



On Friday morning, Pilate's soldiers took Jesus out of the city to crucify him. They brought Jesus to a place called Calvary. There the soldiers pounded nails through his hands and feet into a wooden cross. Jesus hung on the cross to carry out God's plan to save us.

Two men were crucified with Jesus. They were robbers. One robber was on Jesus' right side, and the other was on his left side.

Jesus was suffering very much on the cross. But he was not angry. Jesus loved all people. He wanted to forgive all people. Jesus even loved the people who

The high priest and other leaders of the church hated Jesus and wanted to get rid of him. So while Jesus was their prisoner, his enemies decided he should die. But because they were not allowed to put anyone to death, they took Jesus to Pilate, the ruler of the land. After Pilate talked to Jesus, he realized that Jesus had done nothing wrong and did not deserve to die. But Pilate wanted to please the enemies, so he said that Jesus should be crucified (hung on a cross to die).

Jesus had done nothing wrong or bad. He did not deserve to be hung on a cross. He did not deserve to die. Jesus was letting himself be killed because he loves us and wanted to save all people from their sins.

put him on the cross to die. Jesus prayed, "Father, forgive them for what they are doing to me. They do not understand." The enemies did not know they were killing God's Son. They did not know that Jesus let them put him on the cross because he wanted to die to take away everyone's sins.

Many of the enemies made fun of Jesus as he hung on the cross. They laughed at Jesus and said, "If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross!" The soldiers also made fun of Jesus. And, for a while, the two robbers also laughed at Jesus. But later one of them stopped because he finally understood and believed that Jesus was his Savior.

Yes, Jesus is the Savior. He let himself be put to death on a cross to take away the sins of all people.



Jesus let himself be nailed to a cross to die because he wanted to save all people from their sins. We thank Jesus for suffering pain and death on a cross to save us.

Pray Together

Dear Jesus, thank you for suffering the punishment we sinners deserve. Help us always believe in you as our Savior, and someday take us to heaven to live with you. We pray in your precious name. Amen.

1. Turn this page over. Point to some of the people who made fun of Jesus as he suffered. Then make a happy face next to someone who stopped making fun of Jesus because he finally understood and believed that Jesus was his Savior. What happened to that man when he died?

2. Have each family member hold a nail as you read the story paragraph that tells about the soldiers nailing Jesus to a cross. Then recall why Jesus let himself be nailed to a cross to die: he wanted to save all people from their sins. Finally, have each family member take a turn giving an example of a sin for which Jesus suffered and died. After doing so, the person should set the nail in a bowl or basket while saying, “Thank you, Jesus, for dying to forgive my sins.”



1 Timothy 1:15