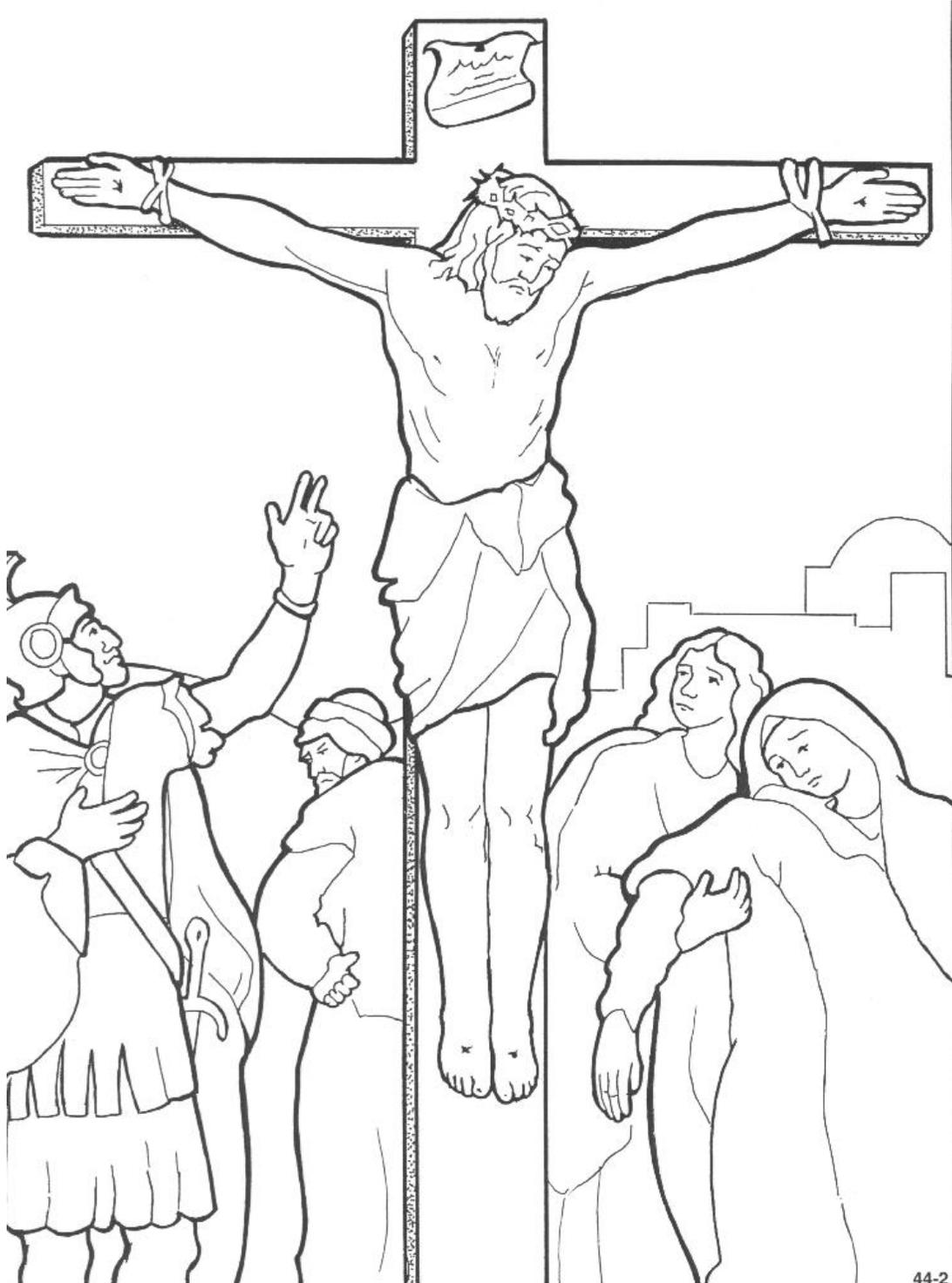# The Crucifixion of Jesus
Matthew 27:32-56; Mark 15:21-41; Luke 23:26-49; John 19:17-30

44-2

The Story

On Good Friday, at 9:00 in the morning, the soldiers led Jesus to a hill outside of Jerusalem called Golgotha. Here He would be crucified, nailed to a cross. This was the punishment that was used for the worst of criminals. Jesus had done nothing wrong. He was willing to be put to death on the cross to pay for our sins. He took the punishment that we deserved because He loves us so much.

Jesus was supposed to carry His own cross, but He was so weak from being beaten the night before that a man named Simon was chosen to carry His cross for Him.

Soon after the soldiers nailed Jesus to the cross, Jesus showed how much He loved even His enemies. He prayed, "Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing."

There were two other criminals who were crucified with Him. One of them made fun of Jesus, but the other one said that he believed Jesus had done nothing wrong. He was sorry for his sins. He spoke to Jesus and begged Him, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom." Jesus told him, "Today you will be with Me in Paradise."

