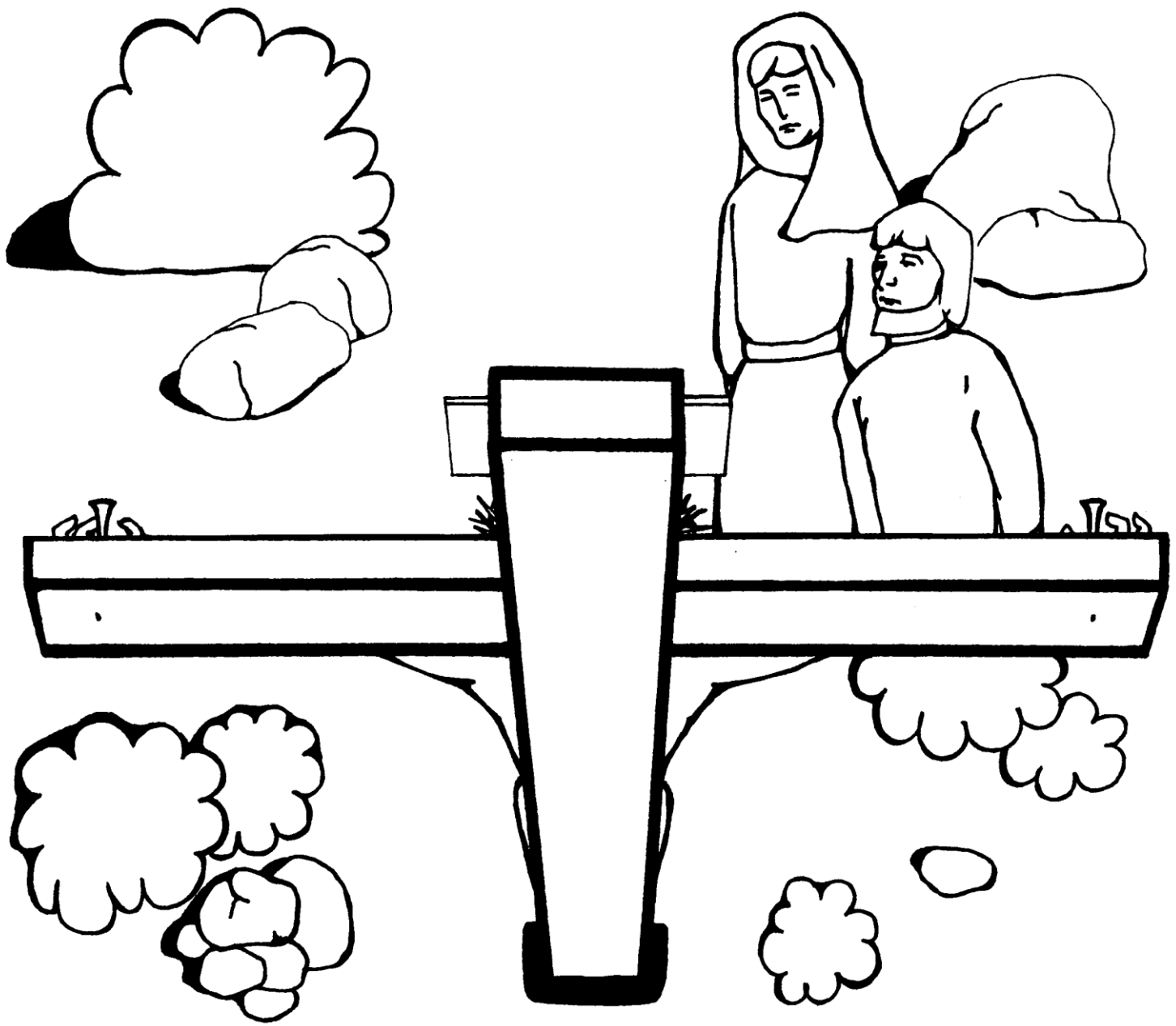


Story Time - Read the story to the children
Lesson 237: JESUS IS CRUCIFIED
LUKE 23:26-49

