

Open Bible Stories — Jesus Is Crucified

Introduction

Key Idea

The story of Jesus being crucified teaches us Jesus died on the cross as a sacrifice to be punished for the sin of people so that God would not punish people who believe in Jesus.

Core Belief Verse

"For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit." 1 Peter 3:18

God's Big Story

The eternal God created all things in six days.

He made a good and perfect world.

He made humans in his image to fill the earth and rule over creation.

But humans rebelled against God and ruined God's creation.

God set to restore his world through his promise.

God made a covenant with Abraham.

He promised to bless all nations through Abraham.

God kept his promises across the generations.

God provided Abraham with a promised child, Isaac.

God gave Isaac a wife, and she bore twins, Jacob and Esau.

God blessed Jacob and his sons, and the blessing continued to the next generation.

God rescued Joseph, one of Jacob's sons, and used him to rescue his family.

God caused his people, the Israelites, to multiply in the land of Egypt; eventually, they became slaves.

But God raised up a deliverer, Moses, to deliver his people from slavery.

God judged the Egyptians with harsh plagues; in the final judgment, he passed over his people, who covered their doorposts with the blood of a sacrificed lamb.

Then, God delivered the Israelites by bringing them out of Egypt and crossing the Red Sea on dry land.

God made a covenant with the Israelites and made them his people.

God tested Israel in a series of wilderness wanderings and eventually brought his people into the promised land of Canaan.

God raised up deliverers to lead Israel and rescue them from their enemies.

God formed Israel into a kingdom.

He made a covenant with King David and promised to send a king that would rule his people forever.

Many of Israel's kings were evil and the kingdom of Israel was divided into two kingdoms.

God sent prophets to warn his people of God's judgment and call them to repent.

When Israel did not repent, God sent his people into exile.

After many years, he brought them back to the land.

Throughout the Old Testament, God promised to send his Messiah to deliver his people from their sin.

After many years, the prophet John was born.

He would prepare people for the coming Messiah.

At the perfect time, God sent his Son, Jesus, to be born of a virgin Mary.

When John and Jesus grew up, John baptized Jesus as a sign that Jesus was God's beloved Son.

Jesus endured all manner of temptation without ever sinning.

When he was thirty years old, he launched a public ministry of preaching, teaching, and healing.

He taught his disciples about the life of compassion, sacrifice, and forgiveness.

Jesus performed many miracles: he fed a crowd of five thousand, he walked on water, he healed the sick, and he cast out demons.

He proclaimed to people the nature of real faith, God's kingdom, and how fallen humans can be restored in relationship with God.

Toward the end of his ministry, Jesus revealed his power and glory to his disciples.

He raised a dead man to life.

Jesus was betrayed by one of his disciples and put on trial before a Roman governor.

Jesus was sentenced to death and crucified on a cross.

The Story: Jesus Is Crucified

40-01



After the soldiers mocked Jesus, they led him away to crucify him. They made him carry the cross on which he would die.

