

# LESSON 11

## JESUS IS CRUCIFIED

### OBJECTIVES

1. To learn the story of Jesus' death in more detail.
2. To understand that Jesus died for our sins so that we could obtain eternal life.
3. To understand that because Jesus died for our sins, we should live as good Christians.

### MEMORY VERSE

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

(Romans 6:23)

### PRAYER

1. Thank God for bringing us together through His word.
2. Ask God to help us learn about how Jesus sacrificed Himself for us.
3. Ask God to help us learn how we can repay God's love for us.



### Overview

#### 1. Jesus' trials

- Trial before the Sanhedrin
- Pilate finds Jesus innocent

#### 2. Jesus carries the cross to Golgotha

- People scourge and mock Him
- He carries our sins

#### 3. Jesus is crucified

- Miracles occur at His death
- Why Jesus died for us

#### 4. Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs—Jesus died on the cross to redeem our sins.

#### 5. Life Application—Seven sayings on the cross; the qualities of Jesus

#### 6. Activity—Be a Good Christian



### Background Knowledge for Teachers

It can be said that Jesus' crucifixion is the culminating point of the entire Bible. All thirty-nine books of the Old Testament record events that prepare the way for Jesus' coming, His offering of blood, and ultimately, His sacrifice for the atonement of our sins. Isaiah chapter 53 prophesies extensively of the coming and the death of the Messiah, and Jesus proves every word to be true. We repeatedly remind ourselves of His crucifixion, because it is His death that gives us the hope to live. The Holy Spirit testifies to this remarkable event, and in itself is additional evidence that our hope is true.

Jesus suffered through six trials: three before the Jewish authorities, and three before the Roman authorities. Throughout these trials, the Bible mentions several blatantly illegal actions taken by the Jewish leaders. Jesus was clearly innocent; His accusers resorted to using unlawful procedures in order to convict Him, to the extent of bringing in several false witnesses to support their attempts. In a scene of morbid irony, it was only when Jesus spoke the plain truth that they found a reason to condemn Him (Mt 26:64-66). Yet, despite the obviously fabricated accusations, Jesus offered no defense for Himself, a marvel remarked upon by Pilate (Mt 27:12-14). Following the trials, Pilate could not back down from the demands of the Jews, even when he had confirmed Jesus' innocence himself (Jn 19:6), and the condemnation of a guiltless Man was assured.

Pilate's defense of Jesus is noteworthy. During his time as governor, Pilate came into conflict with the Jews on several occasions, and he probably disliked the Jews as a whole. However, when the problem of Jesus fell into his lap, he found Him innocent, even publicly pronouncing this three times. The Bible notes his insight in accurately judging that the issue was a matter of envy (Mt 27:18; Mk 15:10; Jn 18:35-38). As was customary during Passover, he offered the freedom of one prisoner, hoping that the people would choose Jesus; this would allow him to make a political compromise and not insult the Jewish leaders. However, the Jewish leaders overwhelmed the people by clamoring for Pilate to crucify Him (Jn 19:6), and the moment was lost. Finally, Pilate washed his hands in a symbolic gesture, a vain attempt to free himself of the guilt of condemning an innocent person to death by crucifixion.

The horror of crucifixion was acknowledged even by the Romans themselves. The only people unfortunate enough to experience this punishment were slaves from the various provinces under Roman control. Roman citizens were not permitted to be crucified. It was a painful death reserved for the bottom ranks of their society, and for people who committed only the worst crimes. Jesus—who was indisputably innocent—suffered the most disgraceful, agonizing death that was reserved for the lowliest of criminals. Yet, even in His suffering, Jesus manifested His authority and status by saying, "Into Your hands I commit My spirit." Only when His task was completed did He allow His Spirit to be surrendered. Ultimately, Jesus' suffering and death found meaning in His resurrection, and, in the redemption of our sins, the sole purpose for His life on earth.



## Reaching Out to Your Students

Your students have probably been taught many times about Jesus' sacrifice for us. But at this age, the concept of His crucifixion may still be an abstract, unreal thing to them. Throughout this lesson, try to emphasize the reality of Jesus' suffering, and the ultimate purpose of His sacrifice: to break down the barrier of sin between God and us, and to bring us closer to Him so that we might have the chance of avoiding death from sin. At this age, they are also starting to become aware of their own faith, rather than leaning solely on their parents' faith. Use this opportunity to remind them that they are individuals and that Jesus died for each one of them. Emphasize the importance of their personal relationship with Jesus, and encourage them to develop their own communication with Him.



