

*Memory Verse*

“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”  
 (Mark 10:45)

Knowledge of God’s Will [God’s Word]	Knowledge of God [God’s Divine Nature]	Good Work [Behavior]
Jesus paid the penalty for our sins.	1. God is love. 2. Jesus is the sacrificial Lamb. 3. Jesus is the living water.	1. Live a life of obedience. 2. Be willing to suffer for God. 3. Commit our lives to God.

*Overview*

**Events and Spiritual Teachings**

The Seven Sayings on the Cross

1. Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do. (Lk 23:34)  
**Life Application:** Jesus paid the penalty for our sins
2. Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise. (Lk 23:43)  
**Life Application:** God does not despise a broken and a contrite heart
3. Woman, behold your son! (Jn 19:26) Behold your mother! (Jn 19:27)  
**Life Application:** Love your parents unconditionally
4. My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? (Mt 27:46)  
**Life Application:** Repay the love of God
5. I thirst! (Jn 19:28)  
**Life Application:** Jesus is the living water
6. It is finished! (Jn 19:30)  
**Life Application:** Give our all to God
7. Father, “into Your hands I commit My spirit.” (Lk 23:46)  
**Life Application:** God is our Father in heaven

**Memory Verse**

**Conclusion:** Jesus Christ set an example so that we can understand the essence of true love, compassion, and forgiveness through His words spoken on the cross.

## **Introduction**

Jesus' redemptive work on the cross was the fulfillment of God's divine plan of salvation for mankind: reconciliation between God and man through the shedding of Jesus' precious blood (Eph 2:13–17). The words that He spoke on the cross carry profound spiritual significance. Let's carefully study the seven sayings that Jesus spoke while on the cross. Each phrase offers a wealth of meaning.

### **1. *Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do. (Lk 23:34)***

Jesus, in His moment of greatest agony, prayed for forgiveness for His enemies. This is such an astoundingly powerful statement from our Lord Jesus Christ. He has set for us the ultimate model and standard for forgiveness. Though surrounded by the most unworthy crowd, Jesus prayed with unmatched mercy and love. He also uses "Father," just as He taught His disciples (Mt 6:9). This is an expression of love, care, and trust.

Who are "them" and "they"? There are many possible answers:

- The Roman soldiers who beat, mocked, and humiliated Him before carrying out His execution.
- The chief priests and elders who used false witnesses against Jesus (Mt 26:59) and stirred up the crowd, demanding His crucifixion (Mt 27:20–23).
- The Pharisees, the first to actively plot against Jesus (Mt 12:14).
- The Sadducees who sought to discredit Him (Mt 22:23–34).
- The thieves on the cross alongside Him, one of which mocked Him.
- The mob that demanded His crucifixion (Lk 23:23).

**Life Application: Jesus paid the penalty for the sins that we commit deliberately and in ignorance. He has shown us what forgiveness, mercy, and love are.**

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many" (Mk 10:45). We are the ones who sent our Lord Jesus to the cross. We are the ones He prayed for God to forgive. We are the sinners for whom Jesus paid the ultimate sacrifice. And since we have freely received God's mercy and love, we should freely give the same to others. Let us learn to extend forgiveness to our neighbors, our enemies, and those who persecute us (Mt 5:43–44).

### **2. *Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise. (Lk 23:43)***

A dying thief showed his remorse when he told the other criminal that they had received "the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong" (Lk 23:41). He then showed his faith when he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom" (v. 42). Jesus assured him entry to paradise not only for his repentance, but also for his great faith, which is essential in order to receive salvation. Jesus' life purpose—the calling of not the righteous, but sinners (Mt 9:13)—is manifested dramatically in this message. This promise, given by Jesus as He hung dying on the cross, resonates with power, majesty, and authority, illustrating His desire, even to the last hour, to lead the lost to salvation.

**Life Application: God does not despise a broken and a contrite heart (Ps 51:17).**

Only after a heartfelt confession of sin and an earnest plea for forgiveness can one begin to catch sight of the glory and grandeur that God has in store for eternity.

### **3. *Woman, behold your son! (Jn 19:26) Behold your mother! (Jn 19:27)***

The “disciple whom Jesus loved” is used four times in the Gospel of John to refer to apostle John himself, and of the four Gospels, his is the only one that records Mary's presence at the cross. Seeing her Son being tortured on the cross surely was like a sword piercing through her soul, as Simeon prophesied (Lk 2:35). Mary must have been broken-hearted and inconsolable. Seeing His mother standing near the cross with the apostle John, Jesus committed His mother's care into his hands, and from that hour, John took her to his own home (Jn 19:26–27). In His most painful hour, Jesus still gave thought to the welfare of His mother after His death, once again exemplifying God's commandment of love.