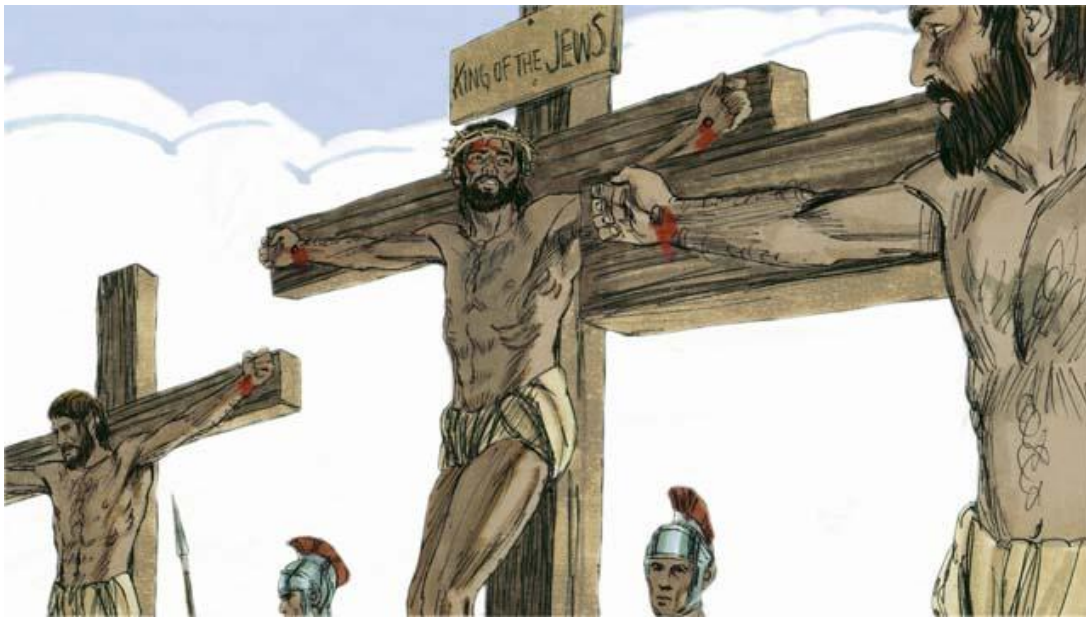
40-02



The soldiers brought Jesus to a place called 'the Skull' and nailed his hands and feet to the cross. But Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, because they do not know what they are doing." They also put a sign on the cross above his head. It said, "King of the Jews." This is what Pilate had told them to write.

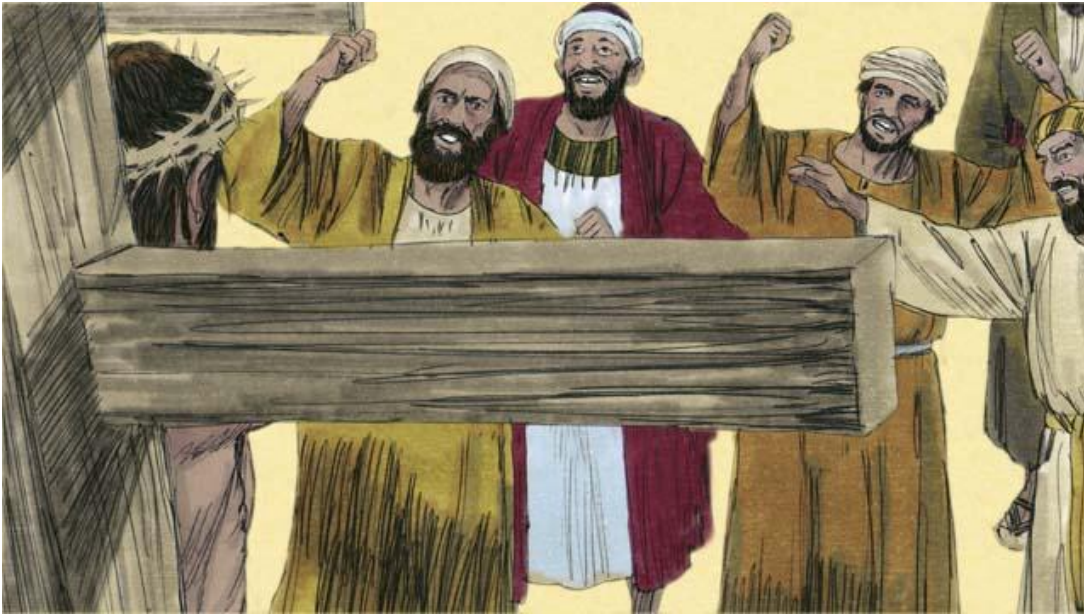


Then the soldiers gambled for Jesus' clothing. When they did this, they fulfilled a prophecy that said, "They divided my garments among them, and gambled for my clothing."