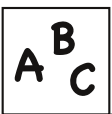
## Opener

5 Minutes

**Materials:** A bag of candy (optional), several chairs

Arrange the chairs so that they form a "barrier" between the students and the bag of candy/yourself. Tell them that whoever gets to the candy can have it (or if you have no candy, simply instruct them to try and get to the other side), but they must abide by one rule: they are not allowed to touch the chairs or go around them.

The purpose of this activity is to demonstrate the untouchable wall of sin that as sinners, we cannot get around no matter how we try. Particularly resourceful students might think to ask the teacher to move the chairs for them, since there is no rule that forbids the teacher from touching the chairs.



## Vocabulary

- false witness:** a person who deliberately gives a false testimony
- condemn/convict:** to pronounce guilty
- scourge:** to punish severely, usually with a special whip
- Sanhedrin:** the leaders of the Jewish community
- riot:** a disorderly public protest that involves violence and noise
- mock:** to make fun of or ridicule; to look down on



## Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

### FOR TEACHERS

Distribute the Bible Discovery Worksheet to the students now. The students will be filling it out during the lesson. Keep one copy for yourself. The answers to have been underlined in this section. Allow time for students to answer the questions before moving on.

Just now, we discovered that there was no practical way of getting to the other side of the "wall" without external help. In the same way, sin was an untouchable barrier that existed between God and His people. Today, we're going to study the solution that God offered: Jesus, His only Son. Jesus had to suffer both physically and spiritually, and eventually die on the cross. But the reason He went through all of that was to remove the wall that existed between God and us. As we go through the story of Jesus' crucifixion, try to remember that everything He went through was all for our sakes.

### Jesus is put on trial before the Jewish and Roman authorities.

After Judas' betrayal in the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus had to suffer through six trials, all of them humiliating and unjustified. Let's briefly go through His trials before the Jewish council and before Pilate, first turning to **Matthew 26:59-68**.

Jesus' silence frustrated all the members of the Sanhedrin, but while witness after witness testified against Him, they couldn't find anything wrong with what Jesus had said or done. In the end, it was not the false witnesses who managed to give the high priest something to convict Him with. It was actually Jesus Himself who did! Let's go back to the passage again and focus on **verses 62-65**. Since Jesus was innocent, they couldn't find any fault in Him until He spoke the truth to the unbelievers. After He spoke, they finally found something to say against Him and quickly accused Him of blasphemy.

After beating Him and mocking Him, the Jewish authorities sent Jesus to Pilate. Previously, Jesus faced the Sanhedrin, who was eager to condemn Him, but now He faced a Gentile who saw Him as guiltless and undeserving of crucifixion. Pilate did not find Jesus guilty. Let's read what happened when Jesus faced the Roman authorities in **Matthew 27:11-14**. The passage records that Pilate "marveled greatly" at Jesus' silence and refusal to defend Himself before His accusers. Normally, a person facing crucifixion would try to defend himself, but Jesus said nothing in His own defense.

Let's read on to **verses 15-18**. Accustomed to releasing a prisoner to the people during Passover, Pilate took this chance to try to free Jesus, who he believed was innocent. But let's read **verse 20** to see what the response was. The

priests and elders "persuaded the multitudes" against releasing Jesus, so they asked for the release of a murderer instead of Jesus (v.21-26).

We can see that throughout these trials, despite all the accusations from the Jewish council and the repeated calls for His crucifixion, Jesus remained innocent. Even Pilate told them three times that he considered Jesus innocent! Despite this, though, he was forced to send Jesus to be crucified because he was scared that the Jews would riot if he didn't. So with these few words, "I am innocent of the blood of this just Person. You see to it," Jesus, an innocent Man, was condemned to death.

### Jesus carries the cross to Golgotha.

Before being crucified, Jesus was not only beaten by the Jews after His trial before the Sanhedrin, but He was also scourged after His trial before Pilate. Scourging was a lot more painful than a simple whipping, and was considered a life-threatening punishment. When scourging, the Romans would use a whip that had numerous strips of leather instead of just one. Not only that, attached to the end of each strip was a piece of bone or metal that would rip through the person's skin. Can you imagine how much it must have hurt to be whipped with that?

