

Week 29

Jesus Suffers and Dies

Jesus loves people. He went from town to town healing them and blessing them. But some people didn't like Jesus. They wanted to kill Him. These people had Jesus arrested and taken to the rulers of the land. The rulers said, "Jesus must die." Soldiers put Jesus on the cross. But Jesus did not stop loving people. He forgave them. He died to forgive the sins of the whole world. When Jesus died on the cross, He was being punished for our sins too. He took the punishment that belonged to us. He did this because He loves us and wants us to be children of God.

After Jesus died, people placed Him in a grave and rolled a stone in front of it. But that is not the end of the story. (*) Jesus is true God and all powerful. He became alive again at Easter! Jesus uses His great power to bless us and to give us the promise of eternal life in heaven.

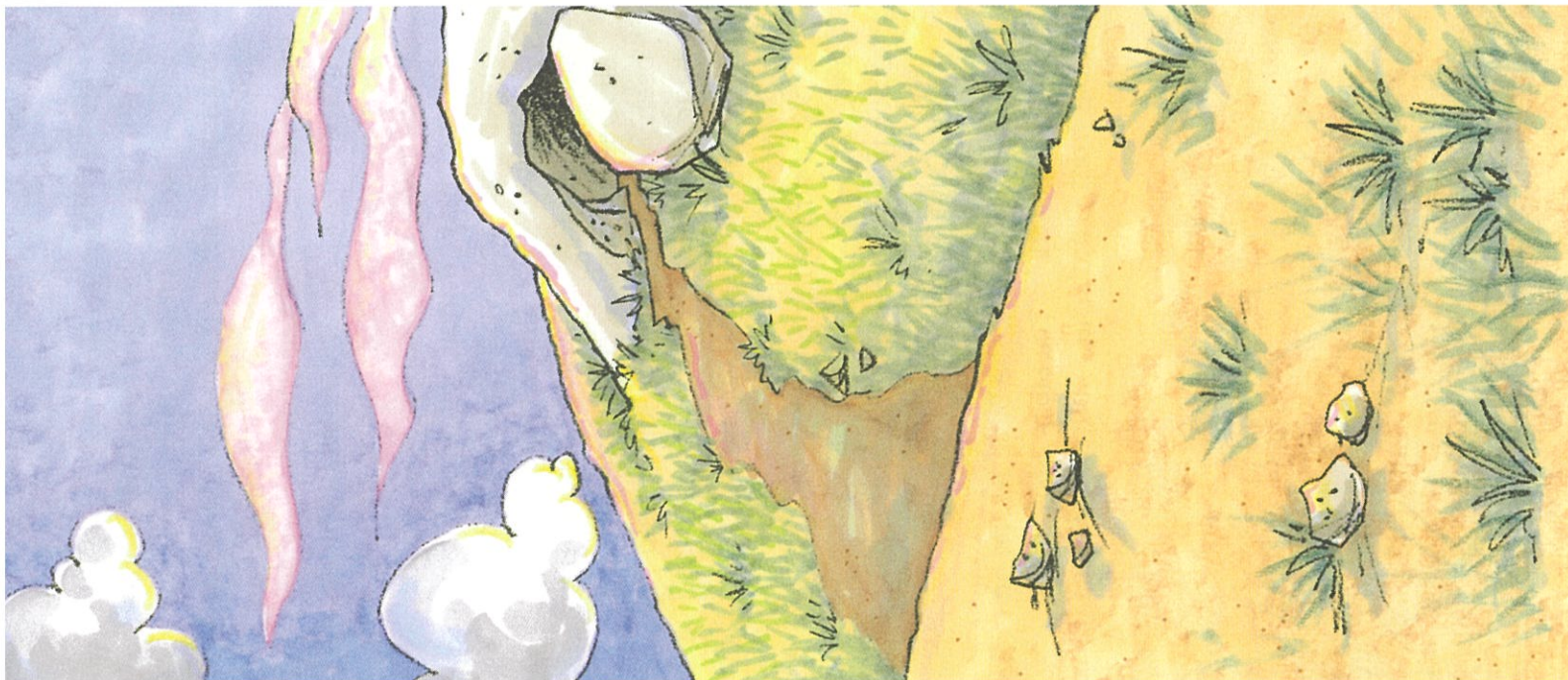
Fold the family letter back so your child can focus on the big picture as you tell the Bible story. At the point in the story indicated by an asterisk (), fold the picture strip forward, overlapping part of the big picture. Talk about what has changed in the picture as you continue the story.*

Think about It

Read Luke 23:26-56, and discover God's great love for you. Because Jesus died and rose again, He has conquered sin and death. He gives His victory to us! He promises forgiveness and eternal life in heaven.

Bible Words

We believe that Jesus died and rose again.
1 Thessalonians 4:14





Dear Family,

Sin cannot be ignored. God is just and must punish sin. But instead of punishing us, He punished Jesus as our substitute. Because of Jesus, God forgives, loves, and blesses us—no strings attached. You are an important model for helping your child know unconditional love. Even though your child's actions may annoy, aggravate, and anger you, you still love your child. Children need to know there are consequences for sin (such as not being allowed to play with a toy that has been mistreated). They also need to hear your words of forgiveness and continued love and to feel the hugs of love after a confession and repentance of wrongdoing. Help your child to say, "I'm sorry; please forgive me." Be quick to say, "I forgive you, and so does Jesus." Pray together. Celebrate the new life you have every day in Jesus.

Read more about the Bible lesson on pages 398–401 in *The Story Bible*, available from Concordia Publishing House (CPH).