

**EVIDENCE**

**4**

**THE  
CRUCIFIXION  
RESURRECTION**

**INCLUDING**

**THE  
STONE  
SEAL  
SOLDIERS**

**OF JESUS**



Apologetics 101 for Families

**CRIME SCENE**

*Shane Cooke*

# THE CRUCIFIXION AND THE RESURRECTION

These Eight (8) lessons will help you share the Truth about the CRUCIFIXION and the RESURRECTION.

It will take the form of Apologetics 101 whereby we will share some of the EVIDENCE for both events.

Christianity RISE and FALLS on the RESURRECTION. If Jesus had merely died that would NOT have been enough for our salvation. HIS Death is necessary BUT without the RESURRECTION his death would like any other. EVERYONE dies BUT NO ONE has ever made the claim that they would rise from the dead and give the time frame of 3 days. Jesus DID THIS.

The First THREE Lessons relate to the Death of Jesus on the CROSS. These lessons will help you share the REASONS for Jesus dying. The object lessons will also help you EXPLAIN some of the concepts of SIN and SALVATION.

For many children many of the Bible terms are foreign expressions as they do not have anything in their world to connect these to. Object Lessons help us share Spiritual Truths with objects and items that children are familiar with.

The Next FOUR Lessons relate to the RESURRECTION. There is a massive amount of evidence for the resurrection. I have tried to compact it into bite size formats so that the children can use it effectively when they are challenged about their faith in both the Death and Resurrection of Jesus.

Lesson EIGHT has numerous CREATIVE EVANGELISM Tools to help you share the Gospel.

Paul sums up the value of Both the Cross and the Empty Tomb

1 Corinthians 15:14–19

“And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.” In fact, “if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; **you are still in your sins**”, and believers who have died are “lost” When Jesus rose again on the third day, **it was the public announcement that God was fully satisfied with the sacrificial death of his Son.**

## HOW TO USE these Lessons

Each Lesson is complete for sharing the MAIN TRUTH of the lesson. You will need to go to SALVATION Section to choose a CREATIVE way of sharing the Gospel for the first three lessons.

You will need to CHOOSE a way to Creatively share the Weekly Bible Verse.

See PAGE \_\_\_\_ for the FORMAT LAYOUT

Blessings

Shane Cooke

e-mail: [scooke9@icloud.com](mailto:scooke9@icloud.com)

[www.shanecokeministries.com](http://www.shanecokeministries.com)

# INDEX

## **Lesson #1**

Why Jesus Had to Die?

## **Lesson #2**

How do we Know Jesus Really Died?

## **Lesson #3**

Evidence of Jesus Death

## **Lesson #4**

The Resurrection:

Someone Stole his Body

## **Lesson #5**

Evidence for the Resurrection

The STONE - THE SEAL - THE SOLDIERS

## **Lesson #6**

They SAW JESUS ALIVE

## **Lesson #7**

LIVES CHANGED: Peter's Life

Who would die for a lie?

