

Good Friday: Jesus Died for Us



Introductory Question: **Tell us about a time you were blamed or punished for something you didn't do.**



Yesterday we read about when Jesus was arrested, and all His disciples abandoned Him. Today the story continues in Matthew 27:11-54, when Jesus was brought before Pilate, the Roman governor. (Incorporate your family's or group's answers to the Introductory Question – for example,) just as Paula was accused of cheating, and Christian was blamed for making his sister cry, Jesus was falsely accused by the chief priests, elders, and teachers of the law.

Continue to tell the story from **Matthew 27:11-54**, including main points such as:

- Pilate was amazed because Jesus said nothing to defend Himself (fulfilling Isaiah 53:7).
- The chief priests and elders convinced the people to ask for Jesus to be crucified. Pilate asked, "Why? What has He done?" But they shouted louder, "Crucify Him!" Pilate gave Jesus over to be crucified and released a notorious prisoner, Barabbas, instead.
- The Roman soldiers mocked Jesus, putting a scarlet robe and a crown of thorns on Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" Then they crucified Him between two criminals.
- Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing" (**Luke 23:34**). They cast lots for His garments. Over His head was written, "Jesus, the King of the Jews."
- **Isaiah 53:5** says, "he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed."
- The chief priests, elders, scribes, and people passing by mocked Jesus, saying, "If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross!" For three hours, darkness covered the land. Then Jesus cried, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?", quoting **Psalms 22**.
- Jesus said, "It is finished!" (**John 19:30**) and gave up His spirit. The curtain in the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, rocks split, and tombs came open.
- When the centurion and those who were with him saw all that happened, they were filled with awe and said, "Surely he was the Son of God!" (v. 54).



Invite your family to spend a few minutes in Listening Prayer and Journaling: *As we've listened to these words from the Bible, God has been speaking to us through them. What is God telling you about: Himself, yourself, others, and what to do? You can talk to God about anything.*



When everyone begins to finish Journaling, give each person an opportunity to share what God has been speaking to them. After each person shares, pray for them.

KEY VERSE: Isaiah 53:5

"But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed."