

Connecting Church and Home

Quarter 1, Week 12 :: **The Crucified King**

Treasure Story: Matthew 27:11-54

You hear stories all the time about someone being released from prison because of new evidence or improved DNA testing. They are innocent people who were convicted and sent to prison for something they did not do. A false conviction was leveled against Jesus as well. One minute, people were praising Him in the streets and shouting "Hosanna!" A few days later, they were crying out for Him to be crucified.

Connect

"Before we can begin to see the cross as something done for us, . . . we have to see it as something done by us."
– John R. W. Stott, *The Cross of Christ*, pg. 63

Jesus was the King and Messiah the people longed for. Unfortunately, most did not understand that His mission was not to overthrow Roman rule. He came to die for sinners. Jesus willingly went to the cross so that the wrath of God would be satisfied. Use the following activities to help your children understand the significance of the circumstances surrounding Jesus' arrest and crucifixion:

- **Mock Trial:** Have a mock trial with your family. Depending on the size of your family, you may choose to have a judge or a judge and a jury. Create a scene where one person is accusing another of a crime in a court of law. Instruct the two parties to plead their case. As the judge or jury makes a decision, point out that Pilate had the opportunity to free Jesus and declare Him innocent. Instead, Pilate gave Jesus over to the crowd.
- **Prophecy Fulfilled:** The story of Jesus' crucifixion is filled with Old Testament prophecies being fulfilled. Study some of the Old Testament prophecies about Jesus' death and discuss the importance of those prophecies. A few prophecies you might want to study include Isaiah 53, Psalm 35:11, Isaiah 50:6, Psalm 22:16, and Zechariah 12:10. After studying the prophecies, read the crucifixion story again. Let the story reveal the glory of God.

My Mission As Parent

- We deserve death because of the sin in our hearts, but Jesus took our sin upon Himself. Explain to your children often the mercy of God and the grace He has given us. We deserve what Jesus experienced, but Jesus took our sin and satisfied God's wrath for us.
- Practice giving grace and mercy to your children. Just as God was merciful to us, be merciful to your children. We do not deserve God's unmerited favor in the form of grace, yet God is gracious to us.

Prayer Points

- Thank God for saving us through His Son. Praise Jesus that He is our King and our Savior.
- Pray for family members who have not experienced the grace and mercy of God. Ask the Holy Spirit to turn their hearts to seek Christ.
- Praise Jesus for His love for us. Thank Him for loving us enough to die for us.