

Major Event: His Death

Lesson 2: Crucifixion of Jesus Christ

Scriptures: Matthew 27:27-54

Central Text: Matthew 27:46-50

46 About the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "ELI, ELI, LAMA SABACHTHANI?" that is, "MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?" 47 And some of those who were standing there, when they heard it, began saying, "This man is calling for Elijah." 48 Immediately one of them ran, and taking a sponge, he filled it with sour wine and put it on a reed, and gave Him a drink. 49 But the rest of them said, "Let us see whether Elijah will come to save Him." 50 And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. 51 And behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth shook and the rocks were split.

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

Verse 27

Praetorium: Pilate's house
Cohort: 300 to 600 soldiers

Verses 28–31

Crucifixion was a slow, brutal and painful way to kill a person. It usually lasted 2 to 3 days. The hands were nailed to the crossbeam, the feet to the upright beam. A peg, on which the victim sat, supported the main weight of the body. Death was sometimes hurried by breaking the legs, but not in Jesus' case.

Verses 32–34

Wine mixed in gall was a painkiller, but Jesus did not want to deaden the pain. He was there to suffer and pay for the sins of the world.

Verse 35

The soldiers took Jesus' clothes for themselves. They treated Jesus as a common criminal. This was also prophesized by the prophet Isaiah.

Verses 36–37

"King of the Jews" was a way of mocking Jesus. Is he really the "The King of the Jews"?

Verses 38–45

They were mocking and insulting Jesus. "Sixth to the ninth hour" is from noon to 3:00 P.M.

Verse 46

This cry may mean how alone Jesus felt as He was bearing the sins of the world. This was the one and only time Jesus and his Father would not be in fellowship together as he paid for the World's sins.

Verses 47–50

Jesus was not really killed by anyone, and His body did not die from heart failure. He deliberately released His spirit. He allowed Himself to die.

Verse 51

The veil was the curtain separating the holy area from the rest of the temple. God tore the curtain in two, and this meant that with Jesus' death, there was now a new way open to God. This is called the "New Covenant."

Verses 52–54

Do you think they were believers in Jesus then?

Suggested Attributes for Teacher to Cover:

1. Of God: Love, Justice
2. Of Man; Total Depravity, Lack of Righteousness, Total Dependence on God's Grace.

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home: John 18:12 – 19:30

Notes: Jesus was not killed on the cross by Man, he freely gave up his spirit to the Father. Emphasize that the veil was ripped open, opening a path to the Holy of Holies in the temple. This represented that the sins were paid for and now we had access directly to God's throne as his children.