**TOPIC-** EASTER

**Lesson 3.3 Jesus died on the cross for our sins**

**Age Group:** 1-5, 6 - 7, 8-13

* Open Prayer, Worship and Praise
* Review of the previous lesson
* **Objective:** After completing this lesson, the children will have a better understanding of crucifixion and the meaning behind Jesus' death on the cross.
* **Bible Story Reference:** Matthew 27:1-56; Mark 14:53-15:41; Luke 22:54-23:49; John 18:12-19:37
* **Introduction**

The Bible teaches us in Ephesians 1:7 that it is through Jesus’ blood that we find redemption and the forgiveness of sins. But more than our forgiveness and redemption, the story of the cross is the story of God’s love. As John 3:16 so famously declares “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

* **Bible Story:**

Jesus was taken before Annas first. While Jesus was being questioned by Annas, Peter had followed Jesus. He stood by the outside door. There was a servant girl watching the door and she let Peter in. She asked Peter "Aren't you one of Jesus' Disciples?" Peter told her he was not. The officers and servants had made a fire in the courtyard because it was cold, and Peter was standing by the fire with them. ([John 18:15-18](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/John%2018.15-18)). The men by the fire asked Peter "You are one of His Disciples, aren't you?" Peter replied that he was not. But a relative of Malchus asked Peter "Didn't I see you in the garden with Jesus?" Peter denied him, too. That was the third time Peter denied Jesus, and while Peter is still denying Jesus, immediately a rooster crowed. Just like Jesus told him would happen! ([John 18:27](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/John%2018.27)) Jesus turned and looked at Peter. Peter remembered what Jesus had told him. Peter left and cried bitterly. ([Luke 22:60-62](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Luke%2022.60-62)).

After Jesus was judged, the soldiers beat Jesus and put a crown of thorns and a purple robe on Jesus. Pilate tried to have Jesus released. ([John 19:12](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/John%2019.12)) But the Jews kept shouting to "Crucify Him!" So, Pilate had Jesus taken away to be crucified. They put a sign of the cross above Jesus that said, "This is Jesus, King of the Jews".

The soldiers led Jesus away. They seized Simon of Cyrene and laid the cross on him. He carried it behind Jesus.

Two criminals were led away to be put to death with Jesus. They came to the place that is called The Skull. One was on His right, and one was on His left. And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them. For they do not know what they do.” The people stood by watching. But the rulers and the soldiers mocked Jesus. The people stood by watching. But the rulers and the soldiers mocked Jesus. One of the criminals said to Jesus, “Are You not Christ? Save Yourself and us!” But the other said, “Do you not fear God? This man has done nothing wrong.” And he said, “Jesus remember me when You come into Your kingdom.” And Jesus said, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.”

It was dark over the land from noon until 3 o'clock. ([Mt. 27:44](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Matt.%2027.44)) When Jesus died, the veil was torn in two from top to bottom that was in the temple. ([Mt. 27:51](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Matt.%2027.51); [Mark 15:38](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Mark%2015.38)) There was an earthquake and the rocks broke! And there were graves opened and some Christians were alive again! ([Mt. 27:51-53](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Matt.%2027.51-53)). The centurion that was standing there said "Surely, He was the Son of God."

* **Discussion Questions**

1. **While Jesus was being questioned by Annas, which of His disciples followed Him?** *(Peter)*
2. **How many times did Peter deny Jesus? (***3 times)*
3. **Who is Simon of Cyrene and what lesson(s) can we learn from him?** *(the man compelled by the Romans to carry the cross of Jesus of Nazareth as Jesus was taken to his crucifixion. He also symbols ‘sharing the burden of others’, e.g. providing services to those in need)*
4. **What sign did they put above the cross of Jesus?** *("This is Jesus, King of the Jews")*
5. **Who are the two criminals and what lesson(s) can we learn from them?** *(They were thieves. There are people who are guilty of their sinful actions and there are others who aren't, but Jesus died for all of their sins - both the grateful and ungrateful)*
6. **What did one of the thieves who was next to Jesus said to Him?** *(“If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us.”)*
7. **What happened when Jesus died on the cross? (***The veil was torn in two from top to bottom that was in the temple. There was an earthquake and the rocks broke!)*
8. **The importance of forgiveness. (***Forgiveness can even lead to feelings of understanding, empathy and compassion for the one who hurt you. Forgiveness doesn't mean forgetting or excusing the harm done to you or making up with the person who caused the harm. Forgiveness brings a kind of peace that helps you go on with life.)*
9. **What did Jesus say about forgiveness?** *(And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them. For they do not know what they do.)*
10. **For whom did Jesus on the cross?** *(Jesus died for you and me so we can draw near to God)*

* **Memory Verse**:

Philippians 2:8 NIV

And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross!

John 3:16

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

* **Application and Conclusion**
* **Activities Attached**
* **Closing Prayer**

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