

The
CROSS

AND WHAT IT MEANS FOR FALLEN HUMANITY



EVERY NATION

Prayer, Fasting & Consecration | 2025
Family Devotional



EVERY NATION

© 2025 by Every Nation Churches & Ministries. All rights reserved.

Contributors: Victory BGC Kids Writers Pool

Illustrations: Marc Jordan Diaz

Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from The Holy Bible,
English Standard Version (ESV) Copyright 2001 by Crossway,
a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers.

Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Permission to photocopy this material is granted for local church use.
This is not for sale.

EveryNation.org/Fasting
#ENfast2025

Contents

Fasting 101	v
Our Plan	viii
Mission 2029	xiii
Introduction: Forgiveness	1
Day 1: Paradise	5
Day 2: Family	9
Day 3: Judgment	13
Day 4: Humanity	18
Day 5: Completion	22
Conclusion: Assurance	26

*This family devotional is designed to be used by parents with children from the ages of two to twelve.

Fasting 101

Connect

All of us have needs and wants. Needs are things that we cannot live without. Wants are things we would like to have. What are some of your needs? What are some of your wants? There are many things we need and want. But sometimes, we focus so much on our needs and wants that we put aside our relationship with God. Fasting lets us focus more on God by setting aside our needs and wants.

What is fasting?

Fasting is stopping an activity (usually eating) for a period of time to know and hear God more. We replace eating or using our gadgets with time with God. This means praying, worshiping, and reading the Bible. These activities strengthen our relationship with God.

When our parents speak to us, we should pay attention and listen to them. Fasting helps us pay attention and listen to God. It helps us put aside distractions. We say to God, “I am going to listen to you because you are my Father. I trust you!”

Jesus gave us an example of fasting in Matthew 4. Jesus knew that he would need strength and power for his ministry. He prepared by fasting for forty days in the desert. During this time, he was tempted by Satan. His response to that temptation is the truth we can hold on to for strength when we fast:

But [Jesus] answered, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” MATTHEW 4:4

Fasting is usually keeping yourself from eating and drinking as you devote more time to God. But you can also fast from different media (TV, video games) and technology (gadgets, internet) if you cannot fast from food. The important thing is to keep your focus away from the things the world offers to spend more time with God.

BEFORE FASTING

1. Pray

Spend time reading the Bible before the fast. Ask the Holy Spirit for guidance in your prayers. Write down your specific prayer requests for your family, friends, church, and nation.

2. Commit

Pray about the kind of fast that you will do and commit to it ahead of time. Ask God for grace to help you follow through with your decision. Also, ask your parents and maybe even your doctor if you are allowed to do a specific type of food fast.

3. Act

If you will be fasting from food, start eating smaller portions a few days before you fast. Avoid sugary and fatty foods. Ask someone to be your prayer partner throughout the fast.

WHILE FASTING

1. Focus

Set aside time to read God's word and pray. This devotional will help you as you fast. Just be ready to listen to God's voice and do what the Holy Spirit is telling you.

2. Pray

If you can, join at least one prayer meeting in your church. Pray for your family, church, pastors, nation, campuses, and missions throughout the week.

3. Fill Up

If you're fasting from food, during your mealtimes, read the Bible and pray instead. Drink plenty of water and rest as much as you can. Keep in mind that you may find yourself becoming physically weak, tired, impatient, or irritated. If you're doing a different type of fast, read the Bible and pray during the time you would normally do what you are fasting from (for example, browsing through social media or playing video games).

AFTER FASTING

1. Eat

If you fasted from food, reintroduce solid food gradually. Your body will need time to adjust to a normal diet. Start with fruits, juices, and salad, then add more vegetables. Eat small portions throughout the day. It may be tempting, but try not to eat junk food and sweets right away. If you've finished a different type of fast, remember what God revealed to you as you spent time with him. Take what you learned from the fast into your everyday life.

2. Pray

Don't stop praying! Trust that God will keep his promises and knows what he's doing. Don't stop believing in and listening to God all year. Be in faith and expect God to answer your prayers!

Our Plan

Day 1

FASTING OPTIONS

Social media fast

Gadget fast

Skip one meal

Other: _____

Prayer Meeting(s) to Attend: _____

FAMILY MEMBERS

Write down the names of the parents and kids who will do this type of fast for today.

