



The Suffering Savior

Crucify Him! Crucify Him!" the crowd shouted.

"Why? What evil has He done?" Pilate asked.

But they shouted all the more, "Crucify Him!" What an angry crowd they were, and so full of hate.

Seven hundred years earlier, the prophet Isaiah wrote about Jesus' sufferings and about this terrible day that would come. He wrote that the Savior would be **oppressed** and **afflicted**, **despised** and **forsaken**. Now it was happening. Jesus the very Son of God, the only man to live without ever sinning, stood before a wild crowd who was **demanding** His death. Jesus did not speak even one word in His own defense, just as Isaiah had prophesied.

The Jewish leaders had arrested Jesus and wanted Him to be sentenced to death. So they brought Jesus to Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor. Pilate found Him to be innocent. Jesus did not deserve to die. Pilate tried to release Him. But the Jewish leaders stirred up the crowd, so that they were demanding Jesus' death. Giving in to the crowd, Pilate handed Jesus over to the Roman soldiers to be crucified.

The soldiers beat Jesus and **scourged** Him. His body was covered with cuts and bruises.



The flesh of His back was torn. Mocking Jesus' claim to be king, they put a purple robe on

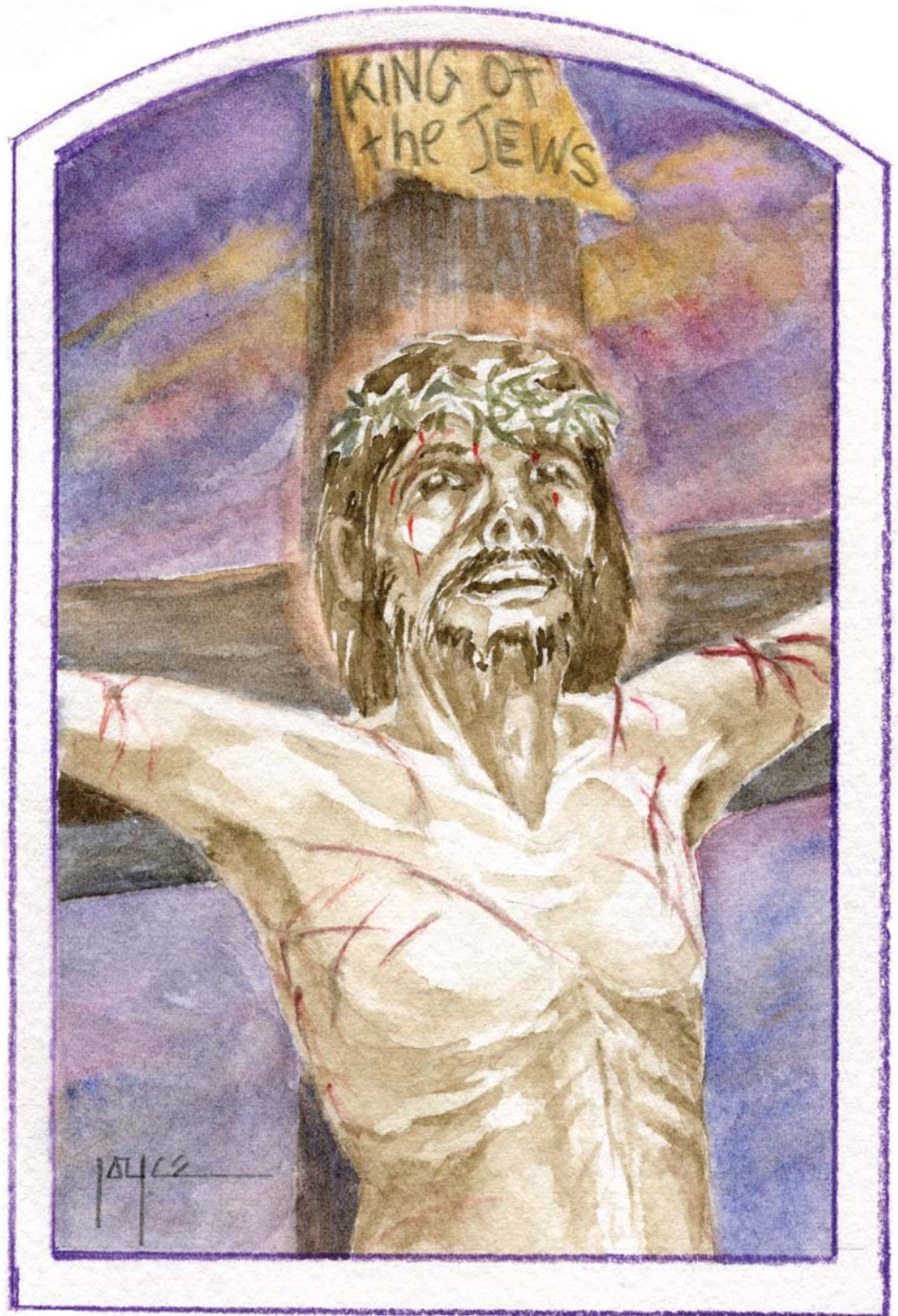
Him and pressed a crown of thorns onto His head. After all this, they forced Jesus to carry His heavy cross to a hill outside of Jerusalem. There the soldiers fastened Him to the cross by driving long nails through His hands and feet.

Where were all of Jesus' friends? What about the disciples? Jesus was forsaken.

The chief priests, scribes, and people passing by **jeered** and **mocked** Jesus. They were saying, "He saved others; He cannot save Himself. Let this Christ come down from the cross so we can believe in Him."

But Jesus didn't come down from the cross. Why did He stay there and die? Because of His great love for us, He was faithful to God's plan and stayed there to take the punishment for our sins. While He was dying on the cross, even God the Father turned away from Jesus. Because Jesus took our sin upon Himself, He endured the **agony** and separation from God that we deserve.

Jesus died in our place to bring forgiveness for all our sins. In an earlier lesson, we learned that Jesus is our great High Priest. As high priest, He offered Himself as the perfect



sacrifice for the sin of the world. We cannot define our worth with money, because God defined our worth with the blood of Jesus. He paid a great price to purchase your freedom and give you life. You are His treasured possession. You are greatly loved by God!

ACTIVITY 1

He Suffered and Died for Me

Answer the following questions after reading today's lesson.

1. What did the people do who walked past Jesus on the cross? _____

2. How do you think you may have responded if you had been there? _____

3. Why did Jesus suffer and die on the cross? _____

4. Describe some of the ways Jesus suffered. _____

5. What was the worst thing Jesus endured? _____

6. Look up Isaiah 53:3–7. Write four words or phrases that tell about Jesus' suffering for us.
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____



ACTIVITY 2

Jesus Saves!

Follow the rope to the finish line, copying every third letter in the blanks below to discover something you should remember every day. The first letter is S.



Because I am _____,
 I need _____
 as my _____.



Catechism

The Second Article of Redemption

And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; . . .

What does this mean?

. . . not with silver and gold, but with His holy and precious blood and with His innocent sufferings and death; . . .



Memory Verse

All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; but the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him.

—Isaiah 53:6

Enrichment Verse:
 I Peter 1:18–19