

Week 29 Family Letter

Jesus Saves Us from Sin: The Crucifixion

(Matthew 27:27–56)

It was a sad day when Jesus died. Jesus was punished for our sins. He died on the cross. His body was buried in a tomb.

But Jesus is true God. He is all powerful. He is more powerful than sin and death. After three days, Jesus became alive again. He came out of the tomb! Jesus came alive again at Easter!

We are sad when people we love die. We miss them. There is nothing we can do for them. But Jesus is true God. He has power over death, and He promises that all who believe in Him will live again, someday, with Him in heaven. Jesus gives this promise to you and me. The power by which the Lord raises the dead is the justification and forgiveness of the Gospel, as the Bible Words remind us.

Dear Family,

Let your child color the cross in the Bible picture. Explain that the cross is empty because Jesus died there and then was buried in a tomb. But on the third day, Easter Sunday, the tomb also became empty because Jesus is alive!

Young children are limited in their experience and understanding of death. They view it as something temporary and reversible. When young children hear about Jesus coming alive again after being dead, they are not surprised. It's what He was supposed to do.

When you and your child must deal with death, talk about it simply and honestly. You will grieve when a loved one dies, and it's okay to let a child see your grief as you say, "I miss Grandma so much." At the same time, also express your trust in the promise of eternal life given by our risen Jesus.

Death is a part of life on earth, because of sin. Talk about the difference between an alive, moving insect and a still, dead one. Treat the life and death of God's creation with respect and dignity. Your child will take behavior cues from you. Avoid terms such as "passed away" or "fell asleep," as these can frighten and confuse children. Share your feelings, but most important, share your faith in Jesus. Talk about how Jesus knows when we are sad and how you know that Jesus will make our sadness go away. This is a great time for prayer—a simple, honest prayer for Jesus' help. Read the story on page 400 of *The Story Bible* together.

Bible Words

Forgive us our sins.

Luke 11:4