Even while Jesus was suffering, He thought about others instead of Himself. When He saw his mother at the foot of the cross, He asked His disciple John to take care of her.

In the middle of the day it became very dark for three hours. During this time Jesus was suffering not only the pain of the crucifixion, but also the punishment for the sins of the whole world. This caused Him to cry out to His Heavenly Father, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"

Before Jesus died, He said, "It is finished." This meant that His suffering was over and He had paid for the sins of the world. Jesus suffered all of this because of our sins. Just think of how much He loved us! Now everyone who believes that Jesus died for them will be saved.

When Jesus died, there were some strange things that happened. The heavy curtain that was in the temple was torn in half. There was also an earthquake. Large rocks were split apart and graves were opened. Many believers who had died, came out of their graves and appeared in Jerusalem. Everyone that saw this knew that this was not an ordinary man that had died. This was the Son of God. Only He could pay for the sins of the whole world.

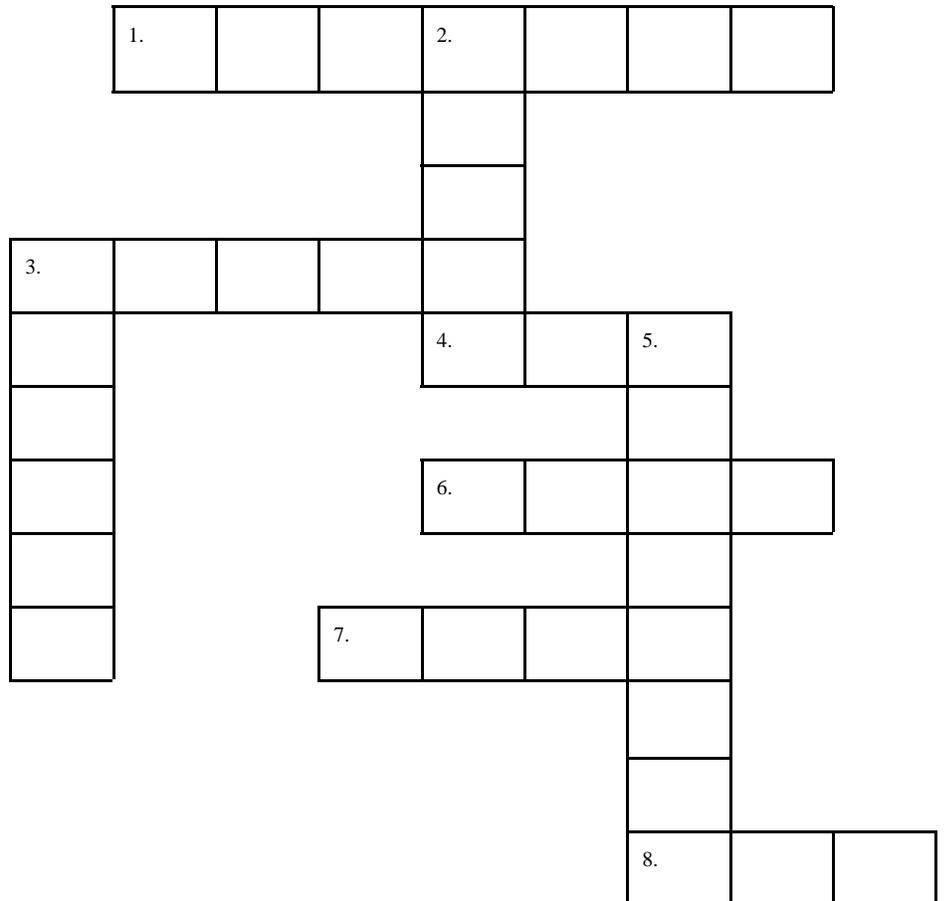# Crossword Puzzle - Use these words to fill in the crossword puzzle below.

JESUS   MARY   SAD   JOHN   CRUCIFY   SIN   JOYFUL   CROSS   DARKNESS

ACROSS
1. to put to death on a cross
3. the Son of God
4. how we feel when we hear the story of Jesus' death
6. Jesus' mother
7. the disciple who took care of Mary
8. Jesus death paid for our _____.

DOWN
2. what Jesus died on
3. how we feel about our sins being forgiven
5. this covered the earth for three hours while Jesus was on the cross

Something To Think About

1. Why did Jesus, Who had done nothing wrong have to suffer and die?

2. How do you feel when you hear how Jesus suffered for your sins?

3. How did Jesus set an example for us even when He was dying on the cross?

4. Why is the cross so important to us?

5. Name some places where you might see a cross.

Memory Passage

John 1:29 - Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

Hymn Study (Common Service Book # 544)

There is a green hill far away,
Outside a city wall,
Where the dear Lord was crucified,
Who died to save us all.

There was no other good enough
To pay the price of sin;
He only could unlock the gate
Of heaven, and let us in.

Talk about what the hymn writer means by these words.

1. "green hill"_____

2. "dear Lord"_____

3. "no other good enough" _____

4. "unlock the gate of heaven" _____

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