

Stowmarket Baptist Church

THURSDAY BIBLE CLUB

2 APRIL 2020

We hope that you enjoy this week's Bible story.

We are praying that you are all kept safe that that we can all meet up again on a Thursday soon.

You can read this week's story in the Bible in Matthew chapter 27 verses 27-54.

²⁷ Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. ²⁸ They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, ²⁹ and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand. Then they knelt in front of him and mocked him. "Hail, king of the Jews!" they said. ³⁰ They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. ³¹ After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

³² As they were going out, they met a man from Cyrene, named Simon, and they forced him to carry the cross. ³³ They came to a place called Golgotha (which means "the place of the skull"). ³⁴ There they offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall; but after tasting it, he refused to drink it. ³⁵ When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots. ³⁶ And sitting down, they kept watch over him there. ³⁷ Above his head they placed the written charge against him: this is Jesus, the king of the Jews.

³⁸ Two rebels were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁹ Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads ⁴⁰ and saying, "You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!" ⁴¹ In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him. ⁴² "He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself! He's the king of Israel! Let him

come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. ⁴³ He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" ⁴⁴ In the same way the rebels who were crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

The Death of Jesus

⁴⁵ From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land. ⁴⁶ About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" (which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?").

⁴⁷ When some of those standing there heard this, they said, "He's calling Elijah."

⁴⁸ Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. ⁴⁹ The rest said, "Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to save him."

⁵⁰ And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit.

⁵¹ At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split ⁵² and the tombs broke open. The bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. ⁵³ They came out of the tombs after Jesus' resurrection and went into the holy city and appeared to many people.

⁵⁴ When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, "Surely he was the Son of God!"

The story from the Bible this week is really sad, so you must also read next week's story, too!

Pilate had said that Jesus had done nothing wrong, but yet Jesus was led away to die.

Early in the morning, Jesus had to carry the heavy, wooden cross. He

was really tired.

Remember that the soldiers had whipped and hit Him? His back was bleeding and cut. Do you remember what His crown was made from? Yes, it was thorns, long, sharp thorns and when the soldiers beat Jesus, they pushed the thorns deep into His head.

As Jesus moved along, there was a man, named Simon, standing in the crowd. Simon was made to carry the cross for Jesus. I'm sure he was happy to be able to help Jesus, for that little time.

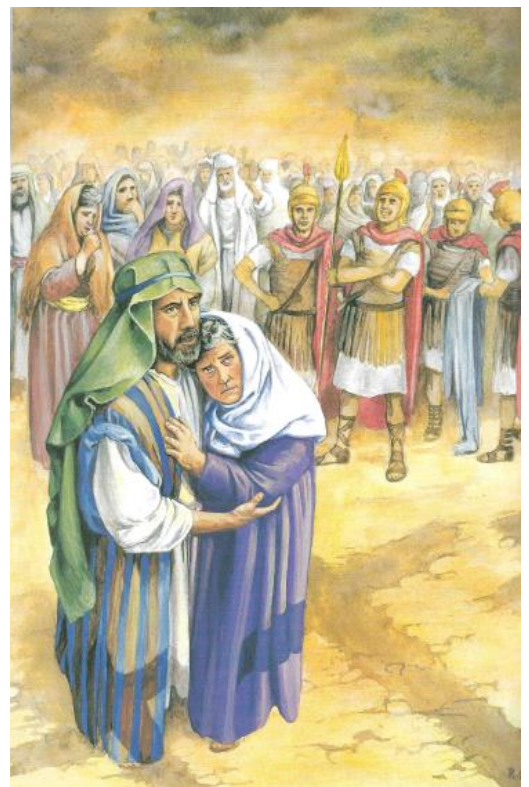
It seems very sad that we have to talk about a cross and about Jesus dying. Remember, had Jesus done anything wrong? Ever? NO! Jesus was and still is pure, holy and free from sin. But God said that everyone who does wrong must be punished and we have ALL done wrong and we ALL deserve to be punished.

BUT Jesus said He would be punished instead of us, instead of ME! Isn't that amazing? Jesus was punished and died, so I can be forgiven, if I ask Jesus to take away my sin.

Jesus was crucified (that means to die on a cross) at 9 o'clock in the morning. For 6 hours, Jesus hung on the cross. At Midday, that when we usually eat our lunch, the sky went black. As black as the middle of the night. The sun couldn't shine, when Jesus was dying.

Some of Jesus' friends and Mary, His mother, stood near the cross, feeling sad. But the soldiers played games and only offered Jesus bitter vinegar to drink! They didn't want to know who Jesus was.

Jesus prayed to His father, God. "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing,"



Jesus wants us to know Him, know Him as our Saviour, trust Him so that we can become part of Jesus' family.

The last words that Jesus shouted from the cross were "It is finished".

But what is finished? Jesus is saying that His life was finished and the work that God had sent to do, was finished. When Jesus died, His life on earth was finished but it was not a failure. Satan thought that Jesus had failed in His mission, but Jesus' great work of saving His people was now complete. Jesus bowed His head and died.