

STORY FROM...

Matt 26–28 Mark 14–16
Luke 22–24 John 13,15–20

Death and Resurrection

◀ **REVIEW PREVIOUS STORIES** *(Guide the group as they give an overview of previous stories and retell the last story)*

▼ **TELL THE STORY** *(Don't just read it—know it and bring it to life!)*

After the Passover meal, when it was dark, Jesus and his disciples went to an olive grove to pray.

Filled with pain and sorrow, he fell facedown on the ground.

“Abba, Father,” Jesus cried (‘abba’ means daddy), “...everything is possible for you. If there is another way besides my death, please let that happen... but I will do whatever you ask.”

Just as he had finished praying, Judas showed up with an armed mob.

He greeted Jesus with a kiss—a sign to show the guards which one they should arrest.

Jesus said to them, *“Am I a dangerous criminal that you need weapons to capture me?*

Why didn't you arrest me in the Temple where I've been teaching everyday?

No! This is part of God's plan, just as the prophets predicted long ago.”

When the guards arrested Jesus and dragged him away, the disciples ran away and hid.

The guards beat Jesus and brought him before the Jewish leaders for questioning.

They asked, *“Are you the Messiah, the Son of God?”*

Jesus answered, *“I am, and you will see me seated next to God in power, coming back on the clouds of heaven.”*

When Jesus said this, the High Priest tore his clothing in horror and said, *“Any man who claims to be God must be put to death.”* Then they slapped Jesus in the face and spit on him.

Jesus was brought to the Roman governor, Pilate, since Jews could not execute anyone without official approval. The Jewish leaders stirred up the crowds and pressured Pilate to have Jesus put to death.

They shouted, *“Crucify Him! Crucify Him!”*

Pilate feared a riot would break out, so he handed Jesus over to the Roman soldiers to be crucified.

Crucifixion was the most cruel and humiliating way to die.

Jesus was brutally beaten and whipped by the soldiers. They put a crown of sharp thorns on

his head and a purple robe around his shoulders. *“Hail the King of the Jews!”* they laughed.

All night, the Roman Soldiers continued to beat Jesus and mock him. When morning came,

they led Jesus to a place called Skull Hill.

Like a criminal, Jesus was nailed to a heavy wooden cross between two thieves.

Hanging there, he cried out, *“Father, please forgive them—they don't know what they're doing.”*

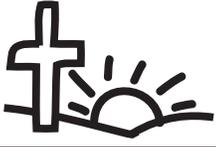
At noon, darkness filled the skies, blocking out the sun for three hours.

Suddenly, the thick curtain hanging in the Temple tore down the middle!

At that moment, Jesus shouted, *“Father! I give you my life... it is finished.”*

Then Jesus breathed his last breath and died.

(story continued on next page)



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(story continued from previous page)

The soldiers broke the legs of the criminals crucified next to Jesus to speed up their deaths. When they found that Jesus was already dead, they didn't break his legs. But, to be sure, one of the soldiers stabbed him in the side with a spear and blood and water poured out.

Late Friday afternoon, Jesus' body was taken down from the cross, wrapped in long strips of cloth, and buried in a rich man's tomb. A large stone was rolled over the entrance to the tomb, and Roman guards were posted to make sure nothing happened to his body.

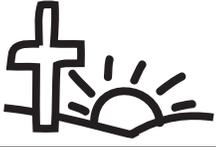
(Pause here for a moment)

Early on Sunday morning, some of the women who followed Jesus went to prepare his body for burial. When they arrived at the tomb, they saw the stone was rolled away and the soldiers were gone!

Suddenly, two angels appeared. They said, *"Why are you surprised? You are looking for Jesus, but he is not here—he's been raised from the dead."*

The women were excited but afraid and hurried to tell the disciples the amazing news. Some of them ran back to the tomb and looked inside for themselves... Jesus was not there!

▲ **RETELL THE STORY** *(This may seem redundant, but it is very effective in helping the listeners own the story)*



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▼ **DIALOGUE** *(These questions are a good start for you to draw out the group's observations about the story)*

- **Why do you think the curtain in the Temple tore in half? What did the curtain separate?**

- **How did Jesus fulfill the prophet's predictions about the coming Messiah?**

He will be beaten, whipped, and wounded

He will be put on trial and thrown in prison.

His hands and feet would be pierced.

He will be killed like a criminal, then buried in a rich man's tomb.

God will lay the punishment and guilt for all of our sins on him.

His life will be made an offering for us.

Because of Him, many will be made right with God.

- **How is Jesus being raised from the dead significant? What does it show us about him?**

◆ **APPLICATION** *(Optional questions that also work well in smaller groups)*

- What did you notice from the story for the first time?
- What questions do you have about the story? What do you wonder about?
- How did the story challenge or encourage you?

- How was Jesus' death part of God's plan?
- How does this story affect your life?