

**LIFE OF CHRIST**  
from the gospel of  
**Mark**

**LESSON 11**

**JESUS IS CRUCIFIED**

**MARK 15:1-47**

# Life of Christ

## Jesus Is Crucified

## Mark 15:1-47

### Younger Verse

He sent His Son to die in our place.

1 John 4:10

### Older Verse

This is what real love is: . . . He sent His Son to die in our place to take away our sins.

1 John 4:10

### Lesson Goals

**Learn that the religious leaders wanted Jesus to die**  
**Learn about the things Jesus went through before and on the cross**  
**Understand that Jesus suffered and died to pay for our sins**

### Opener

*If your friend got in trouble, would you be willing to get punished for them? That would be tough, since you didn't do anything wrong. It would seem unfair. Yet that is exactly what Jesus did for us when He died on the cross—He took our punishment.*

### Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

We have learned that Jesus was betrayed by Judas, one of His disciples. Judas led the soldiers and religious leaders to Jesus. Jesus was arrested and put on trial before the religious leaders. The leaders of the Temple hated Jesus. They did not believe that He was the Son of God, and they were jealous because all the people listened to Him. So they made up lies about Jesus. They held a trial in the middle of the night where they said that Jesus deserved to die. Only the Romans had the power to execute someone. So they decided to take Jesus to the Roman governor, Pilate.

It was very early in the morning when the religious leaders took Jesus to Pilate. Pilate asked Jesus a question, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Yes, that is right." Then the leaders accused Jesus of many untrue things. Jesus remained quiet. When Pilate heard everything, he asked Jesus, "They are saying all these things about you. Why don't you answer?" Pilate was very surprised because Jesus did not try to defend Himself.

It was Passover time in Jerusalem, and the governor would give the people a chance to pick one prisoner to be released. Pilate let the people choose between Jesus and Barabbas. Barabbas had been put in jail for murdering someone. Pilate asked the people which prisoner they wanted to have released to them. The religious leaders went into the crowd and told them to say, "Barabbas!" So Pilate released Barabbas to them. Then he asked the crowd, "What, then, do you want me to do with Jesus?" The crowd yelled, "Crucify Him!" Pilate asked, "Why? What has He done wrong?" But the crowd did not change their mind. They yelled even louder for Jesus to be crucified. Pilate wanted to please the people, so He turned Jesus over to the soldiers.

The soldiers took Jesus away and beat Him with a whip. After they beat Him, they put a purple robe on Him. They made a crown of thorns to put on His head. "Hail, king of the Jews!" they said as they made fun of Him. Still wanting to be cruel to Jesus, they hit Him on the head with a stick many times and then spit on Him. Once they had finished making fun of Jesus for being a king, they

took off the robe and put His old clothes back on Him.

The soldiers made Jesus carry the big cross to the place where they would kill Him. But Jesus was weak from the beatings, and He could not carry the cross very far. The soldiers found a man named Simon of Cyrene who was near them. They forced Simon to carry the cross for Jesus the rest of the way. It was nine o'clock in the morning when they arrived at the hill. It was called Golgotha, which means "skull." There, they nailed Jesus to the cross. They put a huge nail, or spike, in each hand and one spike through His feet. The soldiers put a sign above His head that read, "KING OF THE JEWS." Jesus' cross was placed between two other people being killed. These men were thieves.

People walking by Jesus shouted mean things at Him. They told Him to save Himself, if He could. The religious leaders also mocked Jesus, telling Him to come down from the cross. They said only then would they believe in Him. If they only knew the truth, that He is the Messiah, and that dying for us was His plan!

At noon, darkness covered the land for three hours. Jesus continued to suffer, growing weaker and weaker. He cried out to God. Someone got a sponge, put vinegar on it, and held it up to Jesus on a stick. Soon after that, Jesus died.

At that moment, the curtain in the Temple was split down the middle! One of the soldiers standing at the cross said, "He really was the Son of God!" A man named Joseph of Arimathea went to Pilate and asked to take Jesus' body to a tomb that he owned. So he wrapped Jesus' body in linen cloth and placed it in the tomb carved out of rock. He then rolled a large stone in front of the tomb. Then, because the Sabbath was approaching, everyone went home.

We know that this is not the end of the story. Jesus did not stay dead. Three days after He died, Jesus came out of the tomb, alive!!! We will celebrate and learn more about this next week.

