**Jesus on the Cross**

**A Bible Story From**

**Matthew 27:45-56; Mark 15:33-41;**

**Luke 23:39-49; John 19:25-37**

**Bible Story Number: 2010450**

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**Jesus on the Cross**

**Bible Story**

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**Background**

This story is a composite story because it uses information from several parts of the Bible to provide as much detail as possible. No single biblical account of the crucifixion contains all available details. Therefore, this composite story seeks to provide a complete version of the events that occurred.

Jesus had been severely beaten before he was taken to the place where he would be crucified. The beating had left him very weak. Another man, Simon, was made to carry his cross.

Some details about the crucifixion of Jesus are not included in a timeline fashion. For example, the fact that Jesus was nailed to the cross is first mentioned by Thomas when he heard that Jesus had appeared to the other disciples after the resurrection (see John 20:24-29).

Additional information or details about these events that are provided by historical accounts are often described in sermons and Bible commentaries. This information may be helpful, but should not be viewed the same as the Bible.

This story includes only the detail included in the Bible verses listed. Accuracy is vital and ensures biblical integrity. Remember to tell only what the Bible says. This story, and other familiar biblical events, does not need additional details that are not included in the Bible.

**Story from the Bible**

**Matthew 27:45-56; Mark 15:33-41; Luke 23:39-49; John 19:25-37**

This is what the Bible says.

Jesus was crucified on a cross between two criminals. The religious leaders and others began to mock him. They said he should come down from the cross and save himself.

One of the criminals began to yell insults at Jesus. He said, “Aren’t You the Messiah? Save yourself and us!”

But the other criminal told him to stop. He said, “Don’t you even fear God? You are going to die today. You and I are getting what we deserve for the things we have done. But this man has done nothing wrong.”

Then he spoke to Jesus and said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

Jesus responded, “I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

There were several women standing nearby. Mary, the mother of Jesus, was one of them. Jesus saw his mother. John, one of his disciples, was standing near her.

Jesus spoke to His mother and said to her, “Woman, here is your son.” Then he looked at John and said, “Here is your mother.” From then on John took her into his home and took care of her.

At noon that day it became dark. It was dark for three hours. The darkness covered the whole region. About three, Jesus spoke again. He said, “Elí, Elí, lemá sabachtháni?” that is, “My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?”

Some thought he was calling for Elijah. They waited and wanted to see if Elijah would come and save him.

Then Jesus said, “I’m thirsty.” So someone dipped a sponge into a jar of sour wine and used a hyssop reed to hold it up to his mouth. Jesus took some.

Jesus called out with a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I entrust my spirit.”

He said, “It is finished.” Then he lowered his head and died.

At the time of his death, the curtain of the temple was split in two from top to bottom. There was an earthquake and the rocks were split. The tombs were also opened and many bodies of the saints who had died were raised. They came out of the tombs after his resurrection and appeared to many in the city.

The centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and the things that happened. They were terrified and said, “This man really was God’s Son!”

The Jews did not want the bodies to remain on the cross on the Sabbath (because that Sabbath was a special day). They requested that Pilate have the men’s legs broken so they would die and their bodies could be taken away.

So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the two criminals who had been crucified with Jesus. When they came to Jesus they did not break his legs because he was already dead. One of the soldiers stuck a spear in his side, and blood and water came out.

That concludes this story from the Bible.

**Retelling the Story**

Let’s review this story by retelling it as a group. We want to retell it as faithfully as we can to the story from the Bible. We do not want to add to it or leave out anything important. Who will get us started?

**Questions**

* Why was Jesus in a weakened condition before he was placed on the cross?
* Was Jesus crucified alone?
* What did Jesus say to the criminal who asked Jesus to remember him when he entered his kingdom?
* How did Jesus provide for his mother after his death?
* Did Jesus ask God the Father, why?
* Is it wrong to question God?
* What do you think Jesus meant when he said, “It is finished”?
* Did the guards think Jesus really was God’s son?
* Why did the soldier stick a spear in Jesus’ side?
* What does this teach us about God?
* What should we do in response to this teaching?

**Prayer**

Prayer is more than a way to end the session. It is time to talk to God. Public prayer is a model for others. Boldly ask God to guide participants to use the Bible story with others. Ask God to give you and the participant’s insight and understanding as you think about this biblical event.