## **Lesson #8**

LIVES CHANGED: The Disciples Part 2

James & Paul

## **Lesson #9**

OUTSIDE the Bible Evidence for the Resurrection

## **SALVATION**

Creative Evangelism Tools to share the Gospel

## **GOSPEL PRESENTATIONS**

Youtube Clip Resources

## **RESURRECTION**

Object Lessons

## **CROSS Bible Verses**

## **RESURRECTION Bible Verse**

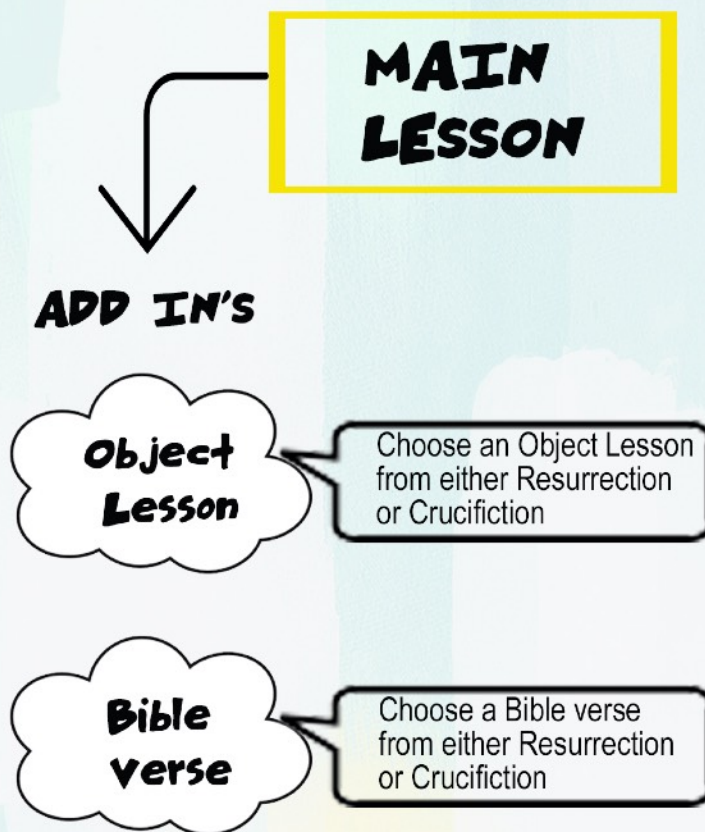
## **SCRIPTURE MEMORY Made Easy**

## **TAKE HOME PAPERS for Kids**

# LESSON FORMAT

Each of these lessons are loaded with more than enough teaching to do two lessons out of the one. There are EXTRA COMPONENTS that are NOT in the lesson itself BUT are in separate chapters.

You will need to MIX & MATCH choosing one or more from these chapters to ADD into your lesson. These EXTRA Components INCLUDE: Bible Verses, Object Lessons and....



**WHAT?**

The Idea of MIX & MATCH is to give you the choice. You may want to focus on ONE verse for a number of weeks . ALL the verses will be on the Take Home papers

Each week there are TAKE HOME Papers relating to the Lesson. These could be done in your SMALL Groups or at home.

**POWER POINTS**  
Each Lesson has a set of POWER POINTS for the MAIN Lesson



# LESSON #1

## WHY DID JESUS HAVE TO DIE?

### THE THREE TREES STORY



The story is told of  
Three little trees stood high upon a  
mountain discussing their dreams for  
the future.

The first little tree looked up at the **dazzling night sky** and said, **"I want to carry the treasure of kings and queens.**

I want to be beautiful.

I want to be **filled with TREASURE.**

The second tree saw the nearby stream

**"I want to be a mighty sailing vessel,"** he said.

"I want to sail in the roaring oceans, roam the high seas, and **deliver kings and queens safely to their destinations.**"

The third little tree loved the **mountaintop.**

"I want to **stay right here and grow and grow and grow,**" she said.

"I want the people that pass by to **look at me touching heaven and think of God.**"

I want to point people to GOD

One day, many years later, three lumberjacks came to help the three trees with the next season of their lives.

The first tree, now beautiful, was cut down.

"I will become the most beautiful treasure chest," he thought.

I will get to hold GREAT TREASURE

The mighty second tree was cut down.

"I will now sail the roaring oceans," thought the second tree. "I will be the mightiest of all sailing vessels." **I will carry ROYALTY.**

**The third tree, with her branches stretched toward heaven, was also cut down.**

Together with the other two trees, she was taken down the lovely hillside.

**The first tree arrived at a carpenter's shop.** The beautiful tree was aglow with excitement.

But he wasn't made into a treasure chest.

The skilful carpenter made the beautiful tree into an **ordinary feeding trough for animals.**

**It wasn't too long before the TROUGH was in an animal stable and been used to feed all kinds of animals.**



**The second tree was brought to a shipyard.** The mighty second tree thought, "Now I will be the most vigorous of vessels."

**But the strong second tree was made into a simple little fishing boat.**

It wasn't long before it became a **grubby fishing boat.** Big burly fisherman casting their fishing nets over the side. **A FAR CRY from dreaming of caring ROYALTY over the seas.**



**The third tree was brought to a lumberyard.**

There she was **made into simple beams of wood** and put aside.

"Why did this happen?" thought the third tree.

"All I ever wanted was to touch heaven and point people to GOD and now all I am is beam's of wood lying in this lumberyard."