Day 2

FASTING OPTIONS

Social media fast

Gadget fast

Skip one meal

Other: _____

Prayer Meeting(s) to Attend: _____

FAMILY MEMBERS

Write down the names of the parents and kids who will do this type of fast for today.

Day 3

FASTING OPTIONS

Social media fast

Gadget fast

Skip one meal

Other: _____

Prayer Meeting(s) to Attend: _____

FAMILY MEMBERS

Write down the names of the parents and kids who will do this type of fast for today.

Day 4

FASTING OPTIONS

Social media fast

Gadget fast

Skip one meal

Other: _____

Prayer Meeting(s) to Attend: _____

FAMILY MEMBERS

Write down the names of the parents and kids who will do this type of fast for today.

Day 5

FASTING OPTIONS

Social media fast

Gadget fast

Skip one meal

Other: _____

Prayer Meeting(s) to Attend: _____

FAMILY MEMBERS

Write down the names of the parents and kids who will do this type of fast for today.

IN 2025, WE WILL SEEK GOD AND TRUST HIM IN THESE AREAS . . .

What are our prayer requests for the year?

My Family (e.g., good health for parents and siblings)

My School (e.g., good grades)

My Friends (e.g., for friends to know Jesus)

Others (e.g., for more people to know Christ)

Pray in Pairs

Each family member will pray with a relative or friend. Write down the prayer partner's name after each family member's name.

Family Member	Prayer Partner

“Again, here is what I tell you. Suppose two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for. My Father in heaven will do it for you.” MATTHEW 18:19 (NIRV)

Mission 2029

We are praying to establish churches in 20 new nations by 2029!



Did you know?

Every Nation is in **81** nations* around the world!

**As of October 2024*

Is there a nation that God is leading you to pray for? Ask God how he can use your family to be a blessing to that nation and for the gospel to be preached there.

Continue to pray that God would open doors for more Every Nation church plants in the remaining **114** nations.

“Ask me, and I will give the nations to you. All nations on earth will belong to you.” PSALM 2:8 (NIRV)

Pray for:

Local churches to raise and send more missionaries and church planters to nations without an Every Nation church.

International students to hear and receive the gospel as we preach to them. May they be salt and light to their nations, so that more churches can be planted.

Churches around the world to have stronger relationships with each other so that we can reach the campuses and nations together.

Learn more about Mission 2029!
everynation.org/mission2029



Introduction:

Forgiveness

CONNECT

Prepare:

Plain white paper (bond paper or bigger)

Smaller pieces of colored paper

Markers, crayons, or pencils

Scissors

Glue or tape

As a family, encourage one another to reflect on your own actions over the past few weeks. On colored pieces of paper, write down any wrongdoings or sinful actions you may have committed. Children can ask their parents or guardians for help. Afterwards, cut the colored papers into shapes of your choice.



On a large piece of plain white paper, draw a big cross. Place all the colored papers on the cross. This can be a time to acknowledge your actions and seek forgiveness.

The cross symbolizes God's forgiveness towards us. When we commit sin and wrongdoings, they are not just against others but against God. These have consequences, and the Bible tells us that the payment for sin is death. Jesus came to pay the price for our sins. He died so that we might be forgiven for our wrongdoings.

READ THE WORD

³³And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” And they cast lots to divide his garments. LUKE 23:33–34

Jesus selflessly endured the ultimate sacrifice by giving up His life on the cross to offer us forgiveness for our sins. He not only offers his forgiveness to those who seemingly deserve it, but even to those who crucified him on the cross. He said, “*Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.*” When we placed our sins on the cross in our activity earlier, we also acknowledged that it is for our sins that he died, even though we don’t deserve it. In response to his sacrifice, we confess our sins and wrongdoings, surrender our lives to him as our Lord and Savior, and embrace the forgiveness he offers.



HUDDLE

Parents to Kids
2–6 years old

What does it mean to sin or do wrong?

How do you feel when someone does something wrong against you?

7–12 years old

Why do we need forgiveness?

Is there someone you need to forgive? Pray and ask God to give you the opportunity so you can extend forgiveness to that person.

Kids to Parents

Why can Jesus forgive us?

Will God forgive anything? Why or why not?

