

**THE CHURCH IN NEW YORK CITY
CHILDREN'S MEETING LESSON (Pre-K&K)**

Lesson #81

DATE:

SUBJECT: The Darkest day in all the world – the crucifixion of the Lord Jesus

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 27; Mark 15; Luke 23; John 18, 19

AIM: To show the children that the Lord Jesus died for them.

MEMORY VERSES:

Romans 5:8 "...Christ died for us."

REVIEW: Do you remember what you heard about the Lord Jesus last week? We heard how those bad people had Jesus arrested and put into prison. He was betrayed by one of His own disciples, Judas. He was even denied by another disciple named Peter.

CONTENT: After the Lord Jesus was arrested at night in the garden, He was put in jail or prison. Jesus had not done anything wrong, but the bad people did not care about Jesus. Early the next morning, the bad people who had arrested Jesus brought him before the Jewish High court.

Jesus told them that He was Christ, God's Son. The bad people did not believe Jesus and because they were so bad (sinful) they wanted to kill Him. They were so bad to the Loving One that they spat in His face and struck Him.

They tied Him up and took Him to the Roman governor, Pilate. Pilate was the worst man of all time. He knew that Jesus was an innocent man. He even said so. He had no courage. He feared losing his job and so gave into the people's demand that Jesus be killed.

The soldiers of the Roman army took Jesus away to be killed. They made the Lord carry His own cross. They nailed the hands and feet of the Lord Jesus to a wooden cross or tree. To kill people this way is to "crucify" them. Our Lord Jesus who is so loving and suffered so much pain, prayed for those bad people that had Him killed. Jesus prayed, "Father forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." He was crucified between two thieves.

People who were crucified did not die suddenly. They suffered terrible pain. Jesus was crucified in the morning and was hang until afternoon suffering a lot of pain.

Over Jesus' head there was a sign that read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." Jesus' mother and His disciple John were standing by the cross while Jesus died. Jesus asked John to take care of His mother.

About noonday, the sky suddenly turned dark. For three hours there was great darkness. Then Jesus with a loud voice cried out, "It is finished!" Soon Jesus died. Rocks were torn apart and a terrible earthquake came and people were frightened. The captain said to his soldiers, "Truly this man was the Son of God."

Jesus never did anything wrong, but we have done many things wrong. All these bad things that we have done make God very unhappy. God should punish us for being so bad, but instead Jesus was punished in our place. He took all our sins upon Himself and suffered and died in our place.