

Bible Lesson

40. Jesus is Buried

Matthew 27; Mark 15; Luke 23; John 19



Joseph asked for the body of Jesus. He wrapped it and placed it in a tomb.

Mark 15:46

Jesus is Buried

Joseph of Arimathea was waiting for the Kingdom of God. He was a secret believer who loved Jesus. After Jesus died, Joseph became brave. He went right to Pilate. He asked for the body of Jesus. The governor said, "Yes."

Joseph took the body off the cross. Nicodemus helped. He was another disciple. They wrapped Jesus in a long cloth. They added myrrh. The spices mixed with their tears.

Joseph laid Jesus in his own tomb in a garden. The tomb was like a cave, cut into rock. He rolled a big stone in front of the cave.

Pilate said, "Jesus' disciples might try to steal the dead body." He ordered many guards to stand in front of the tomb.

Watching all this were the women followers. They went home and got spices to take care of the body.

The 11 disciples were all hiding together in a room. What would happen to them now? What if the Jews came for them too?

They were scared and sad. So sad.

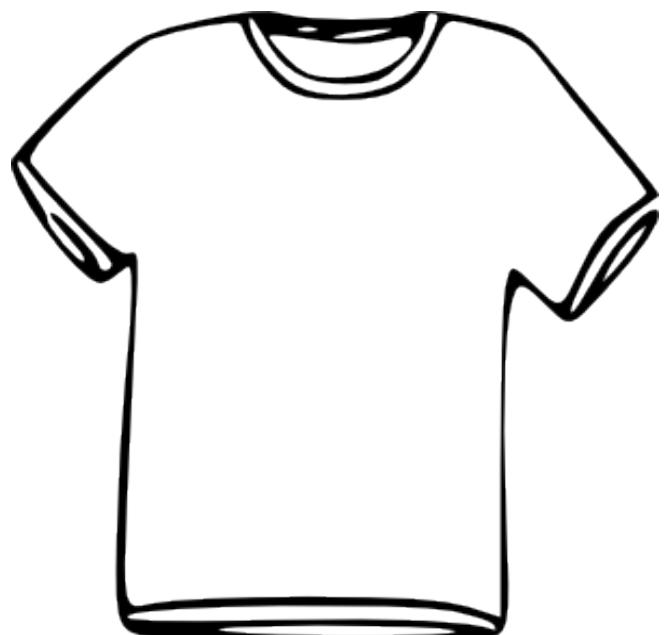
Death is the end of this story... or is it?

Questions

1. How did Joseph, Nicodemus, and the women show their love for Jesus?
2. What were the other disciples doing? Why?
3. In many countries around the world, followers of Jesus are attacked and must hide, just because they love Jesus. Do followers in the USA pay a price to follow Jesus?
4. Are you a secret believer or are you a brave and proud follower of Jesus? How can you show your love for Jesus?

Dear Jesus,
Help me to be a proud
and brave follower. Thank
you for paying the highest
cost, with your life. Help
me to stand up for you, no
matter what the price.
Amen

If you could share Jesus on a t-shirt,
what would you say? Print your
message on the shirt.



Story S-t-r-e-tc-h-ing

40. Jesus is Buried

Show students where the story is in the Bible. Use the Bible references above the illustration.

Before you read:

Activate Prior Knowledge

- a) Have you ever been to a funeral? Whose body got buried? Was it sad?
- b) If your best friend had just been arrested and killed, what would you do?
- c) What did the apostles do after Jesus died? How do you think they felt?

After you read:

Friends to the End

While the apostles hid in fear, a few of Jesus' close friends stood by him at his worse hour while he died. Joseph was a Jewish leader and secret believer. He risked a lot to step up and ask for the body, as did Nicodemus. If you risked embarrassment, arrest, or pain...would you stand by Jesus? Sitting down, go around the class one-by-one. Stand while you say, "No matter what I face, I will stand in my place. Jesus, I will be your friend. No matter what until the end."

Wrapping Jesus in Food

Use a cheese stick to represent Jesus laying in the tomb. Take a toothpick and poke dots in the cheese for the eyes, mouth, crown of thorns, and nail prints in hands and feet. (Pull some cheese apart slightly from the full cheese stick to form arms and feet.) Dab the toothpick into red food dye and fill in the dots. Wrap a flour tortilla around the cheese. Bake in the microwave or the oven. Some people like to use the same idea with a hot dog and strips of refrigerator rolls (pull into strips), wrap, and bake in the oven.