**As the weeks passed, their dreams began to fade from memory.**

There was sudden commotion in the STABLE.

Animals had been eating from the FOOD TROUGH

**What's going on?**

What do you mean there is a PREGNANT girl in the stable.

This was the place for Animals.



**WOAH!**

**In a moment:**

The WOODEN FEEDING TROUGH was changed into a BED for the new born BABY

A young mother put her newborn into the trough. "This manger is perfect," said the mother to her husband. **And the first tree knew he was cradling the most important treasure ever.**

This tree always wanted to carry TREASURE: There was **never GREATER TREASURE than JESUS - SON OF GOD - GOD'S GREATEST GIFT to the World.**

**One night the fishing boat was used by a tired traveler and his friends.**

The Tired TRAVELLER fell asleep, and the small boat floated out to sea.

**The sea became rough, and a thunderstorm was brewing.**

This frightened the second tree. If only he were a mighty vessel and could withstand the force of the storm!



**At that MOMENT:**

The traveler was awakened by his friends. **DON'T** you CARE that we are about to DIE? as the STORM RAGED out of control HE STOOD and stretched out his arms and said, "Peace."

The sea became calm and the thunderstorm vanished. It was then that the second tree realised he was carrying the Almighty King. It was **FRIDAY** - a Friday morning, the third tree **BEAMS** were taken by some rough **SOLDIERS**

**The third tree was taken by soldiers and carried through a hostile mob.**



This tree was been carried by someone who was about to die. The crowds were shouting and mocking. **CRUCIFY HIM**

**She trembled with fear and distaste as a man's hands were nailed to her. As the CROSS was DROPPED into the GROUND and JESUS HUNG on it The tree realised -**

"I wanted the people that pass by to **look at me touching heaven and think of God.**"

I want to point people to GOD.

Here the whole world was looking at Jesus HUNG between HEAVEN & EARTH - The CROSS was pointing PEOPLE to GOD.

**The words of a song help us understand HOW MUCH God loved us.**

## **Object Lesson #1**

*You could turn this into an Object lesson by building a mini hill with soil the plant the seed as the song says. you do NOT NEED to play the song but you could share it as a Story.*

**He grew the Tree He KNEW would be used to make the old rugged cross.**

He molded and built a small lonely hill

That He knew would be called Calvary

Then he made the seed that would grow to be

Thorns that would make His Son bleed

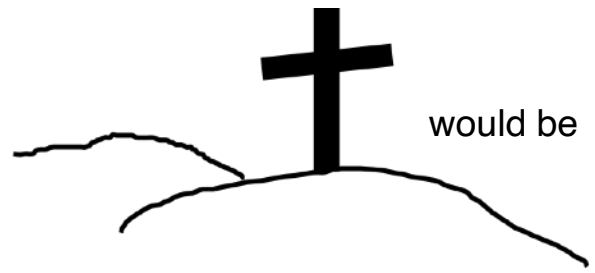
Then He made a green stem, gave it leaves and then

Gave it sunshine, and rain, and sheltered it with moss





And He grew the tree, that He knew  
Used to make the old rugged cross

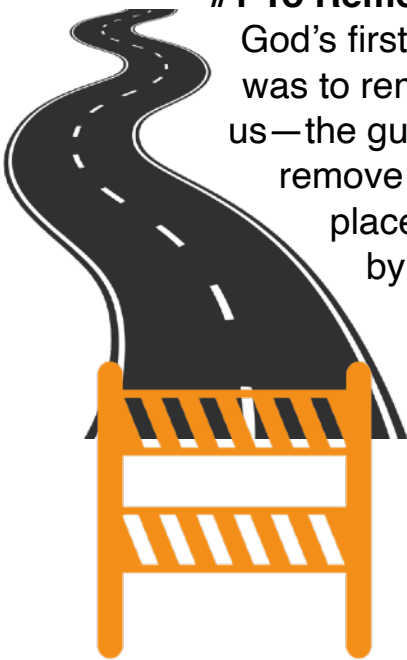


Nothing took His life  
With great love He gave it  
And He was crucified on a tree that He created  
With great love for man  
God stayed with His plan  
And He grew the tree so that we might go free

## WHY? DID JESUS HAVE TO DIE

### #1 To Remove the SIN BARRIER between God and us

God's first act in reconciling (Reuniting, Restoring) us to himself was to remove the obstacle or the barrier that separated him from us—the guilt of our sin. He took the steps we could not take to remove his own judgment by sending Jesus to suffer in our place: "While we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son" (Romans 5:10).



