

The BIBLE Story

Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection

Matthew 26–28

Jesus and His friends went to a garden. Jesus was very sad. He prayed to God: “My Father! If it is possible, let Me save Your people another way. But if this is Your plan, I will do it!” While Jesus prayed, His friends fell asleep. “Get up,” Jesus said. “It is time.”

Then Judas, one of Jesus’ disciples, came with a large crowd. Judas betrayed Jesus by kissing Jesus to show the crowd which person was Jesus. The men in the crowd arrested Jesus.

Jesus was taken to the high priest. “Are You really the Messiah, the Son of God?” the high priest asked.

“Yes,” Jesus said.

“He has spoken against God! He deserves to die!” the men said. They did not believe Jesus was God’s Son.

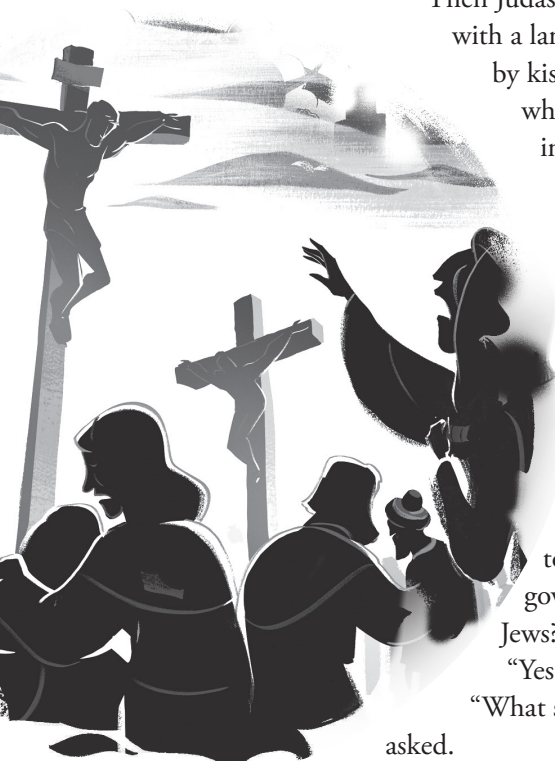
In the morning, the men took Jesus to see Pilate, the governor. “Are You the King of the Jews?” Pilate asked.

“Yes,” Jesus said.

“What should I do with Jesus?” Pilate asked.

“Kill Him on a cross!” the people replied. “Crucify Him!”

Pilate’s **soldiers** made a crown of thorns and put it on Jesus’ head. They put a purple robe around Him and pretended to bow down to



Him. Then they led Jesus away.

Jesus was nailed to a cross. They put a sign above Jesus' head that said: **THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS**. Two criminals were put on crosses next to Jesus.

Darkness covered the land. Jesus cried out, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" Jesus died and was buried in a tomb. A large stone was rolled in front of the tomb, and Pilate's soldiers guarded the tomb so that no one would steal Jesus' body.

On the third day, two of Jesus' friends, both named Mary, went to the tomb. They were very sad. Suddenly there was a big earthquake as an angel came down from heaven. The angel rolled away the stone and sat on it. The guards fainted.

The angel spoke to the women, "Do not be afraid! Jesus is not here! He has risen from the dead, just as He said He would."

The women were so happy! Jesus was alive! They left the tomb to tell Jesus' friends the good news. Just then, Jesus greeted them. The women worshiped Him. Jesus said, "Do not be afraid. Tell My friends to go to Galilee. I will meet them there."

Christ Connection: The most important thing that ever happened is that Jesus died and was raised from the dead. Jesus is alive! When we trust in Jesus, we do not need to fear. Jesus brings forgiveness and life with God forever.

Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Sign Jesus:** Teach children the sign language motion for Jesus. (Touch the middle finger of one hand to the center of the palm of the other hand. Then switch hands, touching the other middle finger to the palm of the other hand.) Encourage children to make the sign for Jesus every time they hear His name in the Bible story.
- **Move with the story:** Designate different parts of the room as the garden, where the high priest was, where Pilate was, the cross, and the tomb. Move to each area as you tell the story to help children understand that the Bible story took place over several days. Add a few props, if desired, such as plants in the garden or a round table turned on edge to be the rock at the tomb.