

In the temple as Jesus died, the priest was just getting ready for the evening sacrifice of a lamb. Suddenly there was an earthquake. The tall curtain that hid the holiest part of the temple from view was ripped from top to bottom. The priest dropped his knife and the lamb ran away!

Jesus, who is God's real Lamb, had been killed. No more little lambs needed to die in the temple. Jesus had done what He came to do. Now people could choose to accept His forgiveness instead of dying for their own sins. They could choose everlasting life with God who loves us so much. Jesus had won, but nobody completely understood what that meant.

Jesus died on a Friday afternoon. The disciples wondered if the soldiers would come to kill them. Before dark, some of Jesus' friends took Him off the cross and put Him in a tomb. The door was covered with a very large, heavy stone. Jesus' friends planned to return Sunday to bury Him properly.



Matthew, Mark, Luke and John all tell the story of Jesus' death.



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GOD SENT HIS SON TO BE MY FRIEND

LESSON 9 Jesus Is My Ticket To Heaven

So many people are angry with me. I will not have a quick and easy death at the altar like the lambs.

My friends will be frightened and discouraged. I wish I could prepare them for what is coming.



Jesus had come to earth to die. The time was getting closer. This had been the plan from the beginning of time. Every person who has ever lived has sinned. Jesus' death would make forgiveness available to everyone. Because of Jesus' love and sacrifice, every person on earth has the choice of whether or not to accept the gift of life.

God's people had sacrificed lambs for 4,000 years, waiting for this event. But when it happened, they did not understand it.

One night, Jesus took His friends and went to pray. Many things were on His mind.

Oh God! I don't want to be hurt and die! If there is any other way for my friends to be saved, please change this plan!

Even though this will be so hard, I will do whatever You decide is best.

There was no other way. God loved the people He had created. Jesus did too. Even if it meant Jesus' being tortured to death, God and His Son loved us so much that They felt it was worth the price to save us.



Write your name on the lines below.



God loved _____

so much that He sent His precious

Son, so that if

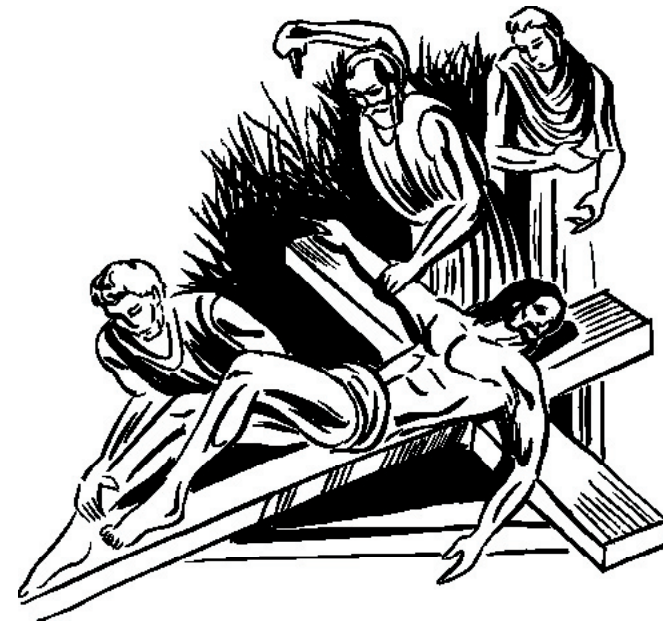
believed in Jesus,

would not be lost,

but live with Him forever.

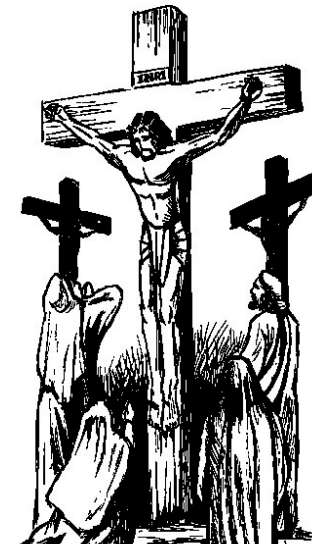


Yes, it is in the Bible. You can read it in John 3:16.



Jesus and two criminals from jail were dragged to the execution site and nailed to crosses on a hill. A crowd of people from the city followed along to watch.

Jesus' friends watched too. How could He let them do this to Him? He could fix anything! *Why* was He letting this happen? They were so discouraged. They did not remember that Jesus was the Lamb of God.



Pilate was not happy to see Jesus coming back. He didn't know what to do. The crowd outside his fortress was shouting, demanding Jesus' execution.

Pilate's wife sent him a message begging him to let Jesus go.

Pilate decided to have Him whipped. Then maybe the crowd would feel sorry for Him.

Jesus was brought back, beaten and bleeding. He looked terrible! Pilate stood Him on the balcony so the people could see Him. They continued to shout "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!" (Crucifixion was the cruelest form of death.)

Pilate washed his hands in front of the crowd. "I am innocent of this man's blood," he said. "His death will be your responsibility."

The soldiers tried to make Jesus carry His cross to the place of execution, but He was so badly hurt He kept fainting. Someone had to help Him.



Soldiers came to the garden and arrested Jesus. His disciples ran away in fear. First He was taken to the priests' court, called the Sanhedrin. The priests wanted to give Him the death sentence because He had said He was the Son of God. But only the Romans were allowed to pass the death sentence, so they took Him to Pilate, the Roman Governor.



I am excited about meeting Jesus. I hear he can do miracles. I'll command him to do some for entertainment!



I can never forget how I killed John the Baptist when he accused me of sinning. If I save the life of this prophet I will stop feeling guilty about John.

This man looks innocent. I will ask him questions and set him free.

Jesus would not answer Herod's questions. He would not talk at all or entertain the sinful king with miracles. Jesus' miracles were only to help people, not to save Himself. Herod became angry and disgusted. His soldiers began to tease Jesus.

Let's put a purple robe on Him just like a King!

Here, I made a crown out of thorns. Have Him wear this! Being a king isn't so much fun, is it?

Hail, King of the Jews!

Hey, prophet! Who hit you?

They say He is a prophet. Let's see if He really is. I'll blindfold Him.



Who hit you this time?

Which one of us spit on you?

King Herod, we have had Jesus here a long time. He won't talk to us. What do you want us to do with Him?

Take Him back to Pilate. Jesus is his problem, not mine.