



Fruit Cove Baptist Church

DARK TO DAWN • THE KING WHO DIED • LUKE 23:32-56 • 4/5/2020

HOW TO USE

Use this teaching guide for personal Bible study or to guide your family. For a sense of normalcy we recommend individuals/families doing the Bible study at 9:30am if that is their normal Sunday School hour, then join online worship at 11am...if normal worship hour is 9:30am join worship online at that time and do Bible study afterward. Worship service can be accessed at <https://fruitcove.com/live/> or Facebook Live (@FruitCoveBC).

NOTE: Families With Preschoolers

The topic of today's lesson is not something we typically teach preschoolers. In light of this, we have developed a video lesson that can be accessed at https://youtu.be/e_tTgdnB5xc and an accompanying song found at <https://youtu.be/i7OmW6PNPNl>

OPTIONS

There are two ways you can use this guide for personal or family Bible study. The first option is what we call the "7 Questions" model. The second option is what we call the "Full Lesson" model.

OPTION #1: 7 QUESTIONS MODEL

Read the Scripture Passage: Luke 23:32-56

Use these questions to guide family discussion or if reading individually write answers in a journal:

What is in the text?

What was interesting to you?

What did you learn about God?

What did you learn about man?

How is it relevant to today?

How can I live it out?

Who is one person I can share this story with?

OPTION #2: FULL LESSON MODEL

Begin with Main Point section below and follow the guide through to the end.

MAIN POINT

In His death, Jesus identified with sinful humanity and paid the penalty for the sins of those who trust in Him.

INTRODUCTION

As your time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

When was a time that you felt as if all hope was lost?

How did you respond in that moment? How have you seen God use that experience for good?

Jesus had been arrested and sentenced to death. Despite Pilate's attempts to release Jesus, the religious leaders and people continued to cry out against Him. Finally, Pilate gave in to the wishes of the people and gave Jesus over to be sentenced to death. For those who had followed Jesus for years, this must have seemed surreal. It's clear throughout the Gospels that, even though Jesus often spoke of His impending death, His disciples did not fully grasp what He was saying. At Jesus' death, undoubtedly, it felt as if hope was lost for many of them. However, God would use what appeared to be the greatest defeat to bring about His ultimate victory.

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

| HAVE SOMEONE READ LUKE 23:32-43.

How was Jesus' crucifixion between two criminals symbolic of His act of identifying with sinful humanity?

In this passage, the leaders, soldiers, and one of the criminals mocked Jesus as He was on the cross. In Matthew 27:42, the leaders are recorded as saying, "He saved others, but he cannot save himself!" How was this statement that was intended for mockery actually true?

Those surrounding Jesus hurled insults at Him as He hung on the cross. Despite their efforts to mock Him, those in the crowd spoke many true things about Jesus. The sign over His head read: "This is the King of the Jews" (v. 38). In Matthew's account, he records the leaders saying that Jesus was able to save others but unable to save Himself (Matt. 27:42). Ironically, this was a true statement. In order to fulfill His purpose for coming into the world, namely to save sinners, Jesus had to endure the cross and not save Himself. It was not that Jesus did not have the power to save Himself, but that He was obedient to the purposes of the Father in His death on behalf of sinful humanity. If Jesus had avoided the cross, humanity would still be dead in their sins, without a way of restoration with the Father.

Compare the responses of the criminals on each side of Jesus. What of the second criminal's words exhibited evidence of saving faith in Christ?

The first criminal mocked Jesus along with the leaders and soldiers. The second criminal rebuked the first, recognizing that Jesus was innocent and undeserving of the penalty He received. The second criminal exhibited repentance, as he acknowledged his own sin and the justice of the punishment he received. He also exhibited faith in Jesus, as Jesus was the One who could rescue him from his sins, and he requested that Jesus remember him in His kingdom. We also must recognize our guilt before God and place our faith fully in Christ to receive salvation.

| HAVE SOMEONE READ LUKE 23:44-49.

How did Jesus' final words from the cross show that He was not under the control of those who put Him on the cross, but under the leadership of His Father? How did He exhibit this faithfully throughout His life?

Verse 49 says those who had followed Jesus stood at a distance and watched as He died. How do you think they felt as they watched the one they believed to be the Messiah die on the cross?

In verse 46, Jesus spoke the words of Psalm 31:5, testifying that it was the Father whose leadership He was under, not those who did Him physical harm. Jesus displayed the truth He taught the disciples—that they should not fear those who could only kill the body but not the soul, but to fear God who had power over both their bodies and souls (Matt. 10:28). Jesus lived this truth faithfully throughout His life, as He perfectly obeyed the will of the Father at all times (Jn. 5:19).

| HAVE SOMEONE READ LUKE 23:50-56.

Read Isaiah 53:9. How was this prophecy fulfilled in these verses? How do these types of connections in Scripture help build your faith?

Luke 23 ends seemingly without much hope, but Luke 24 would bring about hope that would surpass all of the agony of Luke 23. How have you experienced God's work in your life in seasons that felt hopeless?

Luke 23 ends with Jesus' body in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea. It may be easy for us to jump quickly ahead to the resurrection of Jesus three days later, but we should also seek to feel the weight and reality of Jesus' death at this point. At the close of this chapter, Jesus was dead and the women who followed Him were waiting to tend to His body after the Sabbath. It very likely felt that in that moment, all hope was gone. This may be evidenced by the fact that none of the disciples are listed in this final portion of Luke 23. However, their hope would not be lost forever. God would use even the darkest day of history to bring about the greatest joy the world has ever known. We should take time to reflect on the fact that it was necessary for Jesus to go to the cross so that we could experience joy in Him. Truly, He did not save Himself, so that He might save us and give us the hope of the resurrection in Him.