**Life Application: Love our parents unconditionally.**

“Woman, behold your son!” “Behold your mother!” Jesus' words to His mother and His beloved apostle while on the cross serve as a brilliant summation of His life and teachings on the essence of love and love for family.

**a. We must love our parents unconditionally.**

Sometimes, due to misunderstandings between our parents and us, we cause each other indescribable pain and grief. But whether they understand us or not, we are commanded, “Honor your father and your mother” (Ex 20:12). As long as we honor our parents, God's love can heal the pain.

**b. We must be responsible for our family.**

In 1 Timothy 5:8, Paul mentions, “But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.” Right here, Jesus demonstrated His love for His mother. He emphasized the value of family. We need to ask God for divine wisdom so that we can truly love our family members as Jesus loves us.

**4. My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? (Mt 27:46)**

“But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear” (Isa 59:2). When Jesus was on the cross, He was separated from God because He carried our sins. As God placed the sins of the world on Jesus Christ, God had to turn away from Him. In His deepest agony, Jesus was abandoned by His heavenly Father. The unbearable pain of being forsaken by God is beyond human understanding.

**Life Application: Repay the love of God.**

We should understand that God's love is as strong as death (Song 8:6). He manifested in the flesh, died on the cross, and washed us of our sins with His blood. Remember God's sacrificial love and His cry of agony. Truly cherish the grace of God and remain always in the love of Jesus.

**a. Examine our zeal towards God**

We need to reflect upon this question: in what way has God loved us? It is easy to forget, but He first loved us, so we should be moved to love Him throughout our lives (1 Cor 16:22; 1 Jn 4:19).

**b. Repay the love of God**

We should stir up the gift of God in us, stir up love and good works in each other (2 Tim 1:6; Heb 10:24), and ask God to direct our hearts to serve Him more while we are still able to repay His greatest love and grace.

**5. I thirst! (Jn 19:28)**

In contrast to Jesus' previous cry of spiritual suffering, this phrase reflects the physical suffering experienced during crucifixion. In a prophecy, David described the anguish of Jesus vividly: "I am poured out like water, and all My bones are out of joint; My heart is wax; it has melted within Me. My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and My tongue clings to my jaws [...]. They pierced My hands and My feet" (Ps 22:14–16). This simple phrase is a fulfillment of the prophecy in Psalm 69:21 and also shows us:

**a. Jesus' humanity**

Jesus came to earth and manifested in the flesh, so He had a physical nature just as we have. By saying, "I thirst," Jesus showed us that He indeed died in the flesh for our sins.

**b. Jesus is the living water.**

Our Lord Jesus Christ promised that "he who [goes to Him] shall never hunger, and he who believes in [Him] shall never thirst" (Jn 6:35). He also told us, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive" (Jn 7:37–39). Jesus offers His believers the fountain of water that will spring up into everlasting life.

**Life Application: Jesus is the living water.**

Jesus has promised that those who believe in Him will receive the Holy Spirit. But we cannot stop at simply receiving it; we need to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Only then can we fully submit to God's Spirit and allow Him to guide our daily lives. When we are filled with the Spirit, we will have faith and the power of God to resist sin and bear the fruit of the Holy Spirit. As the living water flows out of our hearts, the Spirit within us constantly cleanses and renews us day by day, guiding our steps and cleansing us of sin.

**6. It is finished! (Jn 19:30)**

This phrase teaches us about God's plan of salvation and why He came to save us. In the garden where Jesus was arrested, Jesus told Peter, "Shall I not drink the cup which My Father has given Me?" (Jn 18:11). The "cup" was the task given by God, and the drink within was bitter and painful, but He still accepted it. This shows His submission to God's will, and His determination to complete His tasks, which were heavy:

- To serve mankind. *"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."* (Mk 10:45)
- To seek the lost. *"For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."* (Lk 19:10)
- To take away our sin. *"Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"* (Jn 1:29)

Jesus made the ultimate sacrifice as the good shepherd by laying down His life for His sheep (Jn 10:10–11). With these words, Jesus finally fulfilled His purpose on earth.

