

Lesson: **Jesus Died for Us***

Background Scripture : **Luke 23:33-24:12**

YOU WILL NEED: Signs for Jesus, Forgive, Criminals, Remember, Promise, Empty, Love, Extreme Obedience

BIBLE LESSON

SAY: Today's story is about Jesus' death and resurrection. (Resurrection means being raised from the dead.)

(Choose one volunteer--to hold the Jesus sign.)

SAY: Although Jesus, God's perfect Son, had never done anything wrong, He was arrested and treated like a criminal. He was sentenced to die on a cross--which was a painful punishment given to the worst of criminals.

(Choose one volunteer--to hold the Forgive sign.)

SAY: Jesus was led to a place outside the city called "The Skull." He was nailed to a cross and people laughed at Him and insulted Him. But Jesus didn't show anger or hate, instead He prayed, "Father, forgive them, because they do not know what they are doing."

(Choose one volunteer--to hold the Criminals sign.)

Jesus was crucified between two criminals. One of them yelled at Jesus: "Aren't You the Messiah? Save Yourself and us!" The other man told the first criminal to be quiet. He said, "We are punished justly because we're getting back what we deserve for things we did, but this man has done nothing wrong."

(Choose one volunteer--to hold the Remember sign.)

The same man looked at Jesus and asked Him, "Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom."

Ask the students: Do you think it was too late for that criminal to ask Jesus to forgive him? Why or why not?

(Choose one volunteer--to hold the Promise sign.)

Jesus made this promise to the criminal: "Today you will be with Me in heaven." After Jesus died, two of his friends took Jesus' body and placed it in a stone tomb. All these things happened on a Friday. Saturday passed. Sunday came, and some women came to the tomb, bringing spices to put on Jesus' body.

(Choose one volunteer--to hold the Empty sign.)

The tomb was empty! Two angels in white clothes said, "Jesus is not here!" The women hurried back to tell Jesus' disciples that He was alive!

(Choose one volunteer--to hold the Love sign.)

Jesus loved the criminal even though he had done bad things. He loves you too--so much that He died to take the punishment for every wrong thing you and I would ever do. Jesus loves you so much He wants you to be with Him forever in heaven. If you ever

have any questions about why Jesus died or how you can know for sure that you're going to heaven, just ask one of us. We would love to talk to you about it.

(Choose one volunteer--to hold the *Extreme Obedience* sign.)

KEY: Because of Jesus' *Extreme Obedience*, we can be saved both from a life and an eternity without God, and once you give your life to Him, you can share in His extreme obedience. When you obey God people will see something different about you and the life you live may lead them to give their lives to Christ.

NOTE: This story is used in *The Life of Jesus: Jesus Died and Rose Again* Sunday School lesson.

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*Adapted from Lifeway's VBS Curriculum 2004, Rickshaw Rally