#### Review Questions

1. What was the name of the Roman governor? (Pilate)
2. Did Pilate think Jesus deserved to die? (No.)
3. What prisoner was released instead of Jesus? (Barabbas)
4. What man carried Jesus' cross for Him? (Simon of Cyrene)
5. What happened when Jesus died? (The curtain in the Temple split down the middle.)
6. Who took Jesus' body to his tomb? (Joseph of Arimathea)

#### Prayer Time

Thank God for the sacrifice His Son made for us. Pray that we will remember what Jesus went through because of His great love for us.

#### Life Application

It is hard for us to understand the kind of love Jesus has for us. A song called "Oh, How He Loves You and Me" says, "He gave His life, what more could He give?" Jesus gave His all for us. Have we given Him our hearts? We need to believe that Jesus died on the cross and rose again. Then we must ask Jesus to forgive our sins and come live in our hearts.

Once we have accepted Christ, we can grow to know Him better. We can give our life in service to Him by helping others. Maybe He is calling you to spend your life serving Him. There are many opportunities for serving God. Talk to your Bible study leader or pastor to find out more about ways to serve Christ. You don't have to wait until you are an adult! You can start now.

Planning for Lesson 12  
Jesus is Alive!  
Mark 16:1-16

## **Preschool Lesson for Jesus is Crucified**

We have learned that one of Jesus' friends, Judas, led the soldiers and religious leaders to Jesus. Jesus was arrested and put on trial before the religious leaders. The leaders of the church did not believe that Jesus was the Son of God, and they were jealous because all the people listened to Him. So they made up lies about Jesus. They held a trial in the middle of the night where they said that Jesus deserved to die. So they decided to take Jesus to the Roman governor, Pilate.

Pilate decided he would let a large crowd of people decide what should happen to Jesus. He gave the people a choice. He would set one prisoner free: either Jesus or Barabbas, a man who had killed someone. Do you know who the crowd chose? They wanted Barabbas to go free! The crowd decided to put Jesus on a cross so that He would die. Remember when Jesus rode the donkey into town? What did the people do as He rode into town? They cheered for Him. Now they were shouting for Him to be killed. This must have made Jesus very sad, because He loved them.

The soldiers took Jesus away. They were very mean to Him. They hit Him and spit on Him. They gave Him a crown to wear that was made out of thorns. It was very painful. They made fun of Him and dressed Him up like a king.

Then the soldiers made Jesus carry a big cross to the place where they would kill Him. But Jesus was weak from the beatings and He could not carry the cross very far. The soldiers found a man named Simon of Cyrene who was near them. They forced Simon to carry the cross for Jesus the rest of the way. It was nine o'clock in the morning when they arrived at the hill. It was called Golgotha, which means "skull." There, they nailed Jesus to the cross. They put a huge nail, or spike, in each hand and one spike through His feet. The soldiers put a sign above His head that read, "KING OF THE JEWS." Jesus' cross was placed between two other people being killed. These men were thieves.

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## **Hands-on Activities for Jesus Is Crucified**

Crosses are easy to make using popsicle, or craft, sticks. Just glue two together, and have the kids take them home as a reminder of Jesus' great love for us. You can add ribbon, flowers, or other decorations. Other types of sticks, such as cinnamon sticks, would work also.

To help the kids have a small idea of the suffering Jesus went through, let them hold several pieces of ice in their hands. Put a paper towel under each person's hands to catch the water. Share from the Bible how Jesus was flogged (whipped), beaten, crowned with a thorny wreath, and nailed to a cross. Now, let the kids share how the cold ice felt in their hands and contrast it to Jesus' suffering. Take time to pray, thanking Jesus for suffering and dying for us.

Bring a long spike/nail to show the kids. Remind them of the nails they used to put in Jesus feet and hands. You can also bring a thornbush (made into a crown of thorns) to illustrate the crown of thorns Jesus wore.

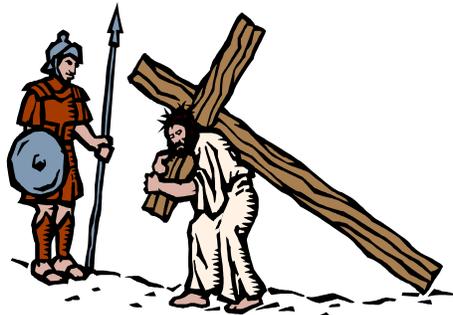
Bring the Resurrection Eggs and teach the children about all that Jesus went through before and during the cross.

Sing "Lord, I Lift Your Name on High." This is a great song because it summarizes what Jesus did and why He did it!