The soldiers led Jesus away. At that same time there was a man from Cyrene named Simon coming into the city from the fields. The soldiers forced him to carry Jesus' cross and walk behind him. A large crowd followed Jesus. Some of the women were sad and crying. They felt sorry for him. But Jesus turned and said to the women, "Women of Jerusalem, don't cry for me. Cry for yourselves and for your children too. The time is coming when people will say, 'The women who cannot have babies are the ones God has blessed. It's really a blessing that they have no children to care for.' Then the people will say to the mountains, 'Fall on us!' They will say to the hills, 'Cover us!' If this can happen to someone who is good, what will happen to those who are guilty?" There were also two criminals led out with Jesus to be killed. They were led to a place called Golgotha, which means "The Skull." There the soldiers nailed Jesus to the cross. They also nailed the criminals to crosses beside Jesus--one on the right and the other on the left. Jesus said, "Father, forgive them. They don't know what they are doing." The soldiers threw dice to divide Jesus' clothes between them. The people stood there watching everything. The Jewish leaders laughed at Jesus. They said, "If he is God's Chosen One, the Messiah, then let him save himself. He saved others, didn't he?" Even the soldiers laughed at Jesus and made fun of him. They came and offered him some sour wine. They said, "If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself!" One of the criminals hanging there began to shout insults at Jesus: "Aren't you the Messiah? Then save yourself, and save us too!" But the other criminal stopped him. He said, "You should fear God. All of us will die soon. You and I are guilty. We deserve to die because we did wrong. But this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom!" Then Jesus said to him, "I promise you, today you will be with me in paradise." It was about noon, but it turned dark throughout the land until three o'clock in the afternoon, because the sun stopped shining. The thick curtain in the Temple was torn into two pieces. Jesus shouted, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" After Jesus said this, he died. The army officer there saw what happened. He praised God, saying, "I know this man was a good man!" Many people had come out of the city to see all this. When they saw it, they felt very sorry and left. The people who were close friends of Jesus were there. Also, there were some women who had followed Jesus from Galilee. They all stood far away from the cross and watched these things.



"Jesus is crucified."
Luke 23:26–49

237. JESUS IS CRUCIFIED

LUKE 23:26-49

MEMORY VERSE:

"...By His stripes we are healed." **ISAIAH 53:5**

Review Questions

True or False

1. As they were leading Jesus away, they found a man named Simon and made him carry Jesus' cross behind Him.
2. There were also eight other men, who were criminals, that went with Him to be crucified.
3. When they had come to the place called Egypt, they crucified Him and the criminals, one on His right side, and the other on His left side.
4. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them. They don't know what they are doing."
5. They played cards to divide His clothes between them.

Questions

1. What were some of the things the Jewish leaders said? Did they say, "He saved others – let Him save Himself!"
2. What did the soldiers try to give Jesus to drink?
3. What did the first criminal say to Jesus?
4. What did the other criminal say?
5. What did Jesus tell the second criminal?
6. There was an army officer there who saw all these things. What did he say and do?

Lesson 237 Activity

The Willingness Game

Have your children at the tables. Pass out small prizes or treats (like a piece of candy) to all but the last child at each table.

Instruct your class to pass their prize to the next person on the right. This should leave the first person with nothing. This first child will be either willing or unwilling to follow your instructions. If he or she passes on their prize, reward them by giving them another prize. If he or she does not, give the child that has ended up with nothing a prize.

Ask your children to explain how they felt to give their prize away. Was it easy to do it willingly? Ask the child who was left without how he felt? Explain to your class that today's lesson teaches how Jesus willingly did something that no one else could do. **Jesus died for you and me.**

Jesus was not murdered on the cross. He gave His life for you and me. Jesus said in His final words on the cross, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." (It means "Father, I put my spirit into your hands"). Here the Bible records that He gave up His Spirit. **Jesus died for you and me.**

Our lesson today is about love. This is the greatest love story the world has ever known. It is a story about God loving us so much that He would come and die for us.

He would pay the price for our sin. Whenever we look at the symbol of the cross we remember God's great love for us. **Jesus died for you and me.**

Romans 5:8 says, "But God showed His love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believed in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." **Jesus died for you and me.**

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving for the price Jesus paid to save us from our sin. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them an opportunity to do so.