Forgiveness is at the heart of our salvation. Without it, we remain in our sins and will still be separated from God. But through Christ's work on the cross, we have been forgiven and we can also freely forgive those who have offended us.

Is your heart open to forgive others? Are there people you need to forgive right now? Ask the Holy Spirit to give you the grace to forgive them.

PRAY

Dear God, thank you for your sacrifice of sending Jesus on the cross to forgive me of my sins and give me a new life. Please help me show forgiveness to those who have wronged me. I want to always follow your will and make the right choices. Lead my thoughts and emotions in everything I do. I love you. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen!

DISCOVER

The Greek word for “forgive” is *aphesis*. It is a combination of two words which translates to “a sending away” or “letting go.” Put together, forgiveness means “to put separation between a person and their guilt.”¹ In our case, through Jesus, God forgiving us means he put a separation between us and our guilt.



Just like what Paul mentions in Colossians 2:13–14, God’s forgiveness exempts us from going through the punishment of sin that we ought to have. In Jesus’ final moments on the cross, he prays, “*Father forgive them . . .*” (Luke 23:34). What an amazing God we have who offers forgiveness to those who ask in Jesus’ name! God does not remember our sins anymore when he forgives us. The forgiveness shown by Christ shows God’s endless love.

NOTES

A series of horizontal dotted lines for taking notes, consisting of 15 rows of evenly spaced dots.

1 “Forgiveness in the Bible: What Does Scripture Say?,” Bellevue Christian Community, July 2018, <https://bellevuechristiancounseling.com/articles/forgiveness-bible-scripture-say>.

Day 1:

Paradise

CONNECT

Set up a simple game you can play together. This can be as simple as tossing a ball of paper or coin into a cup, tossing a ball to each other without letting it drop to the ground, or knocking down cans. When kids miss, you can give them more chances to try again.



In life, we often get second chances. This is what happened in our story today: Someone who was about to die got a second chance.

READ THE WORD

³⁹One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴²And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." ⁴³And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise." LUKE 23:39-43

Jesus was hanging on the cross between two criminals. One of them mocked Jesus and challenged him to save himself. But the other criminal, because he knew that Jesus was being punished even though he had done nothing wrong, had a change of heart and recognized him as the ruler of the kingdom of heaven.

Even in his last moments, the criminal had the chance for repentance and he took it. He acknowledged his sinfulness and trusted in Jesus. It didn't matter what the criminal had done in the past—because of his faith in Jesus, he was welcomed into God's presence in paradise.



No matter how many mistakes we've made, we can always turn to Jesus and put our trust in him. The thief didn't do anything to earn Jesus' forgiveness—he simply believed and asked. Jesus showed him grace, and this same grace is available to us today.

HUDDLE

Parents to Kids 2–6 years old

What did the thief ask Jesus to do? What was Jesus' reply?

Does Jesus forgive us when we ask him?

7–12 years old

What do you think grace means?

What did you learn about forgiveness from this story?

Kids to Parents

Share about a time when you experienced God's grace and forgiveness.

The story of the thief on the cross shows us that it's never too late to turn to Jesus. Salvation is not something we earn by being good or doing good things. It's a gift from God because he loves us. When we have a change of heart and put our faith in Jesus, he promises us eternal life with him.

PRAY

Dear God, thank you for your amazing grace. We know that we don't deserve your love or to live in your presence, but you allow us to experience these freely. Help us know that we have an eternal home with you because of your grace. Thank you for the promise of eternal life with you. In Jesus' name, amen.

DISCOVER

In the Roman Empire, crucifixion was one of the most painful and shameful ways to die. It was used for criminals and enemies of the state. Even though the thief was being punished for his crimes, Jesus offered him forgiveness and the promise of eternal life, showing us that no one is beyond God's grace!

NOTES

A large grid of small dots for taking notes, consisting of 20 columns and 30 rows of dots.

Day 2:

Family

CONNECT

Gratitude Jar

Prepare:

A jar (or box)

Small pieces of paper or
sticky notes

Pens or pencils



Spend a few minutes decorating the jar together as a family. Then give each family member time to write down what he or she is grateful for about each other. It can also be about an experience you have had together as a family. Be specific and thoughtful. Fold the notes and place them in the jar.

Every week or month, set aside time to read the notes together. This can spark conversations and strengthen connections.

