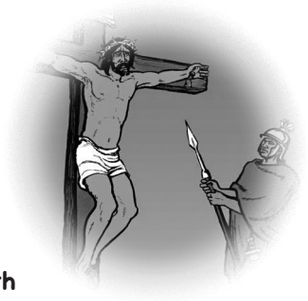
LESSON 23

JESUS WAS FAITHFUL, EVEN TO DEATH



Aim: **To show the children how the stories of these great people of faith pointed the way to Jesus, the Son of God, who was faithful unto death.**

Scripture Reading: **Matthew 27:27–56; Romans 5:8–10**

Memory Verse: **Exodus 20:17 (the Ten Commandments)**

"You shall not covet your neighbour's house. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour."

Presenting the Lesson

Starting point

If you walk around a town you will see notices telling you where things are, like a church or an office building. Sometimes the notices are shaped like arrows, pointing in the direction of a specific place.

Main Points of the Lesson

1. The lessons in this book have been about great men and women of faith: Elisha, Jonah, Esther, Daniel and his three friends, and Nehemiah. They all had to overcome great difficulties and problems because of mankind's sin. They all pointed the way to God. Elisha and Jonah were prophets. Their job was to teach people about God and show them the way to know God. But people easily forgot about God and his commandments. Remember how sorry and ashamed the people were when Ezra read God's law to them?
2. Finally when the time was right, God sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, to show us what God is like. Jesus himself is God. He came to this world to show us how to live, so that other people may see God in our lives. God saved Elisha and Daniel from death many times, but Jesus himself was willing to die for us.
3. Jesus was arrested and sentenced to die on a cross, which is a very cruel and slow way of dying. The crime they said Jesus had committed, was to call himself the king of the Jews. Therefore the soldiers of the Roman governor dressed him up as a king and mocked and beat him. Remember how the Jews' enemies laughed at them when they rebuilt the wall in Lesson 21? Jesus could have stopped those who mocked him, but he did not (Matt 27:27–31).
4. Hanging on the cross, Jesus refused to take some wine, which would have dulled the pain. He was taking the full punishment for our sins. The people who were watching mocked

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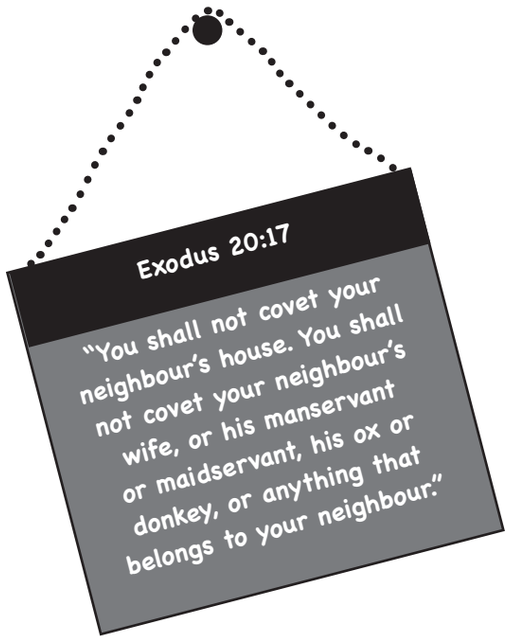
Jesus. They said that if he really was the Son of God, he should prove it by saving himself from the cross. They did not understand that Jesus stayed there because he loves us and wants us all to be saved (Matt 27:34, 37-43; Rom 5:6-9).

5. At noon everything went dark. The sun was darkened because the Son of God was dying for the world (Matt 27:45). At three o'clock Jesus died. He gave up his life willingly. People usually are weak when they die, but notice that the Bible says Jesus gave a loud cry at that moment (27:46-50). Many strange things happened in the city of Jerusalem when Jesus died (27:51-52).
6. The soldiers who were on guard were terrified. At least one of them realised that Jesus was no ordinary man. **Show Picture 23.** That Roman soldier confessed, "He really was the Son of God!" (27:54).
7. Of course Jesus is not still hanging on the cross. He really died, but he arose from the dead. Before Jesus went back to the Father many witnesses saw him (28:1-20).

Our Response to the Story

Many people walked by or stood watching as Jesus died. Let us think who were there. The soldiers who had laughed at him, the other people who mocked him, and those among the crowd who were disappointed because Jesus didn't perform a miracle and come down from the cross. However, there was one soldier who in the end believed that Jesus really was the Son of God.

By his sacrifice on the cross Jesus brought forgiveness for our sins. From being God's enemies we can become God's friends. **Read Romans 5:7-11 to the children.** What a wonderful change! Come, let us thank God for this.



Instil the Memory Verse

Review all the verses of Exodus 20 the children have learnt.

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