



**Mustard Seed Children's Summary for April 5, 2009**  
**Released on Wednesday, April 1, 2009**

**"Jesus Died for Us"**

**Devotional Reading:** 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

**Printed Text:** Luke 23:32-46

**Memory Verse:** "When Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit" (Luke 23:46)

**Luke 23:32-46**

32 And there were also two others, malefactors, led with him to be put to death.

33 And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left.

34 Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.

35 And the people stood beholding. And the rulers also with them derided him, saying, He saved others; let him save himself, if he be Christ, the chosen of God.

36 And the soldiers also mocked him, coming to him, and offering him vinegar,

37 And saying, If thou be the King of the Jews, save thyself.

38 And a superscription also was written over him in letters of Greek, and Latin, and Hebrew, THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

39 And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us.

40 But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation?

41 And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss.

42 And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.

43 And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise.

44 And it was about the sixth hour, and there was a darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour.

45 And the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was rent in the midst.

46 And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.

**THE OBJECT IN VIEW:**

Teach that Jesus' death on the cross was for us.

**TRUTHS TO STRESS:**

1. Many people did not understand who Jesus was.
2. Our sins were placed on Jesus when He was on the cross.

**3.** Jesus welcomes anybody who sees the need for everlasting life and comes to Him.

**PLANNING LESSON AIDS:**

For Telling the Lesson, take flannel-graph figures or pictures of Jesus teaching, the Jewish leaders, Pilate, a cross, and the walk to Calvary. You will also use the cross for Telling How to Live.

For Helping to Remember, draw a cross on red poster board the size of a bookmark for each student. An easy way to do that is to draw along both sides of a ruler to make both upright and horizontal pieces. That will result in a cross just over an inch in thickness. Provide crayons, markers, stickers and safety scissors (blunt tip).

For Lesson Activity, make a copy for each student. The matching and word search activities includes key words from the lesson text.

**TEACHER'S NOTES:**

Time: A.D. 30

Place: Calvary (Golgotha)

Many people did not know who Jesus was. Pilate, who had been sent, probably reluctantly, to govern the troublesome Jews, did not. The Roman soldiers, who simply did military duty in this foreign land and had no exposure to the message of local preachers, did not. And, sadly, the Jewish leadership, who knew well the Old Testament, failed to recognize their Messiah.

This week's lesson is about the Creator, who willingly sacrificed Himself for the beings He has created. Those of us who teach this wonderful truth sense we are taking something holy into our hands. Let us teach then with both care and awe, praying that the Holy Spirit will open eyes and hearts.

**BEGINNING THE LESSON:**

You know that Easter is coming soon. You should know that the most important thing about Easter is not coloring eggs or getting chocolate bunnies. The most important thing about Easter is - what? (Let someone answer.)

Before there can be a coming alive again, there has to be a dying. And that is what today's Bible lesson is about. Listen carefully. You may learn some things about Jesus' death that you did not know before.

**TELLING THE LESSON:**

When Jesus was here on earth, He went around teaching about God and making sick people well. (Show Jesus teaching.) The people liked Him. Every day they kept coming in great crowds to hear what He would say. I am sorry to tell you, though, that most of the leaders did *not* like what He said or what He did. (Show Jewish leaders.) You see, the people were listening to Jesus instead of listening to them. At last the leaders decided they would just get rid of Him.

They took Jesus to the ruler, a man named Pilate. They said, "This man is making trouble. He wants to make Himself king."

Pilate knew better. (Show Pilate.) He knew what was going on in his country. But he talked to Jesus, and then he told the leaders, "I have found nothing at all wrong with Him. I will let Him go."

Right away the leaders and others in the crowd yelled loudly, "No! No! Have Him crucified!"

In those days, people who had done very bad things were nailed to crosses and left there. (Show cross.) We call that being crucified.

Pilate said, "Why should He be crucified? What has He done wrong?" Pilate tried three times to tell them that Jesus should not be put on a cross. But the leaders would not

listen. They kept shouting, "Crucify Him" until Pilate finally agreed.

