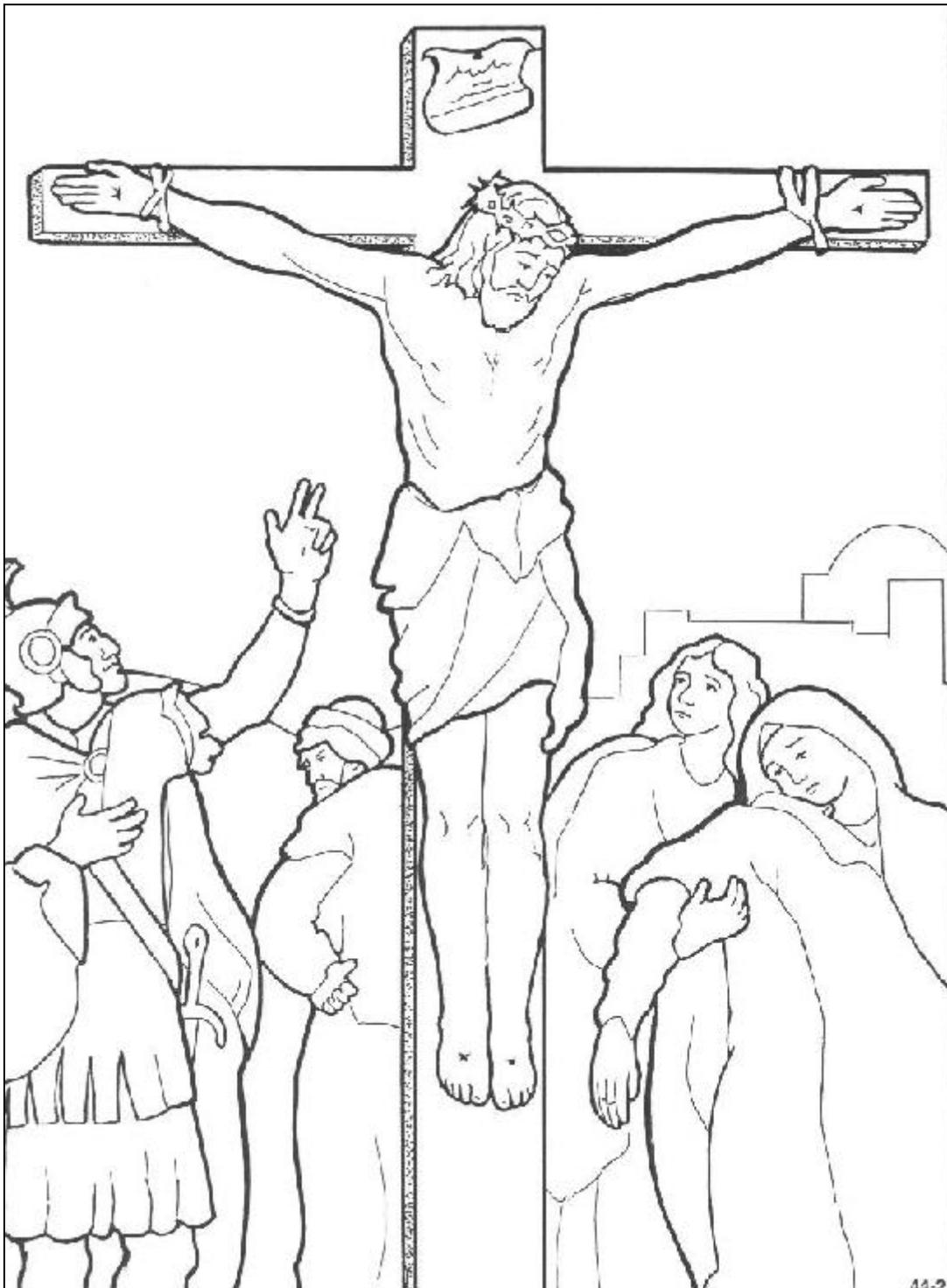


The Crucifixion of Jesus

Matthew 27:32-56; Mark 15:21-41; Luke 23:26-49; John 19:17-30



The Story

Early in the morning, (on the day that we call Good Friday), Jesus was led to a hill outside of Jerusalem to be crucified. This means He was nailed to a cross. In those days under Roman law, only the very worst criminals like robbers and murderers were put to death in this way. Jesus hadn't done anything wrong. He died on the cross in order to pay for our sins.

Jesus was willing to do this because He loves us so much. Even when He was hanging on the cross in so much pain, He showed how He loved everyone, even His enemies. The first thing He did was to pray that God would forgive the men who had nailed Him to the cross.

There were two robbers that were crucified with Jesus. One of them was sorry for his sins, and he told the other man that Jesus had done nothing wrong. Jesus told him that he would be with Him in heaven that day.

