

Memory Verse

“For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit.” (1 Peter 3:18)

| Knowledge of God’s Will [God’s Word] | Knowledge of God [God’s Divine Nature] | Good Work [Behavior] |
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| Through the death of His Son, God has given us the greatest gift—eternal life. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. God is love. 2. Jesus is the sacrificial Lamb. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Take up the mission. 2. Live for Jesus Christ <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Trust God’s plan and do His will b. Magnify God in everything we do |

Overview

Events and Spiritual Teachings

- A. The Perfect Plan of Salvation
- B. Jesus Christ’s Mission and Crucifixion
- C. The Progression of the Crucifixion (as recorded in the four Gospels)
- D. Jesus Tastes Death on Our Behalf

Life Application

1. Taking Up the Mission
2. Live for Jesus Christ

Memory Verse

Conclusion: Are you living out God’s plan and His will by taking up the mission? In your everyday life, are you magnifying God?

A. The Perfect Plan of Salvation

When God created the world, everything was perfect. When Adam and Eve took the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and ate it, sin entered the world. “The wages of sin is death” (Rom 6:23): because of sin, everyone has been separated from God and is doomed for eternal punishment. To save us, God formed the perfect plan for salvation: God sent Jesus, who was sinless, to atone for the sins of the world (2 Cor 5:21). Only through Jesus’ death and resurrection could we be permitted entrance into heaven.

B. Jesus Christ’s Mission and Crucifixion

1. Jesus’ Mission and Purpose

When Jesus was in the world, He was clearly aware of His mission: to save mankind from sin. His mission was set out in the prophetic words of Isaiah, which He read in the temple at the beginning of His ministry:

*The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me,
Because He has anointed Me
To preach the gospel to the poor;
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to the captives
And recovery of sight to the blind,
To set at liberty those who are oppressed;
To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD.*

(Lk 4:18–19; cf. Isa 61:1–2)

In the four Gospels, we see Jesus call many to repentance and forgive the worst of sinners. He saved the woman at the well and the adulterous woman who was caught in the act. He saved the sinful woman with the alabaster flask (Lk 7:37) and even forgave and sought to save the self-righteous leaders of the time. His mission and purpose was to seek and save the lost.

2. Jesus’ Faithfulness to His Mission

From a young age, Jesus knew that He “must be about [His] Father’s business” (Lk 2:49), so He conducted Himself with purpose and determination during His time on earth. He declared, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work” (Jn 4:34), and “for this purpose I have been sent” (Lk 4:43). Jesus manifested God’s desire to save souls, admonishing the people to turn from their sinful ways in order to live (Ezek 33:11), and not only live, but have an abundant life through Him (Jn 10:10). When at last He was about to be arrested, He said, “I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do” (Jn 17:4).

3. Jesus Is Arrested

After about three years of public ministry, when the time came for Jesus to carry out His mission, He resolutely journeyed to Jerusalem. He foretold of His death to His disciples:

“Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death, and deliver Him to the Gentiles to mock and to scourge and to crucify. And the third day He will rise again.”

(Mt 20:18–19)

As Jesus predicted, one of His disciples betrayed Him and made arrangements with the religious authorities to arrest Jesus. In obedience to the will of the heavenly Father, Jesus surrendered Himself to His enemies. The Jewish council produced false witnesses to bring charges against Jesus, and brought Him to the Roman governor Pilate to have Him executed. Despite finding no fault in Him, Pilate gave in to the pressure of the Jewish leaders and ordered that Jesus be crucified.

4. Crucifixion

Crucifixion was one of the most torturous forms of execution ever conceived by men. It was designed to cause an excruciating, slow death, and was reserved by the Romans for the worst of criminals. The Bible records the humiliation and torture Jesus endured, including being beaten, stripped of His dignity, mocked, and tortured both physically and mentally (Mt 27:27–31). Moreover, He was forced to walk to the execution grounds carrying the same heavy wooden crossbar they would use to crucify Him. But tired and weak from bruises, wounds, and blood loss, He was unable to carry it, so the soldiers forced a man named Simon to carry it for Him.

