



King of
the Jews

Lesson 23: *Jesus is Crucified* (Condensed Version)

Objectives: To explain that:

- Jesus died on the cross for our sins. He is the only one without sin, so only he could take the penalty for our sin.
- Jesus' perfect sacrifice means that we can have forgiveness of sin, and we can ask him to be the ruler of our lives, and have eternal life.
- When Jesus died, the temple curtain was torn in two from top to bottom. God did that to show that our sins are forgiven through Jesus and we can now enter God presence.

"I Wonder" Questions:

What do you see in this picture? (a cross, someone on the cross)

Is there anything you wonder about? *(if any child wonders about the colourful swirling lines, point out that it is the artist's way of showing that something very important happened on this day)*

I wonder why we have a cross in this picture? I wonder who the cross was for?

I wonder why there is a torn curtain in this picture? Let's find out more in our story...

Lesson Summary: The greatest story ever told is the story of God's love for us when Jesus died on the cross. Jesus was the only person without sin. He was perfect and innocent because he was God the Son. Therefore, Jesus was the only one who could take the penalty for our sin. Jesus **chose** to suffer and die as the perfect sacrifice for ALL people for ALL times. Even though it was painful, Jesus chose to die on the cross. He would fulfill his Father's plan because he knew that it was the only way to overcome the power of sin and death in the world. To clearly show the importance of Jesus dying on the cross, God tore the temple curtain in two from the top to the bottom. The tearing of the curtain showed that through Jesus' death, our sins would be forgiven, and we could now enter the presence of God. The curtain, which separated us from God, was destroyed! We now had full access to God the Father, through Jesus. Jesus laid his life down so that our sins would be forgiven, and we could live with him, now, and forever. Jesus knew that new life, new hearts and a new kingdom would begin from His sacrifice. Now we can thank Jesus for his forgiveness of our sins and ask him to live in our hearts. Jesus can reign in our lives as King. Let's thank him for this wonderful love! Stretch out your arms as wide as you can to help you remember that God's love is wider than the ocean and higher than the heavens above.

Suggested Questions: What does this story tell us about Jesus? (He was innocent, without sin, but loves us so much that he was willing to die for us, would not be taken away from his Father's plan, was obedient, he felt weak, he felt all the pain, he trusted the Father) **How does this story change my life?** (It changes my life because now I can have forgiveness of sin, and can have new life in Jesus, eternal life)

- Why did Jesus choose to die on the cross? (to take away our sins, so that we could be at peace with God and each other, to show God's love for us, so that we could be forgiven and live with him in his Kingdom, he was obedient to the Father)
- Why could only Jesus take away our sins? (because he was God the Son who became a man and lived a perfect life without sin)
- Why was the temple curtain torn in two when Jesus died on the cross? (The temple curtain separated the sinful people from God's presence in the Holy of Holies (the innermost room in the temple). When Jesus died, God tore the curtain in two to show the people that Jesus had paid for their sins and they could now come into God's presence.)
- How much does God love us? (God's love is wider than the ocean and higher than the mountains above. Because of his love God sent Jesus to die for our sins.)

Bible Memory Verse:

"This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us." (1 John 3:16a – NIV)