Even though Jesus' body was very weak and in a lot of pain, He thought about others. He saw His mother, Mary, at the foot of the cross, and asked His disciple John to take care of her.

While Jesus was on the cross, it became very dark in the middle of the day. During this time, Jesus was suffering the pain of being crucified

and also the punishment for the sins of the whole world. This was so terrible for Him that He cried out, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me?"

Then Jesus said, "It is finished!" This meant that His suffering was over and the sins of the world were paid for. Now everyone who believes that Jesus died for them will be able to go to heaven.

At the very time that Jesus died, the earth shook and big rocks split apart. God was showing the people that this was not an ordinary man that was on the cross. This was the Son of God.

Only the Son of God could pay for the sins of the whole world.

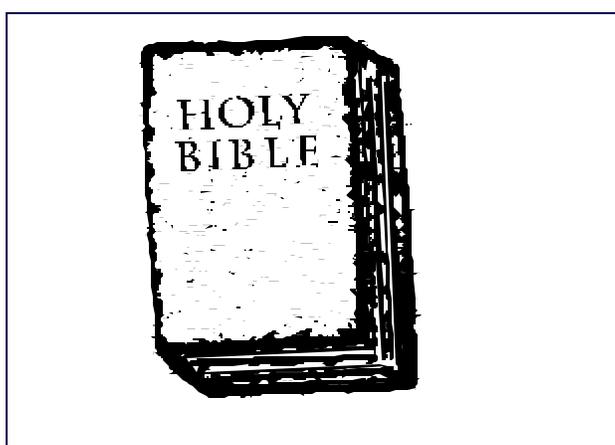
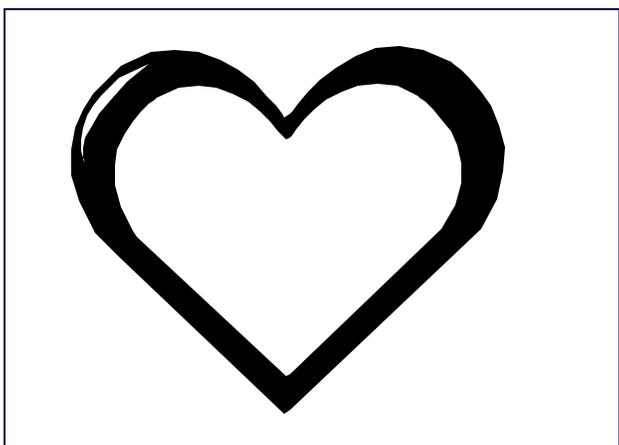
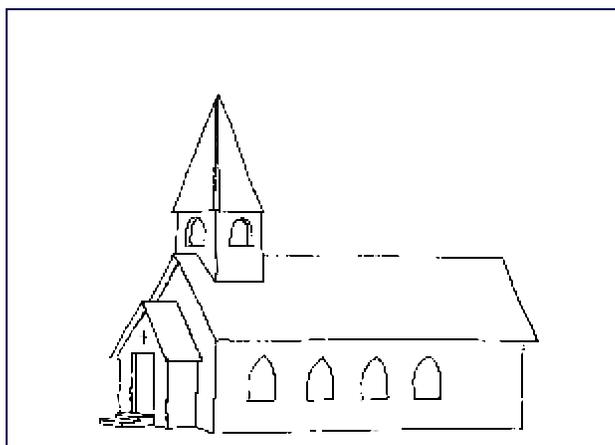
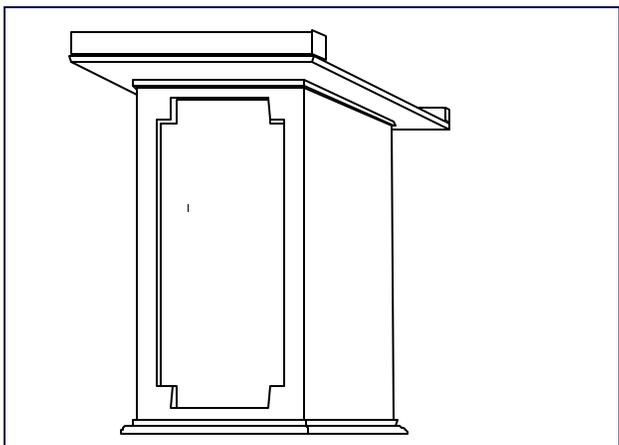
Questions

What do you think of when you see a cross?

Why is the cross so important to us?

Name some places where you might see a cross.

Activity - Complete these pictures by drawing a cross where you think it should go. Then color the pictures.



Memory Passage

**Behold the Lamb of God Who takes away
the sin of the world! John 1:29**

Prayer

Dear Jesus, I feel so bad about my sins when I know how much You had to suffer to pay for them. Please forgive me for all the wrong things that I do and help me to live as Your child. Thank you for dying on the cross for me. Amen.