



MEMORY VERSE

Romans 5:8

while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Goal: **Jesus died for you and me.**

LESSON TIME!

In today's lesson we are going to learn about the most important story of the entire Bible. It is the story of Jesus' crucifixion. It is the greatest story the world has ever heard. The entire Bible is centered on this story. If we were to erase the crucifixion of Jesus from the pages of the Bible, it would cease to have any meaning at all.

Why is this such an important part of the Bible? What would the world be like if Jesus had never died on the cross? What would your life be like? Not only is this the most important story in the Bible, but it is the most important thing for us to know about. Without Jesus' death on the cross we could not be saved and spend eternity with Him. We would still be in a hopeless, sinful condition. But thankfully, Jesus did go to the cross for you and for me.

Thankfully we get to enjoy the benefits of a wonderful salvation because He gave His life

for us. **Jesus died for you and me.**

Today we are going to learn about what happened to Jesus the day He gave His life for you and me. We can learn about the events of the crucifixion, but we can never fully understand the suffering of the cross of Jesus Christ. The lesson today is an explanation and example of the love of God. John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world..." Now let's take a look at Luke 23:26-49.



Luke 23:26

26 Now as they led Him away, they laid hold of a certain man, Simon a Cyrenian, who was coming from the country, and on him they laid the cross that he might bear it after Jesus.

Our lesson begins with the mention of a man named **Simon the Cyrene**. Simon had come to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. He had traveled over 800 miles from North Africa. We see here that Simon was asked to carry the cross of Jesus. When a prisoner would be crucified (hung on a cross until dead) a part of the humility he would suffer would be to carry the cross he would be killed

on. Apparently, Jesus could not carry it any farther, so they asked Simon to carry it for Him.

For Simon to carry the cross was to make himself look like a criminal. It may have been embarrassing for him to carry this cross. Maybe everyone in the crowd thought that he was a criminal. Jesus was identified with criminals even though He never sinned. Simon was carrying the cross of an innocent man. He was being identified with the Savior of the world.

The lesson to learn from Simon is that being identified with Jesus' death on the cross is not humiliating.

The world may not understand, or may think that we are different, but it is through this cross that we can receive salvation. To be identified with the cross is to be identified with the Savior of the world. Jesus said, "If any man is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Glory..." (Luke 9:28). We are in this world as representatives of Christ; to be Christ like every day and we are never abandoning that, never ashamed of that, and never staying away from that.

This was a great moment for Simon the Cyrene to be seen with Jesus. As Christians we should never be ashamed for people to know we are believers in Jesus. Paul said, "I am not shamed of the Gospel of Christ for it is the Power of God into salvation..." (Romans 1:16).

Luke 23:27-31

27 And a great multitude of the people followed Him, and women who also mourned and lamented Him. 28 But Jesus, turning to them, said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. 29 For indeed the days are coming in which they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, wombs that never bore, and breasts which never nursed!' 30 Then they will begin 'to say to the mountains, "Fall on us!" and to the hills, "Cover us!" ' 31 For if they do these things in the green wood, what will be done in the dry?"

There were a lot of people who followed Jesus to the place where He was crucified; many of them were women. Jesus always had women who supported him in His ministry. The gospels tell us about ten of Jesus' interactions with women.

Here we see that it is women that followed Jesus to the cross. Women are present when Jesus is

Women of Jesus' Day

Ask the children if they can remember any of the significant women of Jesus' day. How did these women affect their world? How did Jesus affect their lives?

Some of the women you might discuss:

Saint Mary; The Mother of God

Mary Magdalene, delivered from seven demons (Luke 8:2).

Martha and Mary, sisters of Lazarus (John 11).

Woman with the issue of blood (Luke 8).

Samaritan woman at the well (John 4). Woman caught in adultery (John 8).

Joanna and Susanna, supporters of the disciples (Luke 8:13).

Ask your class who the women in their lives are that have helped them. Have them write down their names and

taken down from the cross, and when Jesus is resurrected, He appeared to a woman first (Mary Magdalene) Jesus addressed these women as He walked toward the cross.

Jesus told the women not to weep over His death, but to prepare themselves for the destruction of their entire nation (Luke 19:41-44), because women and children would suffer the most during this time.

Luke 23:32-35

32 There were also two others, criminals, led with Him to be put to death. 33 And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on the right hand and the other on the left. 34 Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do."

And they divided His garments and cast lots. 35 And the people stood looking on. But even the rulers with them sneered, saying, "He saved others; let Him save Himself if He is the Christ, the chosen of God."

Jesus was hung on a cross between two criminals. It is very important to remember what Jesus had gone through up to this point. Jesus had been whipped until the skin on His back looked like raw meat; soldiers punched His face until He could not be recognized, His head poked to the skull with a crown of thorns. He was spit on, laughed at and cursed. Now He was being nailed to a cross beside two thieves.

They took His clothes off of Him and pounded huge spikes in His wrists and feet. **What was His response to those who had done this to Him?** "Father forgive them..." (verse 34).

Jesus taught us another valuable lesson. In Luke 6:27-28 Jesus taught "love your enemies, do good to them that hate you, bless them that curse you and pray for them that spitefully use you." Jesus was practicing what He taught. It is easy to love those who love you, but hard to love those who are mean to you. When we love those who are mean to us or treat us badly, we are showing Jesus' love. We can have the love of God by accepting the love of Jesus. **Jesus died for you and me.**

Do you love your enemies? Ask Jesus to give you the love of God. Have you forgiven those that have done you wrong? Ask Jesus to forgive them like He has forgiven you. God has forgiven us of all our sins; in return we are expected to forgive those who have sinned against us (Matthew 6:12 and Mark 11:25-26). **Jesus died for you and me.**



Luke 23:35-38

35 And the people stood looking on. But even the rulers with them sneered, saying, “He saved others; let Him save Himself if He is the Christ, the chosen of God.”

