

# Week 44: The Crucifixion - The Price of Redemption

A Sabbath Family Bible Study

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## Introduction

The crucifixion of Jesus Christ stands as the single most pivotal moment in human history. Every promise of the Old Testament, every sacrifice in the temple, every prophetic warning about sin and redemption pointed forward to this moment.

The cross was not a tragic accident. It was not merely the execution of an innocent man. It was the deliberate plan of God to redeem humanity from their sin. Jesus willingly submitted to suffering so that justice could be satisfied and mercy could be extended. At the cross we see the full weight of sin and the full depth of God's love. The Son of God bore punishment that belonged to us. The righteous suffered for the unrighteous so that sinners could be reconciled to God.

This week's study teaches families that redemption is costly, and grace flows from sacrifice. The cross reminds us that sin is deadly serious and that salvation is a gift purchased through the suffering of Christ.

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## Scripture Reading

(John 18:28–38, Luke 23:32–38, Luke 23:39–43, John 19:28–30, Psalm 22:16-18)

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### **John 18:28–38 - The Trial and Condemnation**

*28 Then led they Jesus from Caiaphas unto the hall of judgment: and it was early; and they themselves went not into the judgment hall, lest they should be defiled; but that they might eat the passover.*

*29 Pilate then went out unto them, and said, What accusation bring ye against this man?*

*30 They answered and said unto him, If he were not a malefactor, we would not have delivered him up unto thee.*

*31 Then said Pilate unto them, Take ye him, and judge him according to your law. The Jews therefore said unto him, It is not lawful for us to put any man to death:*

*32 That the saying of Jesus might be fulfilled, which he spake, signifying what death he should die.*

*33 Then Pilate entered into the judgment hall again, and called Jesus, and said unto him, Art thou the King of the Jews?*

*34 Jesus answered him, Sayest thou this thing of thyself, or did others tell it thee of me?*

*35 Pilate answered, Am I a Jew? Thine own nation and the chief priests have delivered thee unto me: what hast thou done?*

*36 Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.*

*37 Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.*

*38 Pilate saith unto him, What is truth? And when he had said this, he went out again unto the Jews, and saith unto them, I find in him no fault at all.*

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## **Commentary**

The trial of Jesus exposes the corruption of both religious and political authority. The religious leaders desired His death but avoided ceremonial defilement. They were concerned about ritual purity while plotting murder.

Pilate, representing Roman authority, recognized Jesus' innocence yet surrendered to political pressure. Jesus speaks calmly about His kingdom. It is not built through earthly power or violence. His mission was to testify to the truth. We must understand that truth often stands alone against powerful institutions. The cross reminds us that righteousness may suffer injustice in this world, yet God's purposes cannot be stopped.

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## **Luke 23:32–38 - The Crucifixion**

*32 And there were also two other, malefactors, led with him to be put to death.*

*33 And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left.*

*34 Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.*

*35 And the people stood beholding. And the rulers also with them derided him, saying, He saved others; let him save himself, if he be Christ, the chosen of God.*

*36 And the soldiers also mocked him, coming to him, and offering him vinegar,*

*37 And saying, If thou be the king of the Jews, save thyself.*

*38 And a superscription also was written over him in letters of Greek, and Latin, and Hebrew, THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.*

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## **Commentary**

The cross reveals both the cruelty of humanity and the mercy of Christ. Jesus is mocked, beaten, and publicly humiliated. Yet His first words from the cross are not anger but forgiveness. He prays for those responsible for His suffering.

The inscription above the cross (meant as mockery) declares truth: He is the King. Human authority condemned Him, but divine authority used the cross to accomplish redemption. Even in suffering, Christ displays mercy, patience, and His sovereign purpose.

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## **Luke 23:39–43**

*39 And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us.*

*40 But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation?*

*41 And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss.*

*42 And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.*

*43 And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.*

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## **Commentary**

Two criminals are hung beside Jesus. One mocks Him, while the other recognizes truth. The repentant thief acknowledges guilt, affirms Christ's innocence, and appeals for mercy. In response, Jesus promises salvation.

