all the details about those people, so we won't guess about what happened to them afterward.

A Roman officer called a centurion was guarding Jesus with other soldiers. After witnessing the extraordinary events surrounding His death, they were terrified, and the centurion acknowledged that Jesus was the Son of God.

Think about what had happened. Earlier, soldiers had mocked Jesus as a king. Now, after His death, a Roman officer was recognizing something extraordinary about Him.

Matthew also tells us that women who had followed Jesus and cared for Him during His ministry were watching from a distance.

Later that day, a man named Joseph from the town of Arimathea went to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, and Pilate gave permission for him to take the body.

Joseph wrapped Jesus' body in clean linen cloth and placed Him in a new tomb that had been cut out of rock. Then he rolled a large stone in front of the entrance and went away.

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Mary Magdalene and another woman named Mary were sitting across from the tomb.

Jesus had died, and His body was placed inside that tomb.

I can imagine that you might have a question right now. If Jesus was the Son of God, and He had come to save us, how could His death be part of God's good plan?

That is a very important question, and the answer helps us understand the whole Bible.

You see, Jesus had promised that He would rise again on the third day. His death was not the end of God's saving work.

And when the third day came, Jesus rose from the dead, just as He had said He would.

Next week, we are going to spend more time understanding why the cross matters, and soon we will take a closer look at the people who saw Jesus alive after His resurrection.

But today, I want you to remember that the Jesus who died for our sins is alive. His death was real, and His victory over death is real.

Now, maybe you're wondering what all of this has to do with your life today.

It matters because every one of us needs forgiveness.

Sometimes we do things we know are wrong. Sometimes we say unkind words, tell lies, refuse to obey, or treat other people in ways that hurt them. And sometimes, even when we try very hard to do what's right, we still make wrong choices.

God doesn't tell us to pretend those things never happened. He wants us to turn away from sin, which means admitting that what we did was wrong and turning toward Him.

The wonderful news is that we can come to Jesus.

We don't have to make ourselves perfect before we trust Him. We can't save ourselves by being good enough, and we can't buy forgiveness with good deeds.

Jesus has already done what we could never do.

When we put our trust in Him, believing that He died for our sins and rose again, God forgives us and gives us new life. His Holy Spirit comes to live in believers and helps us learn to follow Jesus.

That does not mean we will never have trouble or never do anything wrong again. It means we belong to Jesus, and He continues working in our lives.

Maybe you've already placed your trust in Jesus. If you have, today's lesson is a wonderful reminder that His love for you is greater than anything you could ever earn.

And maybe you are still learning about Him, with questions you don't fully know how to answer. That's all right, too. We can ask honest questions, open our Bibles, and keep learning who Jesus is.

Jesus is not afraid of our questions.

Sometimes children wonder whether we really know Jesus died on a cross, or whether people made it up much later. The Bible tells us about His crucifixion in all four Gospels, and ancient writers outside the Bible

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also reported that Jesus was executed under the Roman governor Pontius Pilate.

Those historical writings help us know that His crucifixion was a real event. The Bible also tells us something history alone cannot fully explain: Jesus died for our sins, and God raised Him from the dead.

We do not need to pretend that we know every detail about what happened. We can be honest about what we know and what we don't know, because God's Word is not something we need to protect with made up answers.

Before we finish, I want us to think about the love Jesus showed at the cross.

Jesus knew every wrong thing people had done, and He knew every wrong thing we would do. Yet He willingly gave His life so that sinners could receive forgiveness.

God the Father loved us enough to send His Son. Jesus loved us enough to give Himself. And the Holy Spirit works in those who trust Jesus, helping them grow in that new life.

We did not earn this love.

It is God's gift to us.

So when we think about the cross, we can remember that sin is serious, but we can also remember that God's grace is greater than anything we could ever accomplish on our own.

And when we think about the empty tomb, we can remember that Jesus is alive and that everyone who belongs to Him has a wonderful hope that death itself cannot take away.

Let's say our memory verse together one more time, and this time, think about every word.

"Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures."

That's the truth I hope will stay with you this week. Jesus willingly died for our sins, He rose again, and through Him we can be forgiven and brought back to God.

He is our Savior, and He is alive.