Kids of Courage

The disciples needed courage after Jesus died. Believers still need to be brave today, especially in countries where there is persecution. Explore:

www.KidsOfCourage.com Find the "Torchlighters' Ultimate Activity Book" and DVD set. You'll love the 144 pages of stories, devotionals, challenging coloring pages, and more related to the 16 heroes on these popular DVDs:

<https://secure.persecution.com/p-6905-the-torchlighters-ultimate-activity-book-and-dvd-set.aspx>

What does FEAR Feel Like?

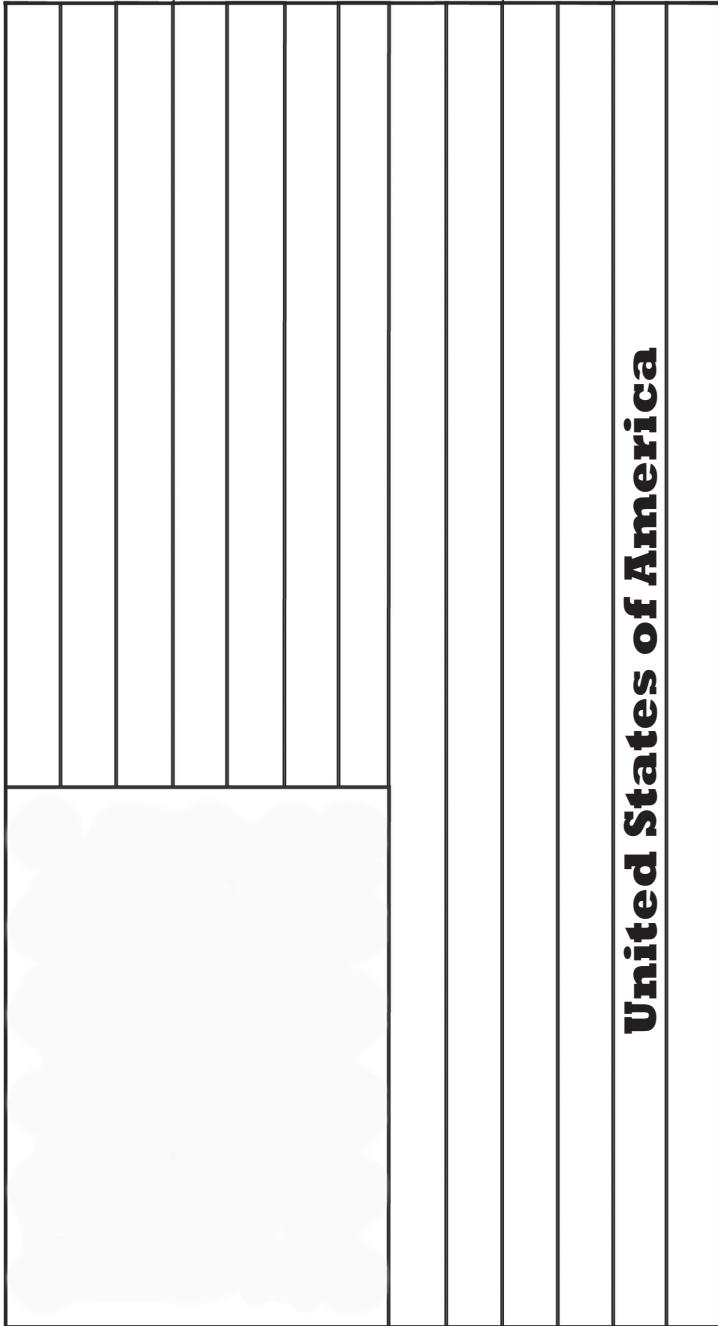
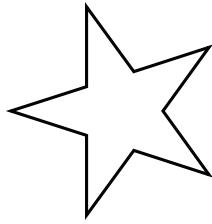
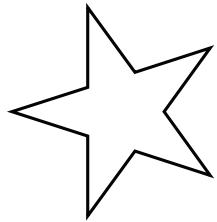
What were the apostles doing while Jesus was being buried? In the USA, we don't understand the intense fear the apostles went through as Jesus was arrested, killed, and buried because we have freedom of religion. Go back through the story. Half of the class can intersperse this line from John 20:1 with the story the other half of the class tells – "The disciples were together with the door locked for fear of the Jews."