36 The soldiers also mocked Him, coming and offering Him sour wine, 37 and saying, “If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself.”

38 And an inscription also was [a]written over Him in letters of Greek, Latin, and Hebrew: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

The question was asked of Jesus on the cross. **If you are the king of the Jews, why can't you save yourself?** Jesus could have come down from the cross and saved Himself, but He went up on the cross to save the world. Without Jesus' sacrifice on the cross we would be forever lost in our sin. He saved the world by giving His life as a substitute for ours.

The question should have been: **“Why are you, an innocent, perfect person up there on the cross instead of us?”** Jesus was not only the king of the Jews, but He is also the King of kings and Lord of lords (1 Timothy 6:15). They simply did not understand who He was. Do you know who He is? **Jesus died for you and me.**

Luke 23:39-43

39 Then one of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying, “If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us.”

40 But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, “Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation? 41 And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong.” 42 Then he said to Jesus, “Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.”

43 And Jesus said to him, “Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.”

The two criminals are good examples of the two opinions about who Jesus is. One said He was just another man, helpless Himself, unable to stop His death like all other men. The other thief said Jesus was God, giving His life for ours. One man sees only the need to save his flesh; the other sees the

need to save his soul. One sees only the kingdom here on earth; the other sees the kingdom of Heaven.

To the criminal [The thief on the right] who called Him Lord, Jesus said "This day you will be with Me in Paradise." The other perished (2 Peter 3:9). **Jesus died for you and me.**

The Thief on the right saved his soul at the last minute; his faith in Jesus as God the savior saved him; he declared his faith, admitted his own sin and asked Jesus to be with him in heaven; He stole his spot in heaven. It is never too late to ask for forgiveness of our sins, to confess, repent and ask to go to heavens. Jesus Who had His arms wide open at the cross always has His arms open to receive us at any time.

Luke 23:44-49

44 Now it was about the sixth hour, and there was darkness all over the earth until the ninth hour. 45 Then the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was torn in two. 46 And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, "Father, 'into Your hands I commit My spirit.'" Having said this, He breathed His last.

47 So when the centurion saw what had happened, he glorified God, saying, "Certainly this was a righteous Man!"

48 And the whole crowd who came together to that sight, seeing what had been done, beat their breasts and returned. 49 But all His acquaintances, and the women who followed Him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

Why does the Gospel say that for the last three hours of the crucifixion, there was darkness over the entire earth?

According to Fr. Tadros Yacoub Malaty:

- Perhaps the nature wanted to show its condemnation and disapproval of what is happening to Its creator.
- According to the prophecy in (Amos 8:9) "And it shall come to pass in that day," says the Lord God, "That I will make the sun go down at noon, And I will darken the earth in broad daylight.
- According to the prophecy in (Isaiah 50:3) I clothe the heavens with blackness, And I make sackcloth their covering."
- Nature was mourning therefore the sun went down, the earth shared in earthquake, Mourning for the creator.

Remember how beautiful is our Coptic Orthodox church:- when you attend Good Friday at the church, the lights are turned off in remembrance of that time while we continue to pray.

What does it mean When the veil in the temple was torn in two by God?

He was saying to us that now we can freely come to Him.

Jesus dying in our place for our sin had done away with the veil that kept us from an intimate relationship with God.

Now we can come to God through Jesus as He made the reconciliation between heavens and earth; between God and man.

Remember how beautiful is our Coptic Orthodox church:- Every time you attend liturgy one Abouna is about to start the Liturgy he opens the curtains at the altar as a reminder to us that the veil was torn; we are now reconciled with God; He is our father and we can be very intimate to Him; How loving and

amazing is our God.

The cross reminds us of the bridge to God, to heaven. Jesus' death on the cross was the only way we could overcome sin. By asking for forgiveness of our sins and accepting Jesus' death on the cross for our sins we are given forgiveness and salvation. **Jesus died for you and me.**

Jesus gave His life for you and me. Jesus said in His final words on the cross, "Father, into Thy hands I commend my spirit." Here the Bible records that He gave up His Spirit; isn't that weird, No it is not He is God incarnate He has the Authority and with His Choice He gave Himself up on our behalf; He give up His spirit and died voluntarily on the cross for all of us to save us. **Jesus died for you and me.**

Our lesson today is about love. This is the greatest love story the world has ever known. It is a story about God loving us so much that He would come and die for us. He would pay the price for our sin. Whenever we look at the symbol of the cross we remember God's great love for us. **Jesus died for you and me.**

Romans 5:8 says, "But God commended His love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whomsoever believed in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." **Jesus died for you and me.**

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving for the price Jesus paid to save us from our sin. Thank you, My Lord and father Jesus Christ, for your precious love, thank you for your pains and for dying for me on the cross, you are so full of Love and worthy of all Love. We worship you and love.

Email to Parents

This week we learned about the time when Jesus is Crucified. The theme was "Jesus died for you and me!" Jesus willingly went to the cross to die for our sins. Without Jesus' death on the cross we could not have salvation. Since He died for us we can have eternal life and fellowship with God.

There are many things that we can learn from Jesus' crucifixion. We are going to look at some of the different aspects of the cross this week. We hope that this is a blessing to your family as you look at and are reminded of what Jesus has provided for you. The section of scripture that we studied was Luke 23:26-49.

Activity: <https://calvarycurriculum.com/pdf/Curriculum/Original/Curriculum/CURR237.PDF>

Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qkMWWIQhO3w>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AJkIMJth37o>

Why did Jesus have to die? https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_mMBGJ14PHY