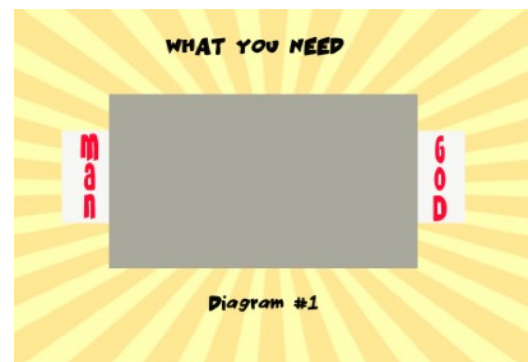
## Object Lesson #2 Explaining the Barrier

### Bridge of the Cross

Baby Powder (God and Man separated)

TWO Signs (Cards) (GOD & MAN)

See Diagram #1



## What to DO

Make sure the GOD & MAN Cards are Far enough that no child would be able to JUMP from one side to the other.

Place a lot of Baby Powder on the ground BETWEEN the TWO Signs (GOD & MAN)

### See Diagram #2

You are now READY to do this Object Lesson

Find a volunteer

Have them take off their shoes to be bare foot.

You will then ask them to STAND on the MAN Sign and try to JUMP to the GOD Sign.

They are not allowed to RUN but from a STAND STILL position to JUMP. It will be impossible IF YOU HAVE MADE the GAP TOO WIDE.



## What to SAY

Hey everyone. I'm looking for someone who thinks they are excellent JUMPERS.

Find a volunteer

Have them take off their shoes to be bare foot.

You will then ask them to STAND on the MAN Sign and try to JUMP to the GOD Sign.

They are not allowed to RUN but from a STAND STILL position to JUMP. It will be impossible IF YOU HAVE MADE the GAP TOO WIDE.

When the child has jumped, let him look under his foot, he will see the POWDER on them.

That is exactly what the Bible says

The GAP Between US and GOD could never be crossed.

Look at the powder that represents SIN, it is all over your feet. Look what happens when you walk, it marks everywhere you go.

GOD KNEW we could never cross the **SIN BARRIER**

That is why Jesus came.

Take the CROSS and place it over the sin (Powder) **See Diagram #3**



# JESUS Came to BRIDGE the GAP by Dying on the CROSS

We love titles and name brands. We proudly wear many of them. They give us an identity. ONE that we don't like is the one God says we are; "Sinner" We can measure God's LOVE by the WHAT He SACRIFICED to remove the Barrier of Sin and the penalty of Sin

Romans 5:8 "God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us"

# WHY DID JESUS DIE? WHY?

**#1 To REMOVE OUR S \_\_\_\_\_ P \_\_\_\_\_**

What was the **OBJECT LESSON** we used to explain the Barrier of SIN?

Draw what you saw enjoying **NOW** and solved the problem

**#2 To S \_\_\_\_\_ L \_\_\_\_\_ 4 US**

**#3 To SHOW J \_\_\_\_\_ ON L \_\_\_\_\_ 4 US**

**COLORED PENCILS** Did JESUS DO THIS?

Draw a picture of how JESUS SHARED HIS LOVE

**#4 To BRING US TO GOD**

**WYNDY WATCH**

1 PETER 3:18  
1 CORINTHIANS 15:3  
ROMANS 5:6  
ROMANS 5:8  
ROMANS 6:10  
ROMANS 10:12  
COLLOSSIANS 2:14

CHOOSE ONE OF THE MEDIA WATCH VIDEOS AND WRITE IT OUT BELOW  
UNDERLINE WHAT THE VIDEO SHOWS JESUS DID

NOT ONLY did Father God love us BUT JESUS LOVED us so much, He was willing to come and GIVE HIMSELF for you and me.

