

# The Day Jesus Died

Matthew 27: 34-56; Mark 15:21-39; Luke 23:26-49; John 19:16-30; *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 741-764

**D**o you love someone so much that you would do anything for them? God loves us so much that He sacrificed His only Son to save us. And Jesus was willing to die for us.

**J**esus' terrible night of insults and beatings was finally over. Now the Roman soldiers were taking Him and two thieves outside the city to crucify them. Simon had carried Jesus' cross to the place of crucifixion. The awful deed would soon be done.

The Bible simply says, "They crucified Him." The people who lived when the Gospels were written knew what that meant. They knew crucifixion caused a slow, painful death. They knew a crowd would often follow the prisoners to the place of execution, shouting insults along the way. They knew soldiers would nail the hands and feet of the prisoners to the cross. They knew those soldiers would drop the cross into a hole in the ground. Yes, they

knew it was the worst possible way to die.

And that is exactly what happened to Jesus. The soldiers nailed Him to the cross, then placed the cross between the crosses of two thieves. The crowd that had followed them out of the city gathered around. The mocking that had been going on all night continued.

"If You really are the Son of God, come down from that cross!" one shouted.

"He saved others, but He can't save Himself," another sneered.

"Come down from the cross, and we'll believe in You," another said scornfully.

"If God wants Him, let God rescue Him," laughed yet another.

"After all, He said He was the Son of God." And so it went, on and on. Even a thief who was crucified with Him shouted insults at Him.

Although the pain and mocking were terrible, something even worse was happening to Jesus.



# The Message

*We serve God when we share His love with others.*

## Memory Verse

*“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”*

*(John 3:16, NIV).*

When He came to earth to die for us, Jesus took our sins on Himself. The guilt of every person who would ever live was resting on Him as He hung on the cross. The sense of sin was so great that He felt God had left Him forever. That feeling of abandonment by His Father caused Jesus to cry out, “My God, My God! Why have You forsaken Me?” Even though He thought He might never see His Father again, Jesus was still willing to die for us.

But God the Father had not abandoned Jesus. God and all the angels in heaven were watching and suffering with Him. Even the earth reacted to His agony. Darkness covered the area for three hours, and when Jesus finally died, “the earth shook and the rocks split” (Matthew 27:51, NIV).

Do you love anyone so much you would be willing to die a horrible death for them? That’s how much Jesus loves you. He

loves you so much there is nothing He wouldn’t do to save you.

He died the worst possible death so you could live with Him forever. That love is the core of Christianity. It’s the reason for every song we sing, every prayer we pray, everything we do.

That love is the message we are asked to share with others. Who doesn’t need to know they are loved that much? Who couldn’t help but love a God who would do absolutely anything to save him? Tell someone you know!





## S A B B A T H

**READ** During family worship read and discuss Matthew 27:34-44. What happened to Jesus' clothes? Who were among those who mocked Jesus? What did they say? Why did they say it?

**DO** Teach the memory verse to your family. Thank Jesus for dying for you.

## S U N D A Y

**READ** Read and discuss Matthew 27:45-56 during family worship. What happened when Jesus died? Who were among the women at the cross?

**THINK** Think of how different your life would be if Jesus hadn't died for you. Would you have heaven to look forward to? Would you know your sins are forgiven when you ask Jesus? Would you have Jesus' love and peace in your heart? Ask Jesus to help you to share His love with others.

## M O N D A Y

**READ** For worship today read and discuss John 19:23-27. What happened to Mary, the mother of Jesus? Why?

**SING** Sing the memory verse, "John 3:16" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 24).

**DO** Build a small cross made from two pieces of wood hammered together. Put it in your room this week to remind you of Jesus' great love for you.

## T U E S D A Y

**SHARE** Share God's love with someone. Give them the picture of the cross you drew in Sabbath School. Or sing "Jesus Loves Me" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 27) for them using the following motions:

Jesus Touch the right palm with the middle finger of the left hand, then the left palm with the middle finger of the right hand.

Loves Cross your arms over your chest.

Me Point to yourself.

**PRAY** Pray for the person you shared with today.

## W E D N E S D A Y

**ASK** Ask a grandparent or grandparent-type person how they feel when they hear the song, "The Old Rugged Cross." Ask them to sing it with you.

**DO** Take a walk around your room and look for objects you could use to serve others. What can you share with someone this week? Tell your family about it during worship today.

## T H U R S D A Y

**READ** For worship today read and discuss Matthew 27:50-54 and Luke 23:39-43. What did the Roman soldiers say after Jesus died? What did the thief say?

**THINK** Did the thief and the Roman soldiers believe Jesus was God's Son? How do you know? What has helped you believe in Jesus?

**PRAY** Thank Jesus that you can worship Him in safety.





# F R I D A Y



Ask your parents about the worst pain they've ever felt. What kind of pain did Jesus feel while dying on the cross? Did He feel only physical pain?



Think about ways your family sacrifices for you. Make a list and share it during worship. Say thank you to them and give them a hug. Talk about Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. Then thank God and Jesus for it.



Only slaves, the worst criminals, and non-Romans were crucified.

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## PUZZLE

Directions: Match the symbol with letters in the code boxes to find out how we serve God.

Sh \_ r \_      H \_ s      l \_ v \_  
 w \_ th      \_ th \_ r s .

A	E	I	O