

7. Jesus Dies on the Cross



Saturday

Place #7 picture (cross) on cross

Scripture: Mark 15:22-24, John 19:28-30, Acts 7:51-53,

Isaiah 53:4-6, Romans 5:8, John 3:16

1 candle lit before reading

The day Jesus died was the darkest day in history. The Son of God Himself was killed by people who weren't satisfied simply to reject Him: they hated Him so much that they wanted to kill Him. They thought killing Him would solve their problem.

They brought Him to the place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), and they crucified Him.

Jesus had come, not only to fulfill the scriptures and the prophecies about His death, but also to complete the work of God and to provide the payment for sin, once and for all.

John records Jesus' last words...

Later, Jesus knew that everything had been done. To make the Scriptures come true He said, "I am thirsty." There was a jar full of sour wine there, so the soldiers soaked a sponge in it. They put the sponge on a branch of a hyssop plant and lifted it to Jesus' mouth. When He tasted the wine, He said, "It is finished." Then He bowed His head and died.

Even though Jesus' death makes us sad, we must understand that God was still in control. This was all part of His plan. In the book of Acts, many Christians were being persecuted for speaking about Jesus...but they made it clear to everyone that Jesus' death was all part of God's plan.

Hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves know. This Jesus delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.

(Have kids blow out another candle. Do not light again until Easter.)

Jesus' death wasn't like any other. He was perfect and He didn't deserve to die, but His death was necessary to accomplish God's plan. His death paid the price for sin and provided a way for us to be made right with God.

Surely He took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered Him punished by God, stricken by Him, and afflicted. But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on Him, and by His wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

One of God's greatest desires for us is that we understand just how much He loves us.

But God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.

For God loved the world so much that He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.

PRAY: Lord, we pray that You will help us understand just how much You love us and that You will fill our hearts with thanksgiving and praise for all that You have done for us through Your son.