When the soldiers took two robbers to nail them to crosses, they took Jesus too, even though He had done nothing wrong. (Show walk to Calvary.) When it was time for the soldiers to put Jesus on the cross, He prayed for them. He said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

What was it that the soldiers did not know? They did not know who Jesus was. They did not know He was God the Son. They did not know God was letting this happen to Jesus so that people's sins could be taken away. They did not know God the Father was going to put their sins on Jesus while He was on that cross. They did not know Jesus would be taking their punishment and everyone else's too.

The leaders would have known who Jesus was if they had believed what He said, but they did not want to believe Him. (Show leaders.) They said, "If He is the Christ, let Him save Himself." The soldiers said, "If You are a king, save Yourself." One of the robbers said, "If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us."

The other robber knew Jesus had done nothing wrong, and he also knew *he* had. He said, "Lord, when You are King, remember me."

Jesus told him, "Today you will be with Me in paradise." It was His way of saying, "Yes, I will remember you. You will be with Me in a good and happy place."

After Jesus had been on the cross for a while, it became dark for His final three hours (between 12 noon and 3:00 PM). This was not natural. Another unusual thing also happened – the huge, heavy curtain in the temple ripped from top to bottom.

After a while Jesus gave Himself to God, and He died. And when the robber died, he went to be with Jesus just as Jesus had promised.

#### **TELLING HOW TO LIVE:**

Jesus died for that robber's sins. (Show cross.) He died for yours too, and He has promised never to say no to people who ask Him to be their Saviour (John 6:37).

We have many examples in our lesson of how to respond to Jesus. Let's be like the one robber who acknowledged his wrongs and asked Jesus to remember him. We see in this that humility opens the door into new life. Jesus died for us, opening the way to this new life. It is up to each of us to walk through the door!

#### **HELPING TO REMEMBER:**

Let the children cut out their cross bookmarks and then print in capital letters "FOR ME" on the crosspiece. Use crayons and other available items to decorate the bookmarks.

#### **EXPLAINING THE MEMORY VERSE:**

***"When Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit" (Luke 23:46)***

Jesus was on the cross when He said this. He was finishing what He came into the world to do. He had let all of our sins be put on Him so that we would not be punished for them. When He was about to die, He gave Himself to God. Soon He would go back to heaven.

This shows us that Jesus was in control of His death. It may have looked as if He was being put to death by the Roman officials and soldiers and the Jewish leaders, but Jesus was just doing what He came into the world to do. When He decided that His work was finished, He called out to His Father, surrendered His life and died – He laid down His life by His own will (cf. John 10:18).

#### **PRAYER:**

Dear God, we thank You for Jesus and His suffering and death on the cross. Thank you that Jesus' death was for us. Forgive us of our sins and help us to depend on You, in Jesus' name, amen.

**ANTICIPATING NEXT WEEK'S LESSON:**

Next week's lesson is "**Jesus Lives for Us**" (Easter). We can rejoice because the penalty for our sin has been paid in full. Study Luke 24:1-12.

**Lesson Summarized By:**

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The Pulpit Commentary, Spence-Jones, H. D. M. (Hrsg.), Bellingham, WA : Logos Research Systems, Inc.

The KJV Parallel Bible Commentary, by Nelson Books.

## LESSON ACTIVITY

### "Jesus Died for Us" (Luke 23:32-46)

Match the word with the correct definition and then find them in the word search:

- |    |                |   |                                       |
|----|----------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1  | Malefactors    | A | Clothing                              |
| 2  | Calvary        | B | A good and happy place                |
| 3  | Crucify        | C | 12:00 noon                            |
| 4  | Raiment        | D | Criminal or lawbreaker                |
| 5  | Superscription | E | A place of worship                    |
| 6  | Paradise       | F | The chosen of God (Luke 23:35)        |
| 7  | Sixth hour     | G | Words on a sign                       |
| 8  | Ninth hour     | H | To put to death by nailing to a cross |
| 9  | Temple         | I | 3:00 PM                               |
| 10 | Christ         | J | Place where Jesus was crucified       |

R C A L V A R Y A C T U S E L P M E T H F R M  
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