He spread out his ARMS on a cross so that we could be Welcomed into HIS FAMILY

“Gospel” means “good news,” The gospel is the good news that at the cost of his own Son’s life, God has done everything needed to bring us to Himself. The Bible says “Christ...suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, **that he might bring us to God**” (1 Peter 3:18).



## This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



# LESSON #2

## HOW DO WE KNOW THAT JESUS REALLY DIED

There were those who said Jesus didn't really die BUT he just fainted on the cross.

The word they use is "Swooned"

The swoon theory says that Jesus was not actually dead when He was removed from the Cross. Instead, He had fallen into a coma-like state (a swoon) on the Cross and was then buried in a tomb in that condition. He later revived, rolled away the tomb's stone from the inside, was able to get past the Roman guards, and escaped.

We are going to hear about THREE (3) "S's in a number of our lessons

These three are very important because they are critical EVIDENCE when we speak about the CRUCIFIXION and RESURRECTION of Jesus.

Let us mention them here:

### STONE - SEAL - SOLDIERS

All three are important when we talk about the SWOON theory

What does SWOON mean?

That is right - Jesus just fainted on the cross

We will look and see if that is what really happened. Jesus JUST FAINTED!

## The Road to the CROSS

Jesus was ALREADY BLEEDING. He had many injuries from all the beatings and whippings. All of these wounds would have already made him weak.

### Bled from his sweat

He bled so your will would be his will, desires become his desires...he didn't just clean up your conduct he cleaned up your want to!

Jesus suffering began with an intense "agony" while He prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane. His sweat fell "like great drops of blood" (Luke 22:44).

This rare condition is known as *hematidrosis* or *hematohidrosis* and is caused by the rupture of tiny capillaries that feed the sweat glands, and is brought on by conditions of extreme physical or emotional stress.



**Bled from his face**

He bled so he could restore your image. So when you look in the mirror you can love who you are  
it's not what you've been through, you're who your Heavenly Dad says you are!!!!

**Bled from his back**

He bled so he could heal your body

**Bled from his head**

He bled so he could heal your mind

**Bled from his hands**

because your hands were not made for evil, to hurt, not made to abuse, violence, hatred, they were made to lay hands on people, for praise, to minister, to touch, to put his blessings, lay your hand on the sick  
Your hands were made to be an instrument to lay your hands on the sick so they could recover, bless the work of your hands

**Bled from his feet**

He bled so he could bless your walk  
He bled for people who see a dream but don't know how to walk it out...  
you know there's a future but you don't know the steps to take  
because of the blood, the steps of a good man are ordered by the lord and no good thing will he withhold when they walk uprightly.

**Several Illegal Trials**

Jesus was betrayed by Judas (Matthew 26:49), arrested and bound (John 18:12), and led to several illegal trials (Matthew 26:57)

During these trials Jesus was mocked, spat upon, and falsely accused during these overnight trials. He was blindfolded, beaten, and struck in the face (Matthew 26:67–68; Mark 14:65; Luke 22:63–64).

EVEN THOUGH Pilate said Jesus was innocent many times (John 18:38; 19:4, 6), He was still condemned to some of the cruelest torture.

**Pilate ordered Jesus to be scourged.**

This cruel form of whipping often killed its victims.

Jesus would have been bound to a post while soldiers, called lictors, would use short whips (flagrums) made of several braided leather thongs with sharp pieces of metal, bones, or rocks tied into them to lash Him. The offender receiving thirteen stripes on the bare back and thirteen across each shoulder amounting to 39 stripes.

### **A Crown of Thorns**

Following the scourging, The Roman soldiers made a crown of thorns for His head. These thorns would be an inch long.

This “crown” was not gently placed on Him. Instead the soldiers beat Him over the head with a staff which would have driven the thorns into His scalp (Matthew 27:29–39, NET).

### **Jesus Led away to be Crucified**

Jesus probably had to carry just the crossbeam, known as the *patibulum*, to “the Place of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha” (John 19:17).

He was Battered and weary, Jesus could not carry it the entire distance, so the soldiers forced Simon of Cyrene to carry the beam for Him (Mark 15:21).

### **Jesus was nailed to the Cross**

Upon arriving at Golgotha, Jesus refused the wine mixed with gall offered to Him, which would have helped deaden some of the pain.