There were also two robbers whom the soldiers crucified at the same time, putting them on either side of Jesus. One of the robbers mocked Jesus, but the other said to him, "Do you not fear that God will punish you? We are guilty of doing many bad things, but this man is innocent." Then he said to Jesus, "Please remember me when you become king in your kingdom." Jesus answered him, "Today you will be with me in Paradise."

40-05



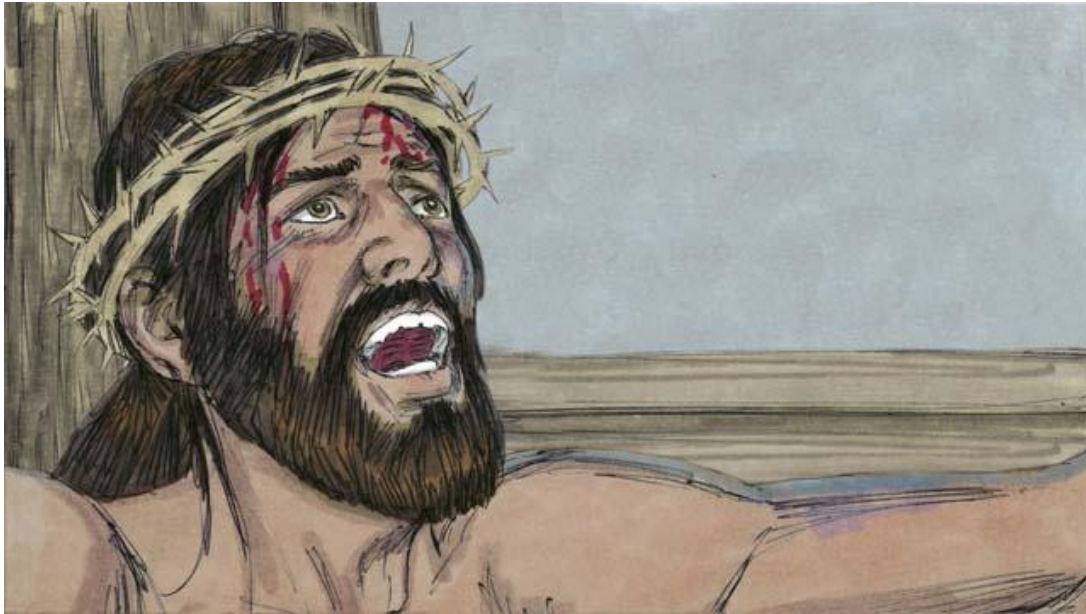
The Jewish leaders and the other people in the crowd mocked Jesus. They said to him, "If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross and save yourself! Then we will believe you."

40-06



Then the sky over the whole region became completely dark, even though it was the middle of the day. It became dark at noon and stayed dark for three hours.

40-07



Then Jesus cried out, "It is finished! Father, I am giving my spirit into your hands." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. When he died, there was an earthquake. In the Temple, the large curtain separating the people from God's presence was torn in two from the top to the bottom.

40-08



Through his death, Jesus opened the way for people to come to God. When a soldier guarding Jesus saw everything that had happened, he said, "Certainly, this man was innocent. He was the Son of God."



Then two Jewish leaders, Joseph and Nicodemus, came and asked Pilate for Jesus' body. They believed that Jesus was the Messiah. They wrapped his body in cloth, took it to a tomb cut out of rock, and placed it inside. Then they rolled a large stone in front of the tomb to block the opening.

A Bible story from: Matthew 27:27-61; Mark 15:16-47; Luke 23:26-56; John 19:17-42

Community Study: Genuine Trust—Cultivating Security in Personal Relationships

- **Key Idea:** establishing a community where people can be open and honest
- **Key Passage:** Psalm 28:7-9
- **Main Session:** OBS 40 (Jesus Is Crucified)

Recite the Core Belief Verse (3-5 minutes)

The verse below summarizes the teaching of the current passage. Read the verse out loud as a community. Read it again several times as a group until the whole community can recite it from memory.