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

FOR FAMILIES WITH PRESCHOOLERS:

(see instructions at beginning of the document for Families with Preschoolers)

FOR FAMILIES WITH ELEMENTARY CHILDREN:

Ask your children to tell you some differences between the two criminals that hung on the crosses next to Jesus? What was the main difference? (that he was forgiven of his sin)

Discuss the one criminal that was forgiven of his sin and went to Heaven. After reviewing Luke 23:39 - 43, ask your children if they can come up with three important things the criminal said?

- 1. Jesus is God**
- 2. I have done wrong**
- 3. Jesus remember (forgive) me**

Talk with your children about these important parts of the repentance prayer. Remind them that Jesus loved us enough to die on the cross for our sins and to forgive us when we ask.

FOR FAMILIES WITH MS/HS STUDENTS:

Where do you currently feel like hope is lost in your life? How does remembering the cross of Christ give fresh perspective on your present circumstances?

How might you encourage others who feel like they have no hope?

Who do you need to share the story of the cross with this week?

ADULTS:

Where do you currently feel like hope is lost in your life? How does remembering the cross of Christ give fresh perspective on your present circumstances?

How might you encourage others who feel like they have no hope?

Who do you need to share the story of the cross with this week?

What are some things you can do this week as individuals and as a family to

Love Well...

Encourage each other on a daily basis with words of affirmation and conversations that start, "I'm thankful that you..."

Reach Out...

Talk with, text or call neighbors to see if there is anything you can help them out with. Going to the grocery store? Offer to pick them up some things. Go to <https://fruitcove.com/wp-content/uploads/Help-Postcard-.pdf> to download a postcard you can put in mailboxes or on doors in your neighborhood.

Spend Time With God...

We sometimes feel too busy to spend time with God in prayer and scripture reading. For many of us, we now have some extra/different time on our hands now. What would it look like if we set aside a specific time each day for prayer and reading the Bible?

PRAYER

Pray and thank God that Christ came to earth to die the death we deserve. Thank God that because of Jesus, hope is never truly lost. Pray for opportunities to share the goodness of the cross with others.

COMMENTARY

| LUKE 23:32-56

23:32-33 Being executed between two... criminals fulfilled the prophecy of Isa 53:12, as well as Jesus' words in Lk 22:37. The place where Jesus was crucified was called The Skull. In Aramaic, the name is Golgotha. The Latin equivalent is Calvary.

23:34 Jesus forgave His executioners because they acted in ignorance of who He really was. Some early manuscripts do not include the first part of this verse. The phrase they divided His clothes and cast lots fulfilled Ps 22:18.

23:35-39 Four different groups (the people in general, the leaders, the soldiers, and one of the criminals being crucified) scoffed at Jesus and challenged Him to save Himself. None of them believed that Jesus was the Messiah... the King of the Jews, even though the official inscription above His head on the cross charged Him with posing as "the King of the Jews."

23:40-43 In the midst of this display of unbelief and mockery, the other criminal came to understand the difference between his own guilt and Jesus' innocence (this man has done nothing wrong). He also realized that Jesus was the Messiah and asked to take part in His coming kingdom. Jesus assured him that, after death, he would immediately be reunited with Him in paradise (eternal life beyond the grave; see 2Co 12:4).

23:44-45 The three hours of darkness at midday (from noon... until three) was a sign of divine judgment against sin (which Jesus became on the cross) and the sinners who unjustly executed the Son of God. Matthew 27:51 explains that the splitting of the curtain of the sanctuary

(between the holy place and the holy of holies in the temple) was caused by a great earthquake. The torn curtain symbolized open access to God, made possible by the death of Christ.

23:46 While expressing faith in God by reciting Ps 31:5, Jesus breathed His last. Jesus was placed on the cross at about 9:00 a.m. (Mk 15:25) and died after only six hours—an unusually short time. Crucifixion victims sometimes lingered for two or three days before death occurred.

23:47 Compared to the parallel accounts, Luke muted the centurion's confession. Here the centurion merely observed that Jesus was truly righteous (not a criminal in any respect), whereas in Mt 27:54 and Mk 15:39 he is reported as acknowledging that Jesus is the Son of God.

23:48-49 Striking their chests could be a sign of grief, though in Lk 18:13 it appears to reflect contrition before the Lord. Significantly, the women disciples from Galilee, who had generously supported Jesus' ministry financially, are spotlighted among those who were watching Him die on the cross. They stuck with Him even after the male disciples abandoned Him.

23:50-53 Even though Joseph of Arimathea was a member of the Sanhedrin, he had disagreed with their decision to execute Jesus (22:71-23:1). He was a good and righteous man, but he was also a secret disciple of Jesus (Jn 19:38). Jesus was laid in the tomb of the wealthy Joseph instead of the shallow common grave reserved for criminals. This fulfilled the prophecy of Isa 53:9. Matthew (Matthew 27:65-66) stated that soldiers were assigned to guard Jesus' tomb and that the stone rolled in front of the tomb was stamped with the Roman seal of authority.

23:54-56 Preparation day (from Thursday sundown to Friday sundown), was the last day before the Sabbath when preparations for the Sabbath were completed. Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus did much to prepare Jesus' body for burial (Jn 19:39-40), but the women disciples from Galilee planned to finish the task (prepared spices and perfumes). They had to wait for the Sabbath to pass before they could carry out their plan.