READ THE WORD

... ²⁵but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother,

“Woman, behold, your son!” ²⁷*Then he said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother!” And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.* JOHN 19:25–27

Have you ever thought about how important family is? In the passage we’ve read, we see a touching moment. Jesus, even while on the cross, showed his deep love for his mother, Mary, and his friend John. He asked John to take care of his mother. Mary was not his biological mother, but they were part of the same spiritual family. What an example for us to remember that we are to care for and be grateful for the family God has blessed us with.

Let’s also look at our spiritual family. In one of his letters, Paul writes:

¹¹Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all. ¹²Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. ¹⁵Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. COLOSSIANS 3:11–15 (NIV)

As part of God’s family, we are encouraged to treat each other with kindness, just as we do at home. Jesus is also prompting us to think about how we can make our friends feel welcome and included. This helps us remember that love and care are at the heart of all our relationships (in our home, in the church, and everywhere else) the way Jesus showed us through his ultimate sacrifice.



HUDDLE

Parents to Kids

2–6 years old

Do you love everyone in your family?

Can you think of a time when you helped someone? How did it make you feel?

7–12 years old

If you could create a special day for our family, what would we do together?

How can you show kindness to someone in our neighborhood or in your school this week?

Do you have people around you who will pray for you and encourage you when you are down? Who are they?

Kids to Parents

What's one thing you love about our family?

How can we show God's love to others?

Who is our spiritual family?

Just like our natural family, our spiritual family will help and nurture us as we grow. They even help us grow in our relationship with God. Let us commit to nurture our relationships with others.

PRAY

Dear God, thank you for our family and the love we share. Help us care for one another, just like Jesus taught us. Guide us to support and show kindness to each other every day. May our hearts be filled with love, and may we always remember to help those around us. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

DISCOVER

In Jesus' time, it was customary for the eldest son to take care of his mother if she became a widow. His father, Joseph, had likely passed away by the time Jesus was crucified. When he was on the cross, he entrusted the care of his mother, Mary, to his disciple John. This was an extraordinary moment of compassion. Even in his suffering, Jesus made sure his mother would be looked after. This act also highlights the importance of spiritual family—Jesus was building a new family where people cared for each other as brothers and sisters in Christ.

NOTES

A large grid of red dots for taking notes, consisting of 20 rows and 30 columns of small red dots.

Day 3:

Judgment

CONNECT

Prepare:

A soiled or dirty shirt or cloth

A clean shirt or cloth

Take a look at the shirts. These two shirts represent our hearts.

The dirty and soiled cloth represents us when sin is in our hearts. How would you feel if you put on a soiled shirt? Would you feel embarrassed? This is similar to how sin makes us feel. Aside from the fact that sin separated us from God, we know in our hearts that we have rebelled against him and failed to obey him. We are embarrassed to come to God. But God loves us so much that he made a plan so that we can be like the clean shirt. Someone took our dirty shirt and gave us a clean shirt so that there is no more guilt and shame, and we can draw near to God.



Let's take a look at what the Bible says.

READ THE WORD

Have you ever done something wrong? Maybe you got into a fight or maybe you cheated on a test and you got caught. Imagine if, instead of getting punished for your actions, someone else who did nothing wrong says he or she will take your place and receive the punishment instead.

What a great friend, right? That's exactly what Jesus did for us on the cross.

³Once we, too, were foolish and disobedient. We were misled and became slaves to many lusts and pleasures. Our lives were full of evil and envy, and we hated each other. ⁴But—When God our Savior revealed his kindness and love, ⁵he saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit. ⁶He generously poured out the Spirit upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior. ⁷Because of his grace he made us right in his sight and gave us confidence that we will inherit eternal life.

TITUS 3:3–7 (NLT)

God is so good and kind! He gave his own life in exchange for ours while we were still sinners.

⁷For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—⁸but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ROMANS 5:7–8

God's standard is higher than ours. He is holy. That means that even a little sin cannot be near him. He is just, so he cannot let sin go unpunished. But God is also merciful—that's why God sent his Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for our sins. He was the only sacrifice

acceptable in God's eyes because he is pure and holy. Our good works and our lives could never be enough to pay for the penalty for our sins.