The execution grounds were outside Jerusalem beyond the city wall, on a hill called Golgotha (Hebrew), or Calvary (Latin). Its name meant “place of the skull” because the rocky hill resembled a skull. Many of Jesus’ enemies gathered (Lk 23:35–37), mocking and jeering as He suffered for their sins. The chief priests ridiculed Him, saying, “He saved others; Himself He cannot save” (Mt 27:42), while others taunted Him, saying, “You who destroy the temple and build it in three days, save Yourself, and come down from the cross!” (Mk 15:29–31). Even one of the criminals being crucified next to Him blasphemed Jesus, saying, “If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us” (Lk 23:39).

Despite the mental and physical suffering, Jesus continued His mission on the cross. The second criminal knew he deserved to die, and also knew that Jesus had done nothing wrong, so he rebuked the first criminal and asked Jesus to remember him (Lk 23:42). Jesus responded, “Today you will be with Me in Paradise” (Lk 23:43). Jesus also thought of His mother and asked John, His disciple, to take care of her. From that day onward, Mary lived in John’s home.

Jesus’ sufferings culminated on the cross, where He gave His own life for mankind. From the beginning of His ministry, Jesus knew that He must suffer and die on the cross to accomplish salvation. He declared, “And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life” (Jn 3:14–15). Jesus meant that He would be lifted up, hung on the cross, and eventually resurrect and receive glory, all so that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life.

5. Jesus Gives Up His Spirit

In the middle of the day, darkness covered the whole land. The crowd gathered around the cross heard Jesus cry out, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” (Mk 15:34). Jesus had been on the cross for nearly six hours. After some sour wine was offered to Him to wet His mouth, Jesus finally cried out with a loud voice, bowed His head, and gave up His spirit. The curtain in the temple was torn from top to bottom as the earth shook. Even the Roman centurion and the soldiers were in great awe at Jesus’ death and said, “Truly this Man was the Son of God!” (Mk 15:39).

There is no greater love than what our Lord Jesus suffered for us. God does not simply love us from afar or with distant affection. He lowered Himself, came to this world, suffered, and died for our sins (Jn 3:16). Through the death of His Son, God has given us the greatest gift—eternal life. To receive it, we need only believe in Jesus as our Lord and Savior and entrust our lives to Him.

C. The Progression of the Crucifixion (as recorded in the four Gospels)

| Matthew | Mark | Luke | John |
|--|---|---|--|
| 27:23 "Let Him be crucified!" | 15:13 "Crucify Him!" | 23:20 "Crucify Him, crucify Him!" | 19:1–3 Jesus scourged. Crown of thorns and purple robe placed on Him. Soldiers strike Him with their hands. |
| 27:26 Jesus scourged and delivered | 15:15 Jesus scourged and delivered | 23:25 Jesus delivered | 19:6 "Crucify Him, crucify Him!" |
| 27:28–30 Jesus stripped, made to wear scarlet robe. Crown of thorns placed on His head and a reed put in His right hand. Mocked, spat on, and struck on the head with a reed. | 15:16–19 Jesus clothed with purple and crown of thorns put on His head. Mocked, spat on, and struck on the head with a reed. | - | 19:16 Jesus delivered |
| 27:32 Simon of Cyrene compelled to carry the cross | 15:21 Simon of Cyrene compelled to carry the cross | 23:26 Cross laid on Simon of Cyrene | 19:17 Jesus bears His cross |
| - | - | 23:28–31 Jesus addresses the weeping women | |
| 27:33 They arrive at Golgotha | 15:22 They arrive at Golgotha | 23:33 They arrive at Calvary | 19:17 They arrive at Golgotha |
| 27:35 They crucify Him | 15:24 They crucify Him | 23:33 Crucified with two criminals, one on His right and the other on His left | 19:18 Crucified with two criminals, one on either side, and Jesus in the center |
| - | - | 23:34 "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do" | 19:19 "JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS." in Hebrew, Greek, Latin |
| 27:35 Lots cast for His clothing | 15:24 Lots cast for His clothing | 23:34 Lots cast for His clothing | 19:23–24 Lots cast for His clothing |
| 27:37 "THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS." | 15:25 "THE KING OF THE JEWS." | 23:35–37 Rulers, soldiers, onlookers mock Him | - |
| 27:39 | 15:29 | 23:38 | - |