Have the kids cut out hearts from construction paper (or do it ahead). Write the Bible verse on the heart.

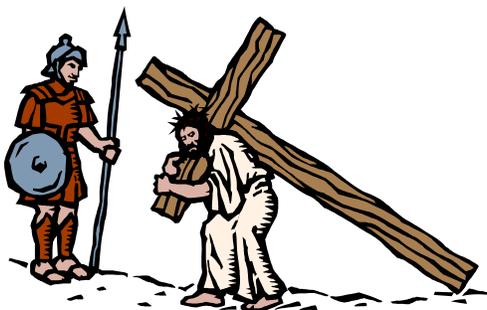
**He sent His  
Son to die  
in our  
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**1 John 4:10**



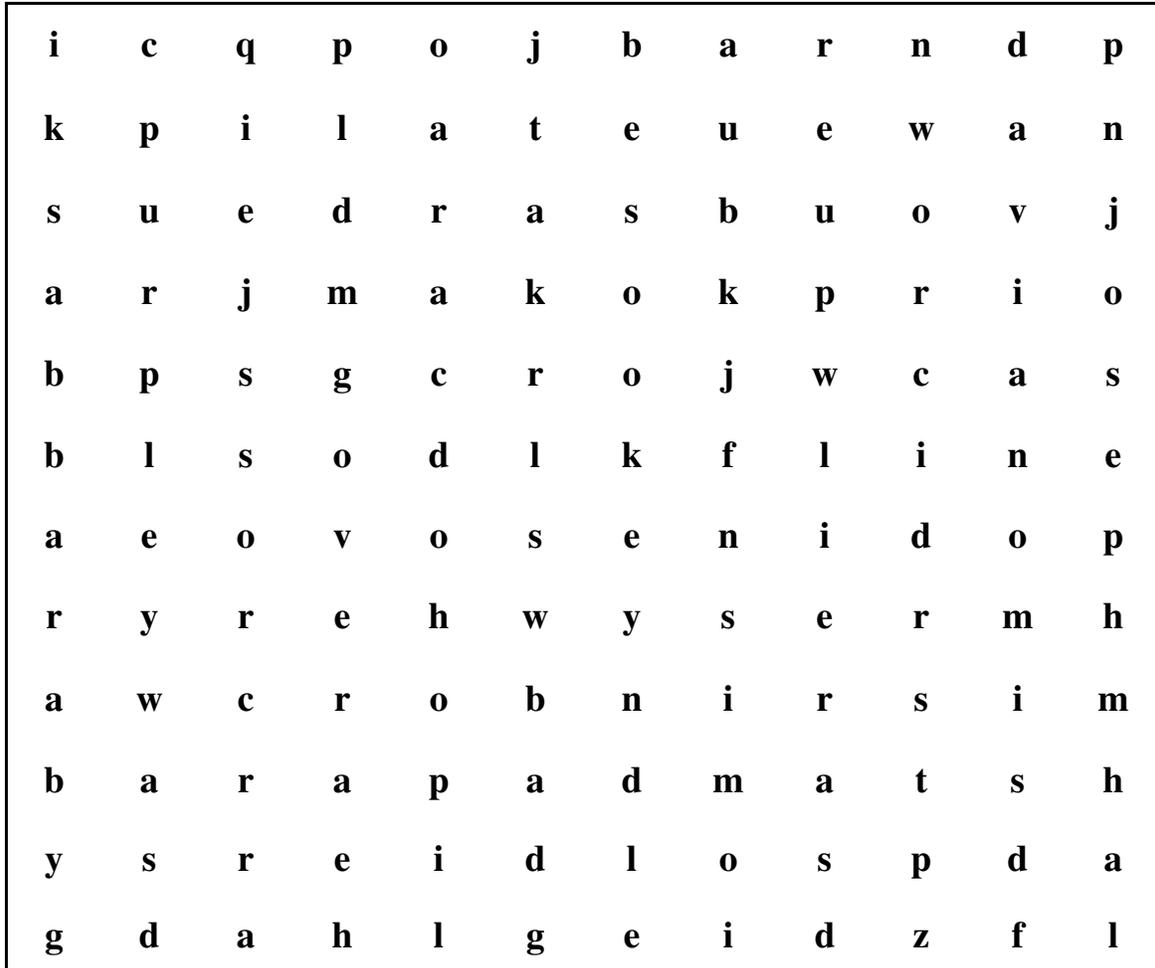
This is what real  
love is . . . He  
sent His Son to  
die in our place to  
take away our  
sins.