**Life Application: Give our all to God**

**a. Live a life of obedience.**

The highest calling for all believers is to obey God's words. When we obey our heavenly Father, we can be strong witnesses for the Lord, because when others "see [our] good works," we "glorify [our God] in heaven" (Mt 5:16). And as long as we obey Him, we will always have God's blessing and protection (Jas 1:25; Ps 119:1–2).

**b. Be willing to suffer for God.**

The Bible often mentions God's followers suffering for His sake. Many who chose to believe in God suffered imprisonment, beatings, physical torture, or death (Acts 5:40; Heb 11:32–38). Jesus taught us that in order to follow Him, we must be willing to take up our cross daily (Lk 9:23–25). In New Testament times, when someone carried a cross, it meant that he had been condemned to die. Today, it means that we must put our old self to death. We can do this by:

- Setting aside our own way of doing things
- Giving our goals and future into God's hands
- Nailing all of our worldly desires to the cross
- Pursuing righteousness, not the pleasures of this world (Mt 6:33)

Today, God has entrusted us with the mission of spreading the gospel and the responsibility of living a life that glorifies Him. In his closing moments, Paul said, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness" (2 Tim 4:7–8). It should be every Christian's hope to be able to utter confidently, with their last breath, "It is finished."

**7. Father, "into Your hands I commit My spirit." (Lk 23:46)**

Jesus' last words are intimate words of complete faith. Upon breathing His last, He then entered into glory. God raised Him up, "having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it" (Acts 2:24). The hope of a Christian today lies not in this life, but in eternity after death, leaving all worldly burdens behind and reaping the rewards of his good deeds (Rev 14:13).

**a. Jesus fulfills His mission and that of His Father on the cross.**

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (Jn 3:16). Even though He was forsaken by God in spirit and suffered greatly in flesh, Jesus ultimately completed His redemptive work on the cross and committed His spirit to His Father.

**b. The barrier of sin has been removed. We can now approach God with confidence and boldness (Heb 4:14–16).**

The Gospel of Luke records that after three hours of darkness, "the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was torn in two" (Lk 23:45). This veil had previously hidden the Holy of Holies. But Jesus' death broke down all barriers. His blood atoned for all of our sins, so Jews and Gentiles alike are all able to enter the Holy of Holies (Heb 10:19–22) and commune directly with God.

**Life Application: God is our Father in heaven**

**a. Call God "Abba, Father."**

"Abba, Father" signifies the intimate relationship of a Father and His child. It is absolutely beyond human understanding that a holy, just, all-knowing, all-powerful, and ever-present God who created the heavens and the earth has invited us, the sinful, to call Him "Abba." Jesus dedicated His entire life to God, before giving Himself to God in death as well. He and His Father were one, unified in spirit and purpose. We ought to strive for the same relationship with God.

**b. Commit our lives to Him.**

We should commit our lives to God as Jesus did. God is always looking for people whose hearts are fully committed to Him so that He can bless them (2 Chr 16:9). Therefore, let us commit our lives to the true church that is the body of Christ, to growing spiritually, and to devoting ourselves to the

teachings of God’s word. Only by committing ourselves to Him will we fulfill the purpose He has for us.

**c. Approach God with “boldness” (Heb 10:19) and “full assurance of faith” (Heb 10:22).**

The Holy Spirit “bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together” (Rom 8:16–17). Know that we are God’s chosen children and, as such, are permitted to approach Him with confidence and faith.

### *Check for Understanding*

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#### **What is the significance of each of Jesus Christ’s last words?**

1. *“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.”*  
Even as He was suffering on the cross, Jesus Christ forgave those that had put Him on the cross in the first place. He unselfishly had compassion on them, instead of asking God to bring punishment upon them or asking God to deliver Him.
2. *“Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.”*  
Jesus Christ’s mission in life was to bring sinners to repentance, and on the cross, He continued to carry on His mission.
3. *“Woman, behold your son! Behold your mother!”*  
Though Jesus Christ descended from heaven to take the form of a man, He still had an earthly mother and father. At that moment, He understood that His mother needed someone to care for her. So, out of His compassion for her needs and her grief, He put her in the care of His beloved disciple John.
4. *“My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”*  
Jesus Christ had a close relationship with His Father during His ministry, as His power came from above. However, during His time on the cross, He could feel the abandonment by His Father as He bore the sins of mankind. It pierced Him deeply, so He cried out. Separation and alienation from God was the price Jesus Christ had to pay for man’s salvation.
5. *“I thirst!”*  
This phrase reflects only one aspect of the physical suffering that Jesus Christ suffered on the cross. It also fulfilled the prophecy recorded in the Book of Psalms.
6. *“It is finished!”*  
These words mark the moment when Jesus Christ knew that He had completed His purpose on the earth: to pay the price for the sins of man by dying on the cross.
7. *“Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit.”*  
With these words, Jesus Christ accomplished God’s plan of salvation for mankind through the shedding of His blood on the cross. Jesus Christ obediently endured physical and emotional suffering at the hands of His captors, all for the sake of fulfilling God’s will.