But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. ISAIAH 53:5



Jesus decided to take on the judgment that we deserved. He paid it all. He took all the punishments for our sins. The Father forsook him by allowing him to die at the hands of sinful men.

And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" MARK 15:34

For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. MATTHEW 12:40

Because Jesus is God and lived a sinless life, he rose from the dead and is victorious over sin and death. Now, we have a life of freedom through faith in him because of what Jesus did on the cross.

HUDDLE

Parents to Kids

2–6 years old

Why did Jesus die on the cross?

What does Isaiah 53:5 say?

7–12 years old

Why do you think Jesus had to die on the cross?

Knowing the suffering that Jesus went through, do you realize the depth of God's love and mercy for you?

Kids to Parents

Share your understanding of God's love to your children.

Jesus suffered a lot when he took our place on the cross. But he did it because of his love for us. May this realization change the way we live our lives and may we always keep our eyes on the cross.

PRAY

Dear God, thank you for sending Jesus to pay the price for my sins. Thank you that I never have to be alone because Jesus paid the price for me. I want to have a relationship with you, God. Please reveal yourself to me. Jesus, I want you to be my Lord, Savior, and Friend. Amen.

DISCOVER

Did you know that Jesus historically fulfilled over 300 prophecies about himself?²

NOTES

A large grid of red dots for taking notes, consisting of 20 rows and 40 columns.

2 IntelligentFaith315, “Jesus Historically fulfilled over 300 Prophecies...Accidentally?’ (by Intelligent Faith 315),” YouTube, September 19, 2011, educational video, 4:16, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mG37ysdWlWc>.

Day 4:

Humanity

CONNECT

Share your answers with each other:

What's the longest you've gone without drinking water?

What's the longest you think you can last without drinking water?

Imagine if you didn't drink water for a long, long time. What do you think would happen?

Did you know that 70–75% of the human body is made up of water? Drinking water is essential for our survival. Most of our bodily functions need water and without it, these might stop working. This is why most scientists believe that humans cannot survive without water for more than three days.³



In our story today, Jesus felt thirsty too. Let's read about it.

³ "How Long Can You Live Without Water?," Healthline, accessed September 23, 2024, <https://www.healthline.com/health/food-nutrition/how-long-can-you-live-without-water>.

READ THE WORD

²⁸After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), “I thirst.” ²⁹A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. JOHN 19:28–29

“I thirst.”

When Jesus was born on earth, he was fully human. Although he was the Son of God, he experienced all the pain, suffering, and needs that we go through. Having a fully human body, he got tired, hungry, and thirsty—just like we do.

Why is this important? For Jesus’ death to be a valid sacrifice for our sins, he needed to be fully human. The Bible tells us that the punishment for sin is death (Romans 6:23). As a man, Jesus experienced life in a broken world, yet he never sinned. This made him the perfect, spotless sacrifice to take our place. If Jesus had not been truly human, he couldn’t have represented us on the cross. Being thirsty and asking for water proved that Jesus was fully human.

HUDDLE

Parents to Kids

2–6 years old

What makes you thirsty?

Why do you think Jesus got thirsty while he was on the cross?

7–12 years old

Why is it important that Jesus was fully human?

How does knowing that Jesus experienced thirst and pain help us when we go through hard times?

Kids to Parents

Can you share a time when you felt really thirsty or weak? How does it help to know that Jesus felt that way too?

How can we rely on Jesus when we feel weak or face challenges?

Because Jesus was fully human, he understands our struggles. He knows what it's like to feel tired, weak, or in pain. When we go through tough times, we can turn to Jesus, knowing that he has experienced suffering too. He was even tempted (Luke 4:1–13). But unlike us, he overcame it all, giving us hope in his victory over sin and death. This is our assurance from him, that he knows how we feel and he is with us through it all.

PRAY

Dear God, thank you for sending Jesus to save us from our sins. Thank you, Jesus, that despite knowing our weakness, you still came to earth and suffered the punishment for our sins so that we may be forgiven. Thank you because you understand our hearts, fears, hopes, and desires. May we always lean on you, taking everything to you—every decision that we make, every care that troubles our hearts, and every desire we have for our future and our family. May you guide us by your Holy Spirit to live the life that glorifies you and to remain faithful to your will in our lives. In your name, amen.

DISCOVER

Did you know that Jesus was offered wine twice during his crucifixion?