1 John 4:10



# Word Search

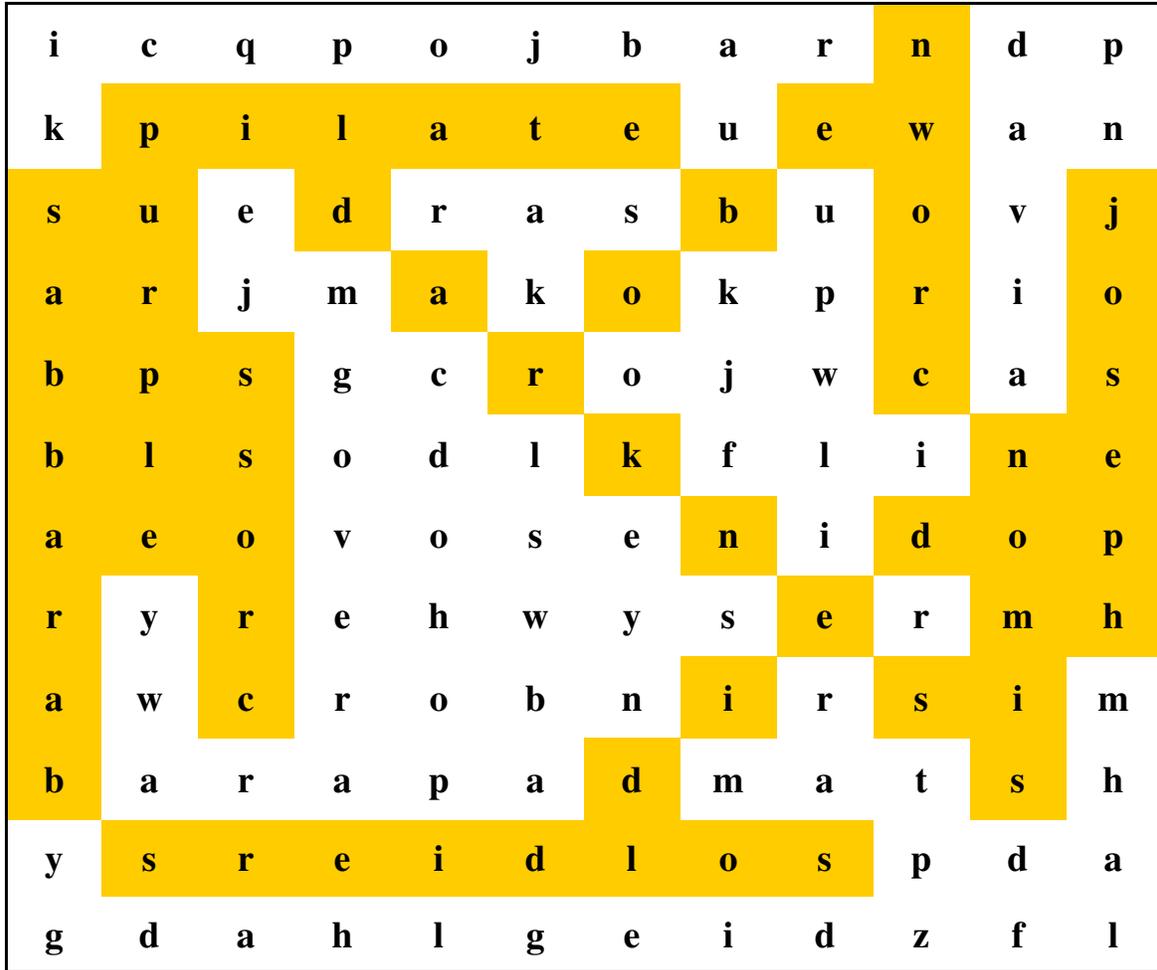
## Jesus is Crucified



<b>cross</b>	<b>died</b>	<b>soldiers</b>
<b>crown</b>	<b>Pilate</b>	<b>Joseph</b>
<b>darkness</b>	<b>purple</b>	<b>robe</b>
<b>Barabbas</b>	<b>Simon</b>	

# Word Search

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<b>crown</b>	<b>Pilate</b>	<b>Joseph</b>
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<b>Barabbas</b>	<b>Simon</b>	

What did the sign on Jesus' cross say?

K\_\_NG OF \_\_\_\_  
J\_\_WS

A soldier at Jesus' cross said  
Jesus was the



SON OF  
GOD