### *Memory Verse*

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“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”  
(Mark 10:45)

#### **Meaning**

From the Greek *lutron*, “ransom” means to release a person, such as a prisoner or slave, from bondage. We could never pay the cost for freedom from the bondage of sin on our own, so Jesus paid the price for us. We obtained freedom at the cost of His life. This verse explains the two-fold purpose of Jesus’ coming into this world:

### **1. To Serve**

Jesus is the Creator and King over all creation. But when He came in the flesh as a Man, He humbled Himself and took on the form of a servant. He was born in a manger and lived a lowly life. Jesus owned all of creation, yet He became poor for us (2 Cor 8:9) in order to preach the good news of the kingdom of God and to heal the sick. Jesus suffered rejection, envy, hatred, and false accusations. He knows and understands our grief and our pain because He endured it Himself while serving mankind.

### **2. To Give His Life**

While Jesus suffered on the cross, darkness covered the whole land. Jesus finally cried out loudly, bowed His head, and gave up His spirit. The earth shook, rocks split, and the temple veil was torn from top to bottom. Even the Roman centurion and the soldiers were in great awe at Jesus' death, saying, "Truly this was the Son of God!" (Mt 27:54). He loved us by coming to this world to bear our pain and to die for us. There is no greater love than our Lord Jesus' willingness to suffer for us.

### ***Conclusion***

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The final words Jesus spoke while upon the cross are truly filled with spiritual significance. Jesus Christ set an example so that we can understand the essence of true love, compassion, and forgiveness. Even though He suffered the physical agony of crucifixion, He never forgot His divine purpose of coming to earth. We must deeply feel the suffering and sacrifice Jesus has made for our sins and determine to live for Him.

## Lesson 11 Homework Assignment Answer Key

1. What does “ransom” mean in this context? What bondage did Jesus release us from?  
*From the Greek word “lutron,” it means to release a person, such as a prisoner or slave, from bondage. Jesus paid the price to release us from the bondage of sin.*
2. Choose four of the seven sayings on the cross. What is their significance, and what do they teach us?
  - a. *“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.” Jesus Christ forgave those that had put Him on the cross. He unselfishly had compassion on them, instead of asking God to bring punishment upon them to deliver Him. How much more should we show compassion on our enemies.*
  - b. *“Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.” Jesus Christ’s mission in life was to bring sinners to repentance, and on the cross, He continued to carry on His mission. His response to the remorseful criminal also tells us that it is never too late to save a soul or to repent of our sins. God will always listen to a contrite heart.*
  - c. *“Woman, behold your son! Behold your mother!” At that moment, He understood that His mother needed someone to care for her. So, out of His compassion for her needs and her grief, He put her in the care of His beloved disciple John.*
  - d. *“My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” During His time on the cross, He could feel the abandonment by His Father as He bore the sins of mankind. It pierced Him deeply, so He cried out. Separation and alienation from God was the price Jesus Christ had to pay for man's salvation.*
  - e. *“I thirst!” Jesus Christ suffered greatly on the cross. It also fulfilled the prophecy recorded in the Book of Psalms and proved to us that Jesus was indeed God made into flesh, with physical needs. This is also a reflection of the fountain of living water that Jesus offers to us.*
  - f. *“It is finished!” Jesus Christ came to pay the price for the sins of man by dying on the cross. His obedience unto death paid for our sins, so we in turn should also obey God as best we can.*
  - g. *“Father, ‘into Your hands I commit My spirit.’” Jesus Christ completed His purpose through the shedding of His blood on the cross. Jesus Christ obediently endured physical and emotional suffering at the hands of His captors, all for the sake of fulfilling God’s will and breaking down the barrier between God and us. It is for this reason that we are able to approach God as our Father in heaven with boldness and assurance in faith.*
3. Pick one of the teachings above and write down how you can personally apply this teaching to your life.  
*Personal answers. (See Life Application sections.)*