18 Christ also suffered once for sins. He who is righteous suffered for us, who were unrighteous, so that he would bring us to God. 1 Peter 3:18

OR

24 He himself carried our sins in his body to the tree, so that we would have no more part in sin, and so that we would live for righteousness. By his bruises you have been healed. 1 Peter 2:24

Think about Trust (5-10 minutes)

God wants people to trust Jesus. Jesus experienced much suffering and painfully died on the cross. God saves people when they trust in Jesus. Describe what you think it means to trust in Jesus.

To trust in Jesus means...

I can trust Jesus because...

Read the Passage (3-5 minutes)

God is completely trustworthy. We learn to trust others as we grow in our trust in God. Read the passage below to learn about what God says about trust and protection.

7 Yahweh is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and I am helped. Therefore my heart greatly rejoices, and I will praise him with singing. 8 Yahweh is the strength of his people, and he is the saving refuge of his anointed one. 9 Save your people and bless your inheritance. Be their shepherd and carry them forever. Psalm 28:7-9

Discuss the Passage (10-15 minutes)

God provides protection and safety for his people. God's people are the community of believers who trust in God. As a community, use the following questions to discuss the teaching of the biblical passage.

1. How does this passage instruct us to trust in God? What are the benefits and blessings of trusting in God?
2. How does this passage describe God's protection of his people? What metaphors (figures of speech) are used to describe the way God keeps his people safe?
3. How does our trust in God help us be able to trust other people? What are some challenges that make it hard to trust one another?
4. Why is it important for your community to develop a deep trust in God and healthy trust in one another?

Describe Trust in God (5 minutes)

Think about what it means to trust other people. Discuss what it would look like if your community was a community that trusted one another.

If our community was a community of trust, it would be like this...

Pray to God (5 minutes)

Pray that God would help your community be a community of trust. After each person prays, have the whole group pray the Scripture passage together.

Gracious God, make our community a community of trust...

Pray Together: Those who trust in Yahweh are like Mount Zion, unshakable, forever enduring. Psalm 125:1

Sing a Song (3-5 minutes)

Choose a song that celebrates God's faithfulness. Sing this song together as a community.

Movement 1: Understand the Story

Read each question aloud. Give the group time to answer before sharing the answer.

Observation Questions

40-01

After the soldiers mocked Jesus, what were they going to do to him?

The soldiers led Jesus away to crucify him.

When the soldiers led Jesus away to crucify him, what did they make him carry?

They made him carry the cross on which he would die.

40-02

What was the name of the place where Jesus was crucified?

It was called 'the Skull.'

How did the soldiers attach Jesus to the cross?

They nailed his hands and feet to the cross.

What did Jesus pray concerning the people who were crucifying him?

He prayed, "Father, forgive them, because they do not know what they are doing."

What was written on the sign above Jesus' head?

The sign said, "King of the Jews."

Who told them to write this on the sign?

Pilate told them to write "King of the Jews" on the sign.

40-03

How did the soldiers divide up Jesus' clothes?

They gambled for his clothing as had been prophesied.

What did the prophecy say?

The prophecy said that they would divide up his garments and gamble for his clothing.

40-04

Who else was crucified at the same time with Jesus?

Two robbers were crucified at the same time on either side of Jesus.

What did the robber who did not mock Jesus ask him to do?

He asked Jesus to remember him in his kingdom.

What did the other robber ask the robber who mocked Jesus?

The one robber asked the robber who mocked Jesus whether he feared God, who would punish him.

What did that robber say about Jesus and the guilt of the robbers?

The robber who did not mock Jesus said that Jesus was innocent, while both robbers did many bad things.

What did that robber ask Jesus?

He asked Jesus to remember him when he became king in his kingdom.

What was Jesus' answer to the request of the robber?

Jesus said, "Today, you will be with me in Paradise."

40-05

How did the Jewish leaders and people treat Jesus?

The Jewish leaders and people in the crowd mocked Jesus.

What did the crowd want Jesus to do to prove that he was the Son of God?