Discussion Questions and Suggested Answers

1. Why did Jesus come into the world? Jesus came to save us from our sins and bring us back to God. He is the Savior God promised. (Matthew 1:21; 1 Peter 3:18)

2. Did Jesus ever do anything wrong? No. Jesus never sinned. He always obeyed His heavenly Father and did what was good. (Hebrews 4:15)

3. Could Jesus have stopped the people who arrested Him? Why didn't He? Yes. Jesus had the power to stop them, but He willingly followed God's plan to save us from our sins. (Matthew 26:53–54; John 10:18)

4. Why did Jesus die on the cross? Jesus died for our sins. He took the punishment we deserve so that we could be forgiven and brought back to God. (Romans 5:8; 1 Peter 3:18)

5. What happened to the curtain in the temple when Jesus died? It tore in two from top to bottom. It helps us understand that Jesus has opened the way for people who trust Him to come to God. (Matthew 27:51; Hebrews 10:19–22)

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6. Did Jesus stay dead? No. Jesus truly died and was buried, but God raised Him from the dead on the third day. (Matthew 28:5–6)

7. Can we earn God's forgiveness by doing enough good things? No. Forgiveness and salvation are gifts from God. We receive them when we turn from sin and trust Jesus. (Ephesians 2:8–9; Acts 3:19)

8. What should we do when we sin? We should admit what we did was wrong, ask God for forgiveness, and trust Jesus. We should also try to make things right with anyone we have hurt. (1 John 1:9; Matthew 5:23–24)

9. How do we know Jesus really died on a cross? The Bible records His crucifixion, and ancient historical writers also reported that Jesus was executed under Pontius Pilate. We have good reasons to believe this was a real event.

10. What does our memory verse teach us? That Jesus died for our sins, just as God had promised through Scripture. (1 Corinthians 15:3)

Hands On Activity: The Curtain and the Open Way

Purpose: Help children picture the temple curtain and remember that Jesus is the only way to the Father.

Estimated time: 10 to 15 minutes.

Supplies: Two pieces of construction paper per child, crayons or markers, and glue sticks or tape. Optional: safety scissors.

1. Give each child a sheet of paper and help them write the words "Jesus brings us to God" in large letters across the middle.

2. Give each child a second sheet. Fold the left and right edges toward the center so that the two sides meet like closed doors. Explain that these flaps will represent the curtain in the temple.

3. Let the children decorate the closed flaps with crayon lines that look like fabric. Avoid claiming that these decorations show exactly what the historical temple curtain looked like.

4. Attach the folded sheet over the message, leaving the flaps free to open. Ask the children what they notice when the curtain is closed.

5. Invite them to pull the flaps apart. As the words become visible, remind them that Matthew tells us the actual temple curtain was torn from top to bottom when Jesus died.

6. Have the children read the message together: "Jesus brings us to God." Then repeat the memory verse.

Teacher explanation: The paper curtain is a picture to help us remember what Jesus accomplished. We are not acting out the sacrifice or pretending that opening paper saves us. Only Jesus saves us. Because He died for our sins and rose again, everyone who trusts Him can come to the Father.

Defending the Truth

A question a child may ask: "How do we know people didn't make up the account of Jesus dying on the cross?"

The four Gospels tell us that Jesus was crucified. The apostle Paul also wrote about Jesus' death and resurrection, and ancient writers outside the Bible, including the Roman historian Tacitus, reported His

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execution under Pontius Pilate.

This supports the historical reality of Jesus' crucifixion. It does not mean historians can prove everything about the supernatural events recorded at the cross. We trust Scripture for what God has revealed about the saving meaning of His death.

The official Alliance Statement of Faith likewise affirms Jesus' sinless nature, His sacrifice in the place of sinners, and His bodily resurrection.

Teacher Closing

Before we go today, I want you to remember something very important. Jesus knows us completely, including the things we have done wrong, and He still invites us to come to Him.

He doesn't ask us to make ourselves perfect before we trust Him. He came because we could never save ourselves, and He gave His life so that we could be forgiven and receive new life through Him.

If you've already trusted Jesus, remember that His love and forgiveness are gifts of His grace. And if you're still learning about Him or have questions, you can always ask. We would be glad to open the Bible with you and help you understand.

Let's pray together.

Heavenly Father, thank You for loving us and sending Jesus to be our Savior. Thank You, Jesus, for willingly dying for our sins and rising from the dead. Please forgive us when we do wrong, help us turn away from sin, and teach us to trust You more each day. Thank You for giving us hope through Jesus, who is alive forever. In Jesus' name, amen.

Lesson takeaway: Jesus willingly died for our sins so that we could be forgiven and brought back to God. He rose again and is alive today.