Some Bible scholars say that the first wine mentioned in Mark 15:23, which was mixed with myrrh, was meant to ease Jesus' pain as he endured the cross with full consciousness. However, Jesus refused this wine. He intentionally chose to go through all the suffering with full awareness.

The second wine in Mark 15:35 was a sour wine. In the cultures of Greece and Rome, soldiers and workers consumed it as a common drink. It was a refreshing drink meant to keep someone conscious for as long as possible. This is the wine Jesus drank. By doing so, he chose to prolong his pain. Normally, one would choose to drink the first wine and avoid the second wine to feel less pain. But Jesus chose the opposite. For him, there were no shortcuts in taking our place.⁴



What a Savior we have!

NOTES

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

⁴ David Mathis, "The Wine Jesus Drank," Desiring God, May 27, 2010, <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/the-wine-jesus-drank>.

Day 5:

Completion

CONNECT

Take some time to ask one another the following questions:

Think of some things that you have done and are proud of. It may be school work, a task given to you by your parents, a project, or a hobby. How did you feel after you finished it?

Now, think of something that you have started but not finished (e.g., homework, chores, a meal, game, cooking a dish). Why did you not finish it?



Our Bible story today is about Jesus finishing his mission here on earth.

READ THE WORD

When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished,” and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

JOHN 19:30

At this point, Jesus was hanging on the cross, having suffered severely at the hands of the Romans. As he breathed his last breath, he said, “*It is finished.*” What did he mean?

In Genesis 3, when sin entered the world, man became separated from God. And no matter what man could do, it could never

erase the sin or bridge the gap with God. Only God could do this work, and this was the mission Jesus was sent to do. From the Old Testament to the New Testament, God's plan was slowly unfolding. The cross was where it was finally completed. Jesus' death and resurrection cleansed us of our sins and bridged the gap between God and man—the very things people were trying hard to do. Man can now be reconciled back to God.

Jesus' sacrifice on the cross is enough to cover every sin. The amazing truth is that our salvation does not depend on what we do, but on what Jesus did for us. No amount of good deeds or hard work can make us right with God—only Jesus can. When Jesus said, "*It is finished*," he had fully accomplished the work of saving us. There is nothing more we can do or add. We simply need to trust in him and receive the gift of salvation.

When we believe in Jesus and what he did on the cross, we are forgiven and brought into a right relationship with God forever. That's why we don't need to add anything more to what Jesus has done. He has already finished the work, and our salvation is secure in him.



HUDDLE

Parents to Kids 2–6 years old

What were the words uttered by Jesus on the cross that we learned today?

Why did Jesus have to die on the cross?

Is there anything we can do on our own to erase our sins?

7–12 years old

What did Jesus mean when he said, “It is finished”?

Knowing the finished work of Jesus on the cross, how do you think you should respond?

Kids to Parents

Can we be sure or secure in our salvation in Jesus? Why?

Have you ever tried to earn your salvation?

Why is Jesus’ work complete?

Because Jesus lived a blameless life, he is fully qualified to take away our sins, therefore completing the work of salvation on the cross. Everything he has given us is by his grace, and our only part is to put our faith in him. Paul says in his letter to the Ephesians:

⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹not a result of works, so that no one may boast. EPHESIANS 2:8–9

God is gracious for granting us this gift of salvation. His desire is to bring us back to a right relationship with him through his Son, Jesus. We can respond and honor his sacrifice by trusting in him completely and not trying to earn our way to it.

PRAY

Dear God, thank you for the complete work of Jesus on the cross. By it, we are now reconciled with you and are part of your family as your children. Please help us trust you always. May our lives reflect this glorious truth in every way. In Jesus’ name, amen!

DISCOVER

“It is finished.”

Bible scholars believe that this phrase, when translated to Greek, can mean that something was already paid in full. It may be a debt or a business transaction. If you hold a document marked with these words, it means you don't have to do anything more and the transaction is now complete.

When Jesus said this, he was referring to the full payment of our debt for our sin. Our debt now is paid in full. There is no need for us to settle anything anymore.

NOTES

A large rectangular area filled with a grid of small, light-colored dots, intended for the user to write their notes.

