

# God Graciously Forgives

## Bible Lesson: Luke 23:32-43

### NEW WORDS

wages  
religions  
thieves  
gift

unacceptable  
earn  
Paradise

Do you deserve to die? Believe it or not, you do. Everyone does. We have all sinned. Our sin is *unacceptable* to God, and He will not allow it in His presence. The punishment for sin is eternal death, which is separation from God forever.

So what can we do with our sin? There is nothing we can do ourselves to erase our sin.

Christ took the punishment for our sin by dying for us. Jesus wants us to come to Him and confess our sin. He promises that when we pray "Forgive us our trespasses," God will forgive our sin. Then when we die, we will live with God forever in heaven.

fear

guilt

separation from God



punishment

eternal death

Some *religions* teach that you have to work hard at doing good things to try to *earn* the forgiveness of your sins. Other religions teach that you need to pray many times a day and in certain ways to be acceptable to God. But when have you done enough good things? When have you prayed enough?

Luke 23 tells about Jesus' death on the cross. Two *thieves* hung on either side of Jesus. These men had sinned and deserved to die for what they had done. But one of the thieves realized that he was hanging next to Jesus, the

Son of God.

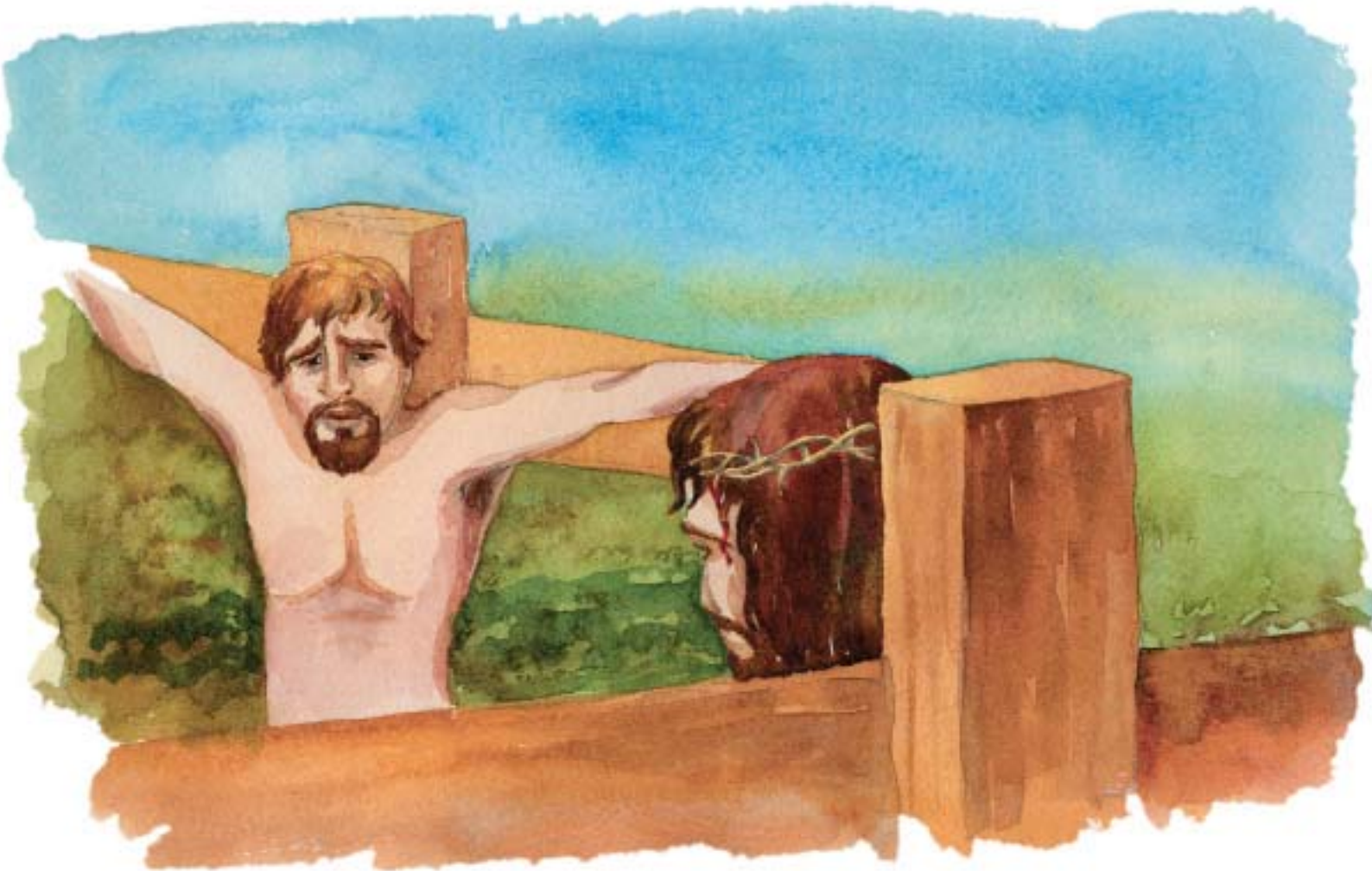
Jesus was the one person who could offer him life.