After scourging Jesus, the soldiers twisted a bunch of thorns into a crown and put it on His head, and then draped Him in purple, mocking the kingly status that Jesus claimed, as purple was a color reserved only for nobility and rulers. It is difficult to imagine how painful this must have been, but Jesus suffered through this intense pain and humiliation even before being crucified.

After all of this, they forced Jesus to carry His own cross while walking to Golgotha, the site of His eventual crucifixion. Can you imagine having been recently scourged, and then forced to carry this heavy piece of wood along a long road to the place where you're sentenced to die? Perhaps in this situation a criminal would have regretted his actions as he carried his burden, but remember that Jesus was totally innocent; He had done nothing that deserved such a punishment. It was only because of our sins that He continued onwards.

### Jesus is crucified.

Crucifixion still remains one of the most painful criminal punishments to have ever existed. It was particularly cruel because a person could have potentially hung on the cross in severe pain for days before dying. Sometimes, the executioners would use rope to tie the person to the cross, but if the executioners wanted the person to die faster, they would use nails instead. When hanging on the cross, not only would the person have experienced a lot of pain from the nails, they would also have difficulty breathing

and experience extreme thirst. Jesus suffered an excruciating death. Let's read **Matthew 27:45-54** to understand why He had to go through this.

**FOR TEACHERS**

If your students are unclear on what crucifixion entails, you can draw an illustration to show the students. The overall lesson aim, though, is not to simply emphasize the pain that Jesus went through, but also to stress the purpose of His death.

What were some of the miracles that occurred in this passage? (The sun darkened, the veil of the temple was torn, the earth shook, and people were resurrected.) These are all very significant, but the miracle that is of particular importance to us is the tearing of the temple veil. Do you know what this veil is? The temple veil was a special cloth that was hung to separate the Holy of Holies from the rest of the temple. Physically, it hid the tabernacle from sight.

Spiritually, it hid God from the sight of the people. If the Jewish people wanted to talk to God, they had to go through the high priest, the only person permitted to enter the Holy of Holies. The veil represented the barrier between God and men, and kept men from being able to obtain eternal life.

Jesus refused to defend Himself and willingly walked to His death because He knew that unless He died, men would never be able to obtain eternal life. People mocked Him and said that if He was Christ, then He should save Himself and come down from the cross. He certainly had the power to do so, but because He loved us, He remained on the cross until He died. Because Jesus died for us, the wall of sin between God and us no longer exists, and we now have the chance to obtain eternal life. In the end, Jesus' humiliation and suffering ended with Him victoriously offering every one of us a chance to live with Him in heaven.



## Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

**Jesus Christ, the Word who became flesh, died on the cross for the redemption of sinners.**

God is perfect and pure. Man, on the other hand, is born in sin. Sin acts as a wall between God and us, meaning that after we die, we cannot live in heaven. Do you remember how the Jews got rid of sin in the Old Testament? (They offered animal sacrifices.) In order to get rid of sin, blood had to be shed. Even the high priest had to make an offering before entering the Holy of Holies. These animals had to be sacrificed again and again, every year. This is because animal sacrifices weren't enough to get rid of man's sin. So, God's solution was to offer Jesus. Through His blood, we are now cleansed of our sins, and can have the hope of obtaining eternal life, a hope that was only made possible by His death on the cross.



## Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

- Briefly explain what happened in Jesus' trial before the Sanhedrin.** The council tried to accuse Jesus of wrongdoing, and brought in several false witnesses to help them. However, they could not find any fault in Him. It wasn't until Jesus spoke that they could convict Him and send Him to Pilate.
- What did Jesus do that made Pilate marvel greatly? Why?** He remained silent. Normally, people would try to defend themselves to avoid being crucified, but Jesus didn't say a word against His accusers.
- What made scourging so painful?** Scourging involved using a special whip that had several strips of leather with pieces of bone or metal attached to the ends. It was a life-threatening punishment.
- What did the soldiers do to Jesus after He was scourged? Why did they do these things?** They twisted a crown of thorns to place on His head and draped a purple robe on Him. They were mocking the kingly status that Jesus claimed.
- Where was Jesus crucified?** He was crucified at a place called Golgotha.
- What miracles occurred when Jesus died?** The sun darkened, the earth shook, the temple veil tore in two, and the dead resurrected.
- Which miracle is important to us? What did it represent?** The tearing of the temple veil; it represented the removal of the barrier of sin between God and men.





## Life Application

10 Minutes

**Objective:** To learn the various qualities that Jesus exhibited while He was on the cross, and to learn how to bring these same qualities into our lives.