Conclusion:

Assurance

CONNECT

Prepare:

A sheet of paper

Pencils, pens, and coloring materials

Ask the children to follow instructions to make the following illustration:

On the right side of the paper, draw a cliff and write the word “GOD” on top of it.

On the left side of the paper, draw another cliff and write the word “US” on top of it.

The cliffs shouldn't touch each other.

Set the drawing aside for now, as it will be used again towards the end of the lesson.



Explain to your child or children that there is a deep divide separating us from God. This divide is because of sin. All of us are born with sin and as long as we have sin, we cannot be with God who is holy.

How do you think we can go across the divide and be with God?
Give everyone time to answer.

Let us discover the answer through today's lesson.

READ THE WORD

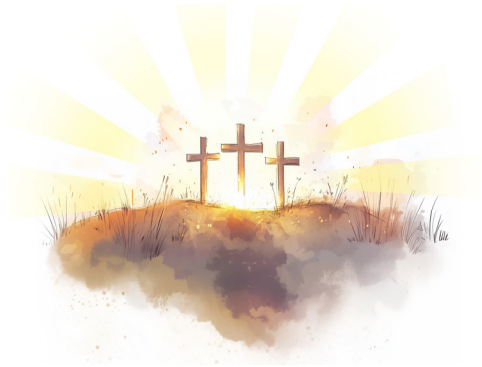
⁴⁴It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, ⁴⁵for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two.

⁴⁶Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last. LUKE 23:44-46 (NIV)

"Father, into your hands I commit my spirit."

Jesus said this in his final moment on the cross. To the disciples and his followers, everything may have seemed lost and hopeless. Their Teacher was dying right before their very eyes. But as Jesus spoke those last words, his body failing, he lifted his all to God, trusting him with everything. It is a statement of total surrender.

There is hope for us after all. Jesus' dying on the cross was not the end of the story because Jesus rose from the grave, displaying his power over death. God had a plan that will bring life and hope to everyone. Though we are destined to die, Jesus' resurrection gives us the assurance that death need not be our end. It gives us the assurance that the One in whom we trust can overcome what should have been our destiny. Jesus overcame death in our place. When we



trust him, we too can walk in the victory he has promised. This is our hope and by this, we can know that our salvation is not empty but alive!

HUDDLE

Parents to Kids

2–6 years old

What were Jesus' last words on the cross?

How do you know that Jesus trusted God? Can you also trust God?

7–12 years old

What does Jesus' death and resurrection mean for you?

How do you think it will help you as you navigate through your circumstances right now?

Kids to Parents

Have you ever had a time when you trusted God through a difficult situation? What happened?

How do you draw hope from Jesus' resurrection?

Do you always trust God?

Jesus was showing us that we, too, can trust God. We can give God all of our fears, worries, and sadness, because God is good and he loves us. Jesus' death on the cross wasn't the end; it was the beginning of our chance to have a right relationship with God and the promise of eternal life. So, whenever things seem too difficult, remember that Jesus trusted God and because of him, we can have hope. The cross reminds us that Jesus died for our sins, but his

resurrection reminds us that death is not the end. With God, we have a bright future.

Take the illustration from earlier and finish the drawing by putting a large cross in the middle of the divide. Make sure that the arms of the cross are large enough to connect the two sides. On top of the cross, write JESUS.

Jesus is the way for us to come to God (John 14:6). He is inviting us to cross over and enjoy life with God for the rest of our lives.

Do you want to receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior? We can pray together.

PRAY

Dear God, thank you for sending Jesus to die on the cross for us, and thank you that he rose again. Thank you for the hope that you give us not only in this life but even in the life after. Help us always see you and hold on to you because you are faithful and trustworthy. In Jesus' name, amen!

DISCOVER

“ . . . And the curtain of the temple was torn in two.”

LUKE 23:45 (NIV)

During the time of Jesus, the curtain of the temple separated the people from the Most Holy Place, which symbolized God's presence. Only the high priest was allowed to enter



beyond the curtain and only on specific occasions. But when Jesus died and the curtain was torn, it showed that Jesus made a way for everyone who believes in him to come close to God. Jesus is our high priest (Hebrews 4:14) and through him, we can now come to our Father. Because of Jesus, nothing separates us from God anymore!

NOTES

A large area of dotted lines for taking notes, consisting of 20 rows and 40 columns of small dots.