| | | | |
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| Passers-by blaspheme Jesus | Passers-by blaspheme Jesus | "THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS." | |
| 27:41 Chief priests and scribes mock Him | 15:31 Chief priests and scribes mock Him | | - |
| 27:44 Jesus reviled by those crucified with Him | 15:32 Jesus reviled by those crucified with Him | 23:40–43 One criminal repents; Jesus promises Paradise to him | - |
| - | - | - | 19:26–27 Jesus said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son!" Jesus said to His beloved disciple, "Behold your mother!" |
| 27:45 Darkness from sixth hour to ninth hour | 15:33 Darkness from sixth hour to ninth hour | 23:44 Darkness from sixth hour to ninth hour | - |
| - | - | 23:45 Sun was darkened; veil of temple torn in two | - |
| 27:46 "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" | 15:34 "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" | | 19:28–29 "I thirst!" Sour wine offered |
| 27:50 Jesus cries out with a loud voice and yields up His spirit | 15:37 Jesus cries out with a loud voice and breathes His last | 23:46 Jesus cries out with a loud voice, "Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit." | 19:30 "It is finished!" He bows His head and gives up His spirit |
| 27:51 Veil of temple torn in two from top to bottom; earth quaked and rocks split | 15:38 Veil of temple torn in two from top to bottom | - | - |
| 27:54 Centurion: "Truly this was the Son of God!" | 15:39 Centurion: "Truly this Man was the Son of God!" | 23:47 Centurion: "Certainly this was a righteous Man!" | 19:34 Soldiers pierce His side with a spear; water and blood come out |
| - | - | 23:48 Crowd beats breasts and departs | 19:35–37 He who saw it bore true witness |
| 27:55–56 Many women see all from afar | 27:41 Many women see all from afar | 23:49 All Jesus' acquaintances and the women who followed Him stand at a distance, watching | |

D. Jesus Tastes Death on Our Behalf

As He had told His disciples, Jesus became our ransom. In addition to the horrors of His physical torment, Jesus suffered spiritual torment and bore the weight of our iniquities. God laid on Him the sins of the world, and thus He was forsaken by God so that He could taste death on our behalf. Jesus' crucifixion shows the greatest evil perpetrated against the perfect Son of God, but also the greatest manifestation of love. It is a display of both the darkest side of humanity, and the ultimate triumph of life over death.

Check for Understanding

- 1. What was Jesus Christ's mission and purpose during His time on earth?** He came to do the will of God and to finish His word. He came so that man could have abundant life through Him. He preached the truth of the kingdom of God and asked sinners to repent. He also understood that He was to die on the cross for the sins of mankind.
- 2. Did Jesus Christ resist when the great multitude came to arrest Him?** No, He came forth and surrendered Himself, for He knew it was God's will for Him to be taken.
- 3. What forms of abuse did Jesus Christ suffer at the hands of His captors?** He was beaten, stripped of His dignity, and mocked by many.
- 4. What did Jesus Christ cry out when He was in pain, dying on the cross?** "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"
- 5. What happened when Jesus Christ gave up His spirit?** The veil in the temple was torn from top to bottom and the earth shook. Even a Roman soldier who had been watching marveled, "Truly this Man was the Son of God!"

