

## Family Lesson 70

**Principle:** Jesus dies on the cross and restores man and God. He is resurrected and triumphs over death.

**Bible Character(s):** Jesus Christ, Joseph of Arimathea, Mary Magdalene, and Mary

**Scripture Reference:** Mark 15:33-47;  
Matthew 28:1-10

**1. Worship** - Choose your favorite songs from the [Spotify playlist](#) found on the curriculum resource page. Have fun, sing loudly, and follow along with the motions!

**2. Bible Lesson** - Read through the lesson with your family. The bold font is meant to be read aloud along with the Scripture references.

### Bible Lesson

Jesus lived a perfect life. He had a supernatural birth. He loved. He served. He showed his power to heal and power to forgive. He performed miracles. Why, then, did people want him to die?

Today, we will read through the Scriptures of the crucifixion and resurrection. **What happened to Jesus?** (He was crucified on the cross, buried in a tomb, and rose on the third day.) **What does this mean for us?** (Jesus did everything he said he would do; our sin has been paid for; we can live forever with him if we put our faith and trust in him as our Savior.)

**Did Jesus deserve to die?** (No. He was innocent, but he hung on the cross and experienced unbearable suffering.) **It was our sin that Jesus died for so that we don't have to. We have the choice to believe that Jesus is the Son of God or to believe that he is not.**

Today, we will read more about Jesus' death. We will examine what his death means for us and what happened after he was crucified.

Let's begin reading the Bible in Mark 15 [NLT].

#### Mark 15:33

<sup>33</sup> At noon, darkness fell across the whole land until three o'clock.

Can you imagine it being dark at lunchtime? Would you think it was weird to look outside and see darkness while you were eating your lunch? (Allow responses.) **This is what happened on the day Jesus died, and it says the darkness lasted for three hours.**

#### Mark 15:34

<sup>34</sup> Then at three o'clock Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?"

**At this point, Jesus was hanging on the cross with nails through his hands and feet. He was in horrible pain, but this physical pain is not as bad as the spiritual pain he was feeling. As he hung on the cross, he took our sin on himself and was separated from God. This is why he cried out, asking why God deserted him. This pain of being separated from God because of our sin was greater than the physical pain he was experiencing.**

#### Mark 15:35-36

<sup>35</sup> Some of the bystanders misunderstood and thought he was calling for the prophet Elijah.

<sup>36</sup> One of them ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, holding it up to him on a reed stick so he could drink. "Wait!" he said. "Let's see whether Elijah comes to take him down!"

**Could Jesus have saved himself?** (Allow responses.) **Yes, Jesus could have taken himself off the cross; he did not need Elijah to do that. With one word, he could have stopped everything that was happening. Jesus chose to remain on the cross, take our sin upon himself, and die so that we would not be separated from God. He did this because he loves us.**

**Mark 15:37-39**

*<sup>37</sup> Then Jesus uttered another loud cry and breathed his last. <sup>38</sup> And the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.*

*<sup>39</sup> When the Roman officer who stood facing him saw how he had died, he exclaimed, "This man truly was the Son of God!"*

**This Roman officer had seen the darkness come over the land; he had watched Jesus die. He realized that this was all very important. He believed that Jesus was the Son of God. He put all the pieces together and believed, even though he did not understand the whole story.**

**Mark 15:40-41**

*<sup>40</sup> Some women were there, watching from a distance, including Mary Magdalene, Mary (the mother of James the younger and of Joseph), and Salome. <sup>41</sup> They had been followers of Jesus and had cared for him while he was in Galilee. Many other women who had come with him to Jerusalem were also there.*

**How do you think these women felt?** (Allow responses.) **They loved Jesus and had taken care of him. They must have been so sad and upset as they watched him die.**

**After Jesus died, Joseph took his body and placed him in a tomb. There were many people who agreed that Jesus was dead—Joseph, the Roman Commander, Pilate, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of Jesus. No one could say that Jesus was not dead.**

As a family, read through Matthew 28:1-10. You may choose to act out the story to help your child to have a better understanding of the resurrection. Characters: Mary Magdalene, Mary, Angel of the Lord, guards, Jesus.

**Both Mary Magdalene and Mary loved Jesus. They must have been extremely sad that Jesus was dead. Can you imagine how shocking and surprising it was when the angel came to them? Both women knew Jesus had died, and here was an angel telling them that he had risen. The women believed that Jesus had risen, and they were filled with joy! Their next response was worship. When they saw Jesus, they were so excited that they fell before him and worshiped him.**

**How do you respond to this story? Do you believe it? Are you excited by it? Do you have a desire to worship God when you hear it?** (Allow responses.)

**Jesus told them not to be afraid and to tell others that he had risen. He tells us the same thing. We don't have to be afraid, and we can tell others this amazing story.**

**So why did Jesus die? Why did he go through suffering and death? Why is all of this so important? How do these events change our lives? The answer involves two things—God's love and our sin.**

**We may see the big picture, but do we all believe it and see how it changes our lives? When we believe that Jesus died for us and rose again, we can also die and become alive again.**

**When we believe and trust that Jesus died and rose again for our sins, we become a new creation. God changes our hearts. Jesus forgives our sins and we are made alive in Christ. It changes our whole life! You can experience God's power and love now. You can have someone to turn to when you're sad or angry; you can know God**

loves you and cares for you, even more than your parents do.

**Do you have questions about any of this? You can ask me if you have questions.**

Read through the following verses to finish your family time:

**John 1:12**

*But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.*

**John 3:16-17**

*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. God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.*

**Romans 5:8**

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

**Ephesians 2:8-9**

*God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.*

**Prayer**

Spend a few minutes in prayer to close your family time. Ask God to help each of us recognize the sin in our lives and ask him for forgiveness. Pray that your child will accept the free gift of eternal life by believing in Jesus.

**Activity**

Remembrance Mural —the purpose of this activity is to think back through all the amazing things Jesus accomplished before he endured the cross for us.

Supplies:

Paper

Pencil/crayons/markers

Give your child an opportunity to talk about Jesus' life or create a remembrance mural of Jesus' life. Lay a large piece of paper on the floor/table and encourage them to write or draw anything from Jesus' life—his birth, miracles, healing, teaching etc. Invite your child to share what they wrote or drew and why it is important to them.