The thief knew there was nothing he could do to forgive his own sins. So he

cried to Jesus, "Remember me when you come into Your kingdom!" This was his

cry for forgiveness.

How did Jesus respond to the thief? Did He tell him that it was too late to ask for forgiveness? Did He turn him away, saying he had not done enough to earn his forgiveness? No! Jesus told



the man, "Today you shall be with Me in *Paradise*."

Jesus is the only way to heaven. The thief realized this while on the cross. He did not deserve forgiveness. Jesus was his only hope. It is the same for you and me. We are not worthy of God's forgiveness either. We ask for forgiveness, knowing Jesus is our only hope. God willingly forgives us because He is gracious.

Suppose you meet a man who offers you a thousand dollars! You have done nothing to earn or deserve the money, but out of kindness towards you he wants to give you the money. What a great gift!

This is how *God's* grace is too! It is an undeserved *gift*. We have not earned it, yet *God* chooses to give it. We have sinned, and we don't deserve forgiveness. But by *God's* grace, He cleanses our hearts. This is the undeserved gift of grace. Because of Jesus, *God* freely offers His grace to us!

Is there any better gift than the forgiveness of your sin? Is there any greater message to us as *God's* children? This one gift removes all fear of death and gives us eternal life. Praise *God* for His wonderful gift!

## The Fifth Petition: And forgive us our trespasses, . . .

**What does this mean?** We pray in this petition that our heavenly Father would not regard our sins nor because of them deny our prayers; for we neither merit nor are worthy of those things for which we pray; but that He would grant us all things through grace, even though we sin daily, and deserve nothing but punishment. . . .

Look for the KEY WORDS in your lesson to answer these questions.  
Then mark the words in your lesson with colored pencils.

1. WHO has sinned? Circle in black.
2. WHAT can we do with our sin? Draw a red cross next to these words.
3. WHAT do some religions teach that we have to do to receive forgiveness of sins? Circle in purple.
4. When Jesus was dying on the cross, WHO hung on crosses beside Him? Underline in blue.
5. WHERE did Jesus promise one thief he would go after he died? Circle in yellow.
6. WHAT do we call something given to us freely that we do not have to earn or work for? Draw a green box around the word.

What do we pray for in the Fifth Petition? Fill in the blanks below.

We ask that our heavenly Father would not regard our \_\_\_\_\_  
Nor because of them deny our \_\_\_\_\_;  
For we neither merit nor are \_\_\_\_\_ of those things  
For which we \_\_\_\_\_;  
But that He would grant us all things through \_\_\_\_\_,  
Even though we sin \_\_\_\_\_,  
And deserve nothing but \_\_\_\_\_.



**A  
P  
P  
L  
Y**

Unscramble the words at the right to help you answer these questions.

1. What do we do every day that we need forgiveness for? \_\_\_\_\_
2. How often do we sin? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What do we deserve for our sins? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What do we ask that God would not deny? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Through what does God grant us all things? \_\_\_\_\_

yarpres ruo  
thinspuemn  
nis  
ceagr  
yaild

\* Confess your sins to God every day. Remember to thank Him for graciously forgiving you!