[Have the students spend some time filling out Life Application Worksheet #1. After they have completed it, go through the answers. Then hand out Life Application Worksheet #2 and answer the discussion questions, which are a follow-up to Worksheet #1. Once you have finished the discussion, ask students to fill out Life Application Worksheet #2.]

### 1. The Seven Sayings

1. **Matthew 27:45-46** "*Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?*" ("*My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?*")  
Jesus was crying out to God because He was bearing all of our sins and was experiencing the darkness and pain of being separated completely from God.
2. **Luke 23:32-34** "*Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.*"  
Jesus was interceding for the soldiers who crucified Him and put up His cross, because He knew they were acting in ignorance.
3. **Luke 23:39-43** "*Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.*"  
Jesus was crucified with two criminals. The first mocked Jesus and His power, but the second rebuked him, saying that while they were criminals, Jesus had done nothing wrong. He then asked Jesus to remember him after He went up to heaven.
4. **John 19:25-27** "*Woman, behold your son!*" / "*Behold your mother!*"  
Jesus saw His mother standing nearby and, out of love for her, placed her in the care of His disciple John.
5. **John 19:28-29** "*I thirst!*"  
Jesus had been on the cross for so long that He experienced extreme thirst. So some people filled a sponge with sour wine to give it to Him.
6. **Luke 23:45-46** "*Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit.*"  
Jesus, knowing the time had come, willingly gave up His Spirit and took all of our sins with Him.
7. **John 19:30** "*It is finished!*"  
Jesus had finally accomplished everything that He had come to earth to do. His life's work was finally complete, and men could now receive eternal life through His blood.

### 2. The Qualities of Jesus

#### Discussion Questions

1. What qualities of Jesus do these sayings portray? (*Answers may vary.*) *He: was submissive to God's will; was compassionate; yearned for God; interceded for persecutors; showed filial piety; endured while performing God's will; and loved.*
2. Do we exhibit any of these qualities in our lives? If we don't, how can we?
3. What are some ways we can repay Jesus' love in our daily lives?

Despite His own innocence, Jesus suffered for our sins so that we didn't have to. However, Jesus didn't have to go through so much pain; He could have called down a legion of angels at any time to save Him (Mt 26:53). But He obeyed God's will, even to the point of extreme pain and death (Phil 2:8). If we disobey God, we are only showing that we don't care that Jesus sacrificed so much for us. We should always remember Jesus' incredible act of love every day and work hard at being better Christians to show our thankfulness to God.



## Activity

### Be a Good Christian

10-15 Minutes

**Objective:** To remind students that Jesus' death tore open the veil, so they need to strive to be good Christians.

#### Materials

- White construction paper
- Markers
- Scissors
- Glue

#### Instructions

1. Take two pieces of construction paper and put them in landscape orientation.
2. On one of them, draw either a temple veil (something that resembles a window curtain) or a wall.
2. On the veil/wall, write down some bad choices you have made in your life, or some sins that you have committed, such as hiding things from your parents or not obeying them.
3. Fold the short sides of the construction paper backward (away from you) about one inch in, and keep those parts folded.
4. Still in landscape orientation, cut the paper in half vertically to make shutters for a window. These shutters will be glued to the second piece of construction paper to complete the window effect.
5. Glue the folded sections along the short edges of the second piece of construction paper (also in landscape form), lining them up so that the edges align. Now you should have a "window" that opens up to show the second piece of construction paper.
4. Open your wall/veil and, on the second piece of construction paper, draw a cross on a hill. Color it if you wish.
5. Below the picture, write down the memory verse. In the blank space around the cross, write down some Christian qualities that we discussed that you think you should improve on.

#### HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. They offered animal sacrifices. These sacrifices had to be repeated yearly because they couldn't completely remove sin.
2. He sent Jesus to be sacrificed instead.
3. The sun darkened, the earth shook, the temple veil tore in two, and the dead resurrected.
4. The tearing of the temple veil is important to us. It represented the removal of the barrier of sin between God and men.
5. False; Jesus did not speak out against His accusers when they were falsely accusing Him.
6. True
7. True
8. False; Jesus' death was required to open up our path to eternal life.

#### BIBLE DISCOVERY WORKSHEET ANSWER KEY

##### **Jesus is put on trial before the Jewish and Roman authorities.**

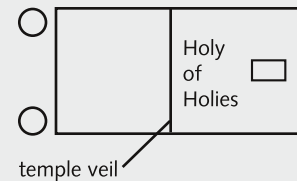
1. false witnesses, innocent
2. No.
3. Jesus' silence and refusal to defend Himself.