This moment demonstrates the power of grace. Redemption is not earned through works or time. Even in the final hours of life, sincere repentance receives mercy. We must remember that salvation depends entirely upon Christ. No person is beyond redemption when they turn to Him in humble faith.

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## **John 19:28–30 - The Death of Christ**

*28 After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst.*

*29 Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to his mouth.*

*30 When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.*

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## **Commentary**

Jesus declares, "It is finished." The Greek word **tetelestai** means completed, accomplished, or fully paid. The work of redemption was fulfilled, the debt of sin was satisfied, and the sacrificial system that pointed toward this moment reached its completion.

Christ's death was not defeat, but victory. He willingly laid down His life to accomplish the mission given by the Father. The cross therefore stands as both a symbol of suffering and the declaration of salvation.

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## **Discussion Questions for All Ages**

### **Young Children**

- Who was crucified on the cross?
- Did Jesus do anything wrong?

- What did Jesus pray for the people who hurt Him?

## Older Children & Teens

- Why did the religious leaders want Jesus killed?
- What did the repentant thief recognize about Jesus?
- What does “It is finished” mean?

## Adults

- How does the cross reveal both God’s justice and mercy?
  - Are we tempted to minimize the seriousness of sin?
  - How should Christ’s sacrifice shape the way we live and forgive others?
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## Psalm Reading: Psalm 22:16–18

**16** For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet.

**17** I may tell all my bones: they look and stare upon me.

**18** They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture.

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## Commentary

Psalm 22 was written centuries before crucifixion was practiced, yet it describes the suffering of the Messiah with remarkable clarity. This psalm reminds us that the cross was not unexpected. God foretold redemption long before it occurred. The suffering of Christ fulfilled prophecy and demonstrated God’s perfect plan.

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## Hymn: “The Old Rugged Cross”

By George Bennard (1912)

1.

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,  
the emblem of suffering and shame;  
and I love that old cross where the dearest and best  
for a world of lost sinners was slain.

**Refrain:**

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,  
till my trophies at last I lay down;  
I will cling to the old rugged cross,  
and exchange it some day for a crown.

2.

O that old rugged cross, so despised by the world,  
has a wondrous attraction for me;  
for the dear Lamb of God left his glory above  
to bear it to dark Calvary

**Refrain:**

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,  
till my trophies at last I lay down;  
I will cling to the old rugged cross,  
and exchange it some day for a crown.

3.

In that old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine,  
a wondrous beauty I see,  
for 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died,  
to pardon and sanctify me.

**Refrain:**

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,  
till my trophies at last I lay down;  
I will cling to the old rugged cross,  
and exchange it some day for a crown.

4.

To that old rugged cross I will ever be true,  
its shame and reproach gladly bear;  
then he'll call me some day to my home far away,  
where his glory forever I'll share.

**Refrain:**

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,  
till my trophies at last I lay down;  
I will cling to the old rugged cross,  
and exchange it some day for a crown.

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## **Family Application Points**

### **1. Remember the Cost of Sin**

The cross reminds us that sin requires judgment. Grace is precious because redemption was costly.

### **2. Practice Forgiveness**

Jesus forgave those who crucified Him. Families should learn to extend forgiveness rather than harbor bitterness.

### **3. Embrace Humble Gratitude**

Salvation is a gift purchased by Christ, not earned through human effort.

### **4. Live in Obedience**

Christ gave His life for us. Our response should be lives of faithful obedience to Him.

### **5. Center Your Home on the Cross**

Every Christian household should regularly remember and teach the meaning of Christ's sacrifice.

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## **A Sabbath Feast Prayer**

Father, we thank You for the sacrifice of Your Son. As we sit at this table, bless this food before us and bless the loving hands that prepared it. Remind our family that redemption came at great cost. Teach us to walk in humility, gratitude, and obedience because of what Christ has done.

Let our home always remember the cross and live in the light of Your mercy. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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## **Closing Prayer**

Lord Jesus, we thank You for the love displayed at the cross. You bore the punishment we deserved and opened the way to reconciliation with God. Guard our hearts from taking this gift lightly. Teach us to live with gratitude, humility, and faithful devotion. May our home be shaped by the truth of Your sacrifice and the hope of Your redemption. In Your holy name we pray, Amen.