The Blessings of Liberty (Part 1)

Read the First Amendment below the flag. Talk about what that means. Then fill in the stripes using dark pen what you are grateful for. Use the list on the next page if you need help. Color the stripes red over the phrases you wrote. Use star stickers or draw your own while you reread and turn the flag into a prayer.

**Thank you, God, for
my freedom**

Thank you that I can freely ...



United States Constitution Amendment I

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech or of the press or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

The Blessings of Liberty (Part 2)

Use these phrases or ideas to fill in the stripes in the flag on page 5. As you color over the stripes in red, talk about the sacrifices our soldiers made to secure our liberty. What does this mean – Freedom is not free? Jesus also sacrificed for our freedoms and futures.

Thank you that I can freely...

go to church

sing songs of praise

own my own Bible

read my Bible

share Bible verses with others

watch Christian movies and shows

tell my friends about Jesus

listen to Christian radio

meet with other Christians

enjoy Vacation Bible School

go on mission trips

pray with other believers

proudly wear my cross

put on a Christian t-shirt

teach and learn about the Lord

tell the good news to anyone, anytime

read Christian books and magazines

change my religion when I grow up

compete on Christian sport teams

go to camps that teach about God

be enrolled a Christian school

stay at home for school and learn about God

Feelings of Failure

Create columns on the board using these headings: Sadness, Fear, Anger, Confusion, Guilt. Have students write the words below under the columns and tell why the disciples might have felt that way after the death and burial of their friend and Lord Jesus. Now, have the students write some of those words onto the illustrated page. Roll up the page and wrap in lengths of paper towels. Hide it in a "tomb" (box). On Easter, unroll it and throw away all those bad feelings. Talk about the happiness and wonder of Easter.

hopeless	guilty	embarrassed
sad	miserable	frightened
heart broken	depressed	scared
crushed	bad	shocked
shaken	defeated	nervous
afraid	stunned	worried
guilty	discouraged	mad
confused	upset	lost
angry	baffled	lonely
hurt	abandoned	alone
full of regret	ashamed	beaten



Defend Your Faith

The women who loved Jesus went home after he died and prepared spices and perfumes, as was the custom. Collect a variety of spices and bottles of perfume. While you share these facts, let the kids smell and taste them. Some religions believe that Jesus didn't really die but just fainted and got himself out of the tomb. But if we look at the customs of those days, we discover it would be impossible for anyone to break out of the burial clothes or the tomb. Have each of the kids share a fact below. Act out a defense of your faith as someone says, "Come on, Jesus didn't actually die on the cross." Which student can give the best defense? Why does it matter? The death, burial, and resurrection of Christ is absolutely key and central to the Christian faith. Paul said in 1 Corinthians 15:12-19 that if Christ had not been raised, that our faith is useless.

* Jesus' body was wrapped in at least 75 pounds of spices mixed with aloe and long strips of grave clothes. It became like cement.

* The governor Pilate said, "Take a guard. Make the tomb as secure as you know how." The rock that was rolled in front of the tomb would have weighed two tons!

* An official Roman seal was placed over the tomb. Anyone who broke the seal would be immediately killed.

* They stationed at least four highly trained Roman guards who carried swords at the entrance to the tomb.

* Some researchers believe there may have been 16-40 soldiers there.

* More than 500 people saw Jesus alive after he rose from the dead. The church would not have been able to survive and thrive if people were telling such a huge lie. In fact, Jesus did die and rise again.

* All eleven disciples (except one) so believed that Jesus died, was buried, and resurrected that they gave their lives for this truth.

Extra Fun

Give each child a wide craft stick and draw closed eyes and a mouth on it to represent Jesus. Roll white toilet paper around the stick. Mix aloe (either from an aloe plant or use after-sun lotion) with the spices. Use the mixture to secure the wrappings. Get your hand wet and squeeze it with water. Notice that it has hardened the next day.