##### **Jesus carries the cross to Golgotha.**

1. beaten, scourged
2. They twisted a bunch of thorns into a crown to place on His head and draped a purple robe on Him.
3. carry, Golgotha

##### **Jesus is crucified.**

1. The tearing of the temple veil
2. See diagram.
3. eternal life



### Jesus Is Crucified

**Jesus is put on trial before the Jewish and Roman authorities.**

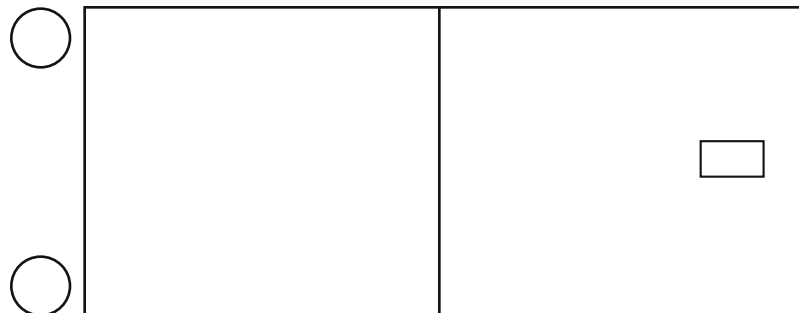
1. While Jesus was standing before the Sanhedrin, the Jewish leaders brought several \_\_\_\_\_ forward to try and convict Him. However, Jesus was \_\_\_\_\_, and could not be convicted until He Himself spoke, saying, "It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven" (Mt 26:64).
2. Did Pilate find Jesus guilty?
3. What did Pilate marvel at?

**Jesus carries the cross to Golgotha.**

1. Before being crucified, Jesus was \_\_\_\_\_ after His trial before the Sanhedrin, and \_\_\_\_\_ after His trial before Pilate.
2. What did the soldiers do to Jesus afterwards?
3. Jesus had to \_\_\_\_\_ His cross to \_\_\_\_\_.

**Jesus is crucified.**

1. Of the miracles that occurred at the time of Jesus' death, which one is particularly important for us?
2. In the diagram of the temple below, label the Holy of Holies and the veil.



3. Jesus allowed Himself to be nailed to the cross because He knew that without His sacrifice, men would not be able to communicate with God. Now, because of His death, we can obtain \_\_\_\_\_.

### The Seven Sayings

**Did you know?** When Jesus was still suffering on the cross, He spoke what we call today "the seven sayings." Using the reference verses below, find them and write them down, and then give a brief summary of the situation. An example has been given to help you get started.

Verse	What Jesus Said	The Situation
Matthew 27:45-46	"Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" ("My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?")	Jesus was crying out to God because He was bearing all of our sins and was experiencing the darkness and pain of being separated completely from God.
Luke 23:32-34		
Luke 23:39-43		
John 19:25-27		
John 19:28-29		
Luke 23:45-46		
John 19:30		



### The Qualities of Jesus

From the qualities we discussed just now, pick out three qualities you want to improve on and write them in the left column. In the right column, write how you plan on improving those qualities. In other words, write down your action plan for improving yourself as a Christian.

Jesus:

- was submissive to God's will
- was compassionate
- yearned for God
- interceded for persecutors
- showed filial piety
- endured while performing God's will
- loved

Quality	Action Plan (How I will improve on this quality)

E2 Year 1 Book 1 Lesson 11—Jesus Is Crucified

# Homework Assignment

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Weekly Bible Reading: \_\_\_\_\_

**Bible Reading:** Check each box when you complete that day's reading.

**Prayer:** Check each box after you pray to God that day.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

## What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

## Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. **(Romans 6:23)**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Short Answer

1. In the Old Testament, what did the Jews have to do to remove their sins? What was wrong with this method?
2. What was God's solution to the above problem?
3. What miracles occurred when Jesus died?
4. Which miracle is important to us? What did it represent?

## True or False

5. Jesus defended Himself to the very end. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Jesus was completely innocent, and had no sins to be charged guilty of. \_\_\_\_\_
7. In order to remove sin, blood has to be shed. \_\_\_\_\_
8. Even before Jesus' death, we already had the chance of obtaining eternal life. \_\_\_\_\_