Life Application

1. Taking Up the Mission

Before ascending into heaven, Jesus commissioned His disciples to take up the ministry of the gospel, saying, "As the Father has sent Me, I also send you" (Jn 20:21). We are called to preach and witness as the chosen disciples of Christ. We have an important purpose. Yes, there may be hardship, but our labor is not in vain, as we will be rewarded (1 Cor 9:17). Knowing this, will you respond to the calling in Mark 16:15?

2. Live for Christ

We should no longer live for ourselves, but for our Lord Jesus who died for us. How do we live for Christ?

a. Trust God's plan and do His will.

Do you trust God's plan for you? Jesus declared that His mission in life was to do the will of the Father (Jn 6:38). To live for Christ is to entrust our lives to God's will. That means we say to our Lord every day, "Dear Father, may Your will be done. Help me to be faithful in submitting to Your plan and living out Your will." When we trust and submit to God's plan, His will shall be made known to us.

b. Magnify God in everything we do.

"According to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death" (Phil 1:20).

To the apostle Paul, living for Christ meant magnifying Christ in his body. Our bodies and lives are telescopes aimed at magnifying the glory of God and who He is. It is our purpose to help others come to know Him more! Do we demonstrate and magnify the glory and beauty of Christ? Are we

to God the fragrance of Christ (2 Cor 2:15)? We need to magnify Him in our lives because we are a letter from Christ written for all to read (2 Cor 3:3).

Memory Verse

“For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit.” (1 Peter 3:18)

Meaning

“For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust,”

“Just” refers to those who are morally righteous: upright and just. “Unjust” refers to those who fall short of the righteousness required by divine laws.

“that He might bring us to God”

Jesus served as the third party whose purpose was to open a path for us to access God. Because of Jesus, we have been reconciled to God once and for all.

“being put to death in the flesh”

This means to kill the physical body. Jesus Christ’s physical life ceased on the cross when He breathed His last and yielded up His spirit.

“but made alive by the Spirit.”

This refers to the Spirit of God raising Jesus from the dead (Rom 8:11). On the cross, He experienced separation from the Father when He was made sin for us (2 Cor 5:21). He cried out, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” (Mt 27:46). Although His earthly body was dead, three days later, His body was resurrected in a transformed and eternal state through God’s Spirit.

Conclusion

Jesus freely gave His life for our sakes (Mt 20:28). Knowing that, the only way we can even begin to repay the debt of love we owe to Him is by trusting in God’s plan, doing His will, and magnifying God in everything we do. That way, our lives can be a beacon of hope and testimony to those around us.

Lesson 10 Homework Assignment Answer Key

1. Who are the “unjust,” and for what purpose did Christ have to suffer?
The unjust are those who fall short of the righteousness required by divine laws. He suffered so that we, the unjust, would be reconciled with God.
2. What was Jesus Christ’s mission and purpose during His time on earth?
He came to do the will of God and to finish His word. He came so that man could have abundant life through Him. He came to save the lost. He also understood that He was to die on the cross for the sins of mankind.
3. How did Jesus’ actions show His faithfulness to His mission during His life and crucifixion?
He conducted Himself with purpose and determination, traveling far and wide to call sinners to repentance, to heal the sick, and to teach His followers the new law of love. He also submitted Himself peacefully to His suffering and death, despite knowing what was to come when they arrested Him in the garden of Gethsemane.
4. Read Luke 23:34. What was Jesus’ reaction to those who tortured and humiliated Him?
He asked God to forgive them.
5. What was Jesus’ commission to His followers? What are some ways we can fulfill this commission?
Read Mark 16:15. Ex: By fully trusting God. By asking our friends to come to church. By reflecting God’s holiness in our decisions and our actions and magnifying God in everything we do. By forgiving those who have wronged us and acting as peacemakers of the world.
6. Have you magnified God in your actions this past week? Explain how you have or have not, and how you might change that this coming week.
Personal answers. Ex: Getting into an argument with a sibling versus keeping the peace and withholding words of anger; obeying parents despite not wanting to; praying or not praying before meals at school, etc.