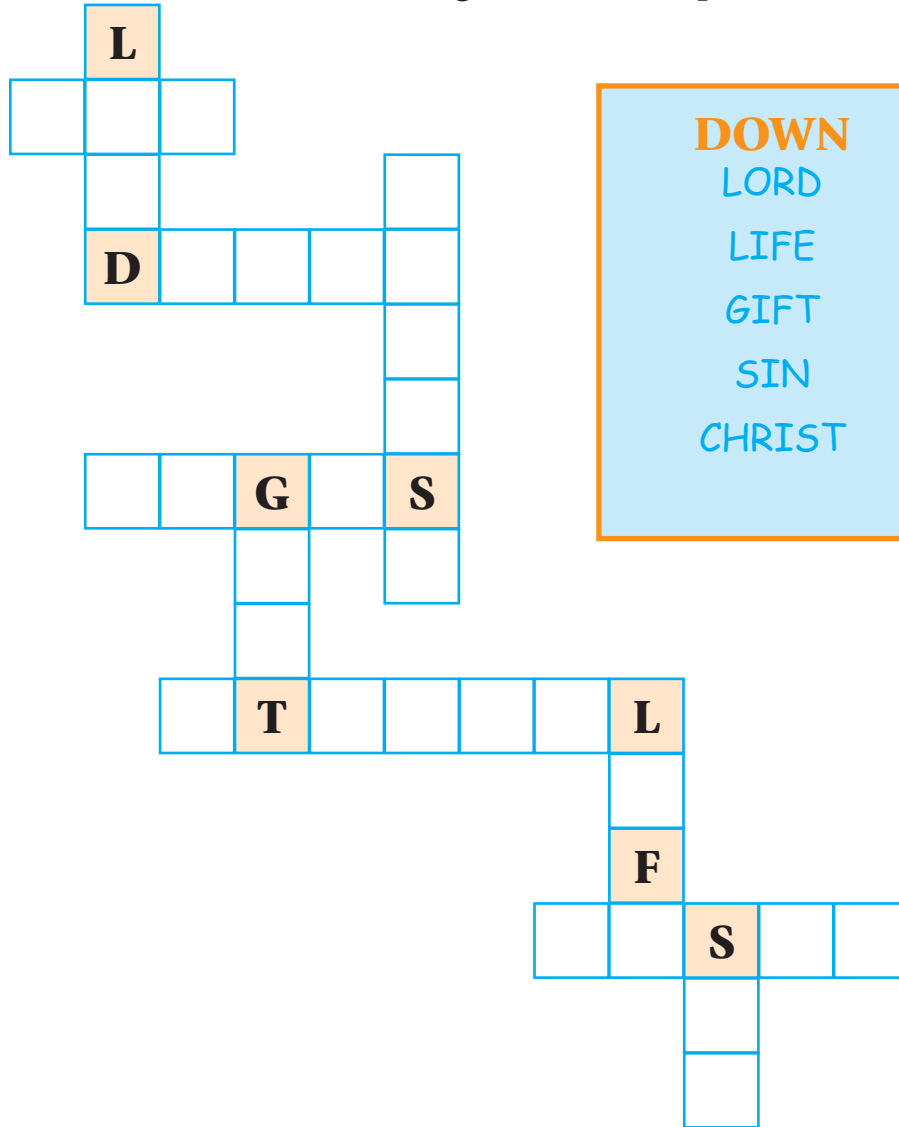
## Memory Verse

**For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

*Romans 6:23*

**Enrichment Memory Verse:** *Romans 5:8*

Fill the missing letters to complete the word puzzle.



<b>DOWN</b>	<b>ACROSS</b>
LORD	GOD
LIFE	ETERNAL
GIFT	WAGES
SIN	DEATH
CHRIST	JESUS

**Forgiveness is a LIFE or DEATH matter!**

**Finish these sentences by putting an "X" across the incorrect word.**

- |   |               |
|---|---------------|
| 1. The wages of sin is ____ . Romans 6:23                           | LIFE / DEATH. |
| 2. Jesus took the punishment for our sins by His ____ . I Peter 2:4 | LIFE / DEATH. |
| 3. God's free gift is eternal ____ . Romans 6:23                    | LIFE / DEATH. |
| 4. This free gift of God removes our fear of ____ . Psalm 23:4      | LIFE / DEATH. |
| 5. Faith in Jesus assures us of eternal ____ . John 3:16            | LIFE / DEATH. |