They told him to come down from the cross and save himself.

40-06

What unusual thing happened in the sky in the middle of the day?

It became completely dark at noon and stayed dark for three hours.

40-07

What were the last words Jesus cried out from the cross?

Jesus cried out, "It is finished! Father, I give my spirit into your hands."

What happened after Jesus committed himself to God the Father?

Jesus bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

What miraculous things happened immediately after Jesus died?

There was an earthquake, and the large curtain in the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom.

40-08

What did Jesus accomplish through his death?

Jesus opened the way for people to come to God.

How did the soldier guarding Jesus respond?

A soldier guarding Jesus saw what happened and said that Jesus was innocent and the Son of God.

40-09

Who asked Pilate for Jesus' body?

Two Jewish leaders named Joseph and Nicodemus asked for his body.

Who did Joseph and Nicodemus think Jesus was?

Joseph and Nicodemus believed Jesus was the Messiah.

What did they do with the body?

They wrapped the body in cloth and placed it in a tomb cut out of rock, and then rolled a large stone in front of the tomb.

Movement 2: Theological Questions

Answer the following theology questions as a community. Discuss what truths this story teaches.

1. What kinds of things did Jesus endure on the cross? How does this story show the various things Jesus endured on the cross in order to rescue humans from their sin?
2. Why did Jesus allow himself to be killed on the cross? What does this story tell us about what Jesus was accomplishing through his crucifixion?
3. What does it look like to really believe in Jesus? How do the various characters in this story treat or respond to Jesus in a way that teaches us about the nature of genuine faith?

Movement 3: Live It Out

Personal Implications & Applications From The Story

Guide the group to discuss practical obedience from this story and name concrete next steps.

1. What new convictions have you developed about who Jesus is and what he accomplished on the cross?
2. Have you placed your faith in Jesus? Have you trusted in Jesus' death to restore your relationship with God? How do you know?
3. How is Jesus suffering on the cross a means of comfort for you?
4. Think about this week. Where does "Jesus Is Crucified" challenge you to obey God in a practical way?
5. How does this key idea shape one decision you need to make right now: The story of Jesus being crucified teaches us Jesus died on the cross as a sacrifice to be punished for the sin of people so that God would not punish people who believe in Jesus.

Movement 4: Retell the Story

Invite the group to retell the story several times until they can tell it clearly and faithfully.

1. Can someone retell "Jesus Is Crucified" from beginning to end in their own words?
2. Retell this story again, but focus on what God did at each key moment.
3. Retell the story in three parts: beginning, middle, and ending. What changed in each part?
4. If you were teaching this story to your family tonight, how would you tell it simply and clearly?

Church Ministry

Reflect on how this story can edify and mature the Christian community. Design a way to minister this story to your church community.

Ministry Preparation: Take time to consider how you could minister this story to others. Record some ministry ideas below.

Ministry Implementation: Minister this story to a group of believers as you had planned. Use the information in this study to help develop a

teaching/lesson or lead a discussion of this story with other believers. Record your ministry plan below.

Ministry Reflection: Think about what you learned from ministering this story to other believers. Reflect on your experience below.

Movement 5: Share It

Help each person plan how they will share this story with others before the next gathering.

1. Who is one specific person you will share "Jesus Is Crucified" with this week?
2. When and where will you share this story with them?
3. What is the one main truth from this story you want them to remember? Report-back next meeting: Who did you share with, and what happened?

Report-back next meeting: Who did you share with, and what happened?

Mission Engagement

Consider how you will witness this story to unbelievers. Design a way to share this story and engage them in what it teaches about Christianity and the gospel.

Witness Preparation: Take time to consider how you will witness this narrative to unbelievers. Record some ideas below.

Witness Implementation: Share this story with an unbeliever. Use the information in this study to help develop a teaching/lesson or lead a discussion of this story with other believers. Record your ministry plan below.

Witness Reflection: Think about what you learned from ministering this story to unbelievers. Reflect on your experience below.