He was then nailed to the Cross. This would involve driving spikes through His wrists or hands and one long spike through both feet.

### **6 Hours on the Cross**

While on the Cross, Jesus would have suffered as He struggled to breathe for the next six hours.

### **The Spear in the Side**

After Jesus breathed His last, a soldier “pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out” (John 19:34).

This is proof that Jesus was dead.

John was not a Doctor but he wrote what he saw “Blood and water came out” Doctors today would know that was a sign of someone dead.

### **The ROMAN SOLDIERS**

These were qualified and very good at making sure people on Crosses were REALLY DEAD.

They knew the SIGNS of death.

These Soldiers were used to executing people on Crosses. It was the COMMON way of people been killed. This was their JOB.

It would have been impossible for these soldiers to get it wrong when they said “Jesus was dead”  
(Mark 15:44–45; John 19:33)

Another reason why the soldiers would never have made the mistake: If they let someone live who was supposed to have died for a capital crime - THEY WOULD suffer the same sentence. They would be put to death. The Bible says the soldiers were sure Jesus was dead that is why they did not break his legs.

### **John 19:31-35**

Now it was the day of Preparation, and the next day was to be a special Sabbath. Because the Jews did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down. The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other. But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs.

## **The Evidence for Jesus Death**

### **Everyone at the cross heard Jesus’ death cry.**

Luke 23:46 says, “Jesus called out with a loud voice, ‘Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.’ When he had said this, he breathed his last.”

The professional Roman soldier executioners pronounced Jesus dead.

### **They Did Not break his legs**

They were so convinced that Jesus was dead that they did not break His legs which is what they would do if someone was still alive. They did that to the two thieves who hung on the crosses on either side of Jesus .

By breaking their legs it would make them die more quickly, because they would not be able to lift them selves up to breath. (John 19:33).





### **They Pierced Jesus Side with a Spear**

The piercing of Jesus' side with the spear is proof that He had physically died before the piercing (John 19:34). The Bible records that blood and water came out of Jesus' side, which is medical proof that a person has already died.

### **Pilate Checked that Jesus was Dead before he released Jesus body**

Pilate made sure Jesus was dead before he gave the dead body to Joseph to be buried. "Summoning the centurion, he asked him if Jesus had already died. When he learned from the centurion that it was so, he gave the body to Joseph" (Mark 15:44-45).

### **The Burial Cloths and spices**

Jesus was wrapped in about 75 pounds of cloth and spices and placed in a sealed tomb for three days (John 19:39-40, Matthew 27:60).

If Jesus were not dead by then, He would have died in the tomb from lack of food, water and medical treatment.

### **ALL of the Early Christian Writers SAID Jesus had died**

The earliest Christian writers after the time of Jesus openly spoke of His death on the cross by crucifixion.

**Polycarp, who was a disciple of the Apostle John**, spoke of "our Lord Jesus Christ, who for our sins suffered even unto death."

**Justin Martyr** noted in his Dialogue With Trypho the Jew that Jews of his day claimed that "Jesus [was] a Galilean deceiver, whom we crucified."

## ***Couldn't the disciples have been wrong about the death of Jesus?***

### **Those who handled his Body after his death**

There are good reasons to believe that the disciples were not wrong about the death of Jesus:

### **Extended Contact they had with his body**

The disciples were in intimate and had extended contact with the body of Jesus. The Burial process did not happen quickly. They were with the body of Jesus for long period of time.

### **Mark 15:43-46**

“So as evening approached, Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the Council... ..bought some linen cloth, took down the body, wrapped it in the linen, and placed it in a tomb cut out of rock.”

The disciples would have had to remove the nails, collect the body, carry it some distance to the tomb, treat the body thoroughly with the customary ointments and spices used in such situations, wrap the body and then place it in the tomb.

If Jesus was alive, would they not have seen it or known it.

They would have double checked over and over to make sure. They WANTED HIM ALIVE not dead.

**They would have noticed some very basic signs that Jesus heart was no longer beating:**

#### **Cold Body**

When the heart stops pumping, the body begins to cool. In the time it would take to prepare Jesus for the tomb, the disciples would certainly have noticed his body was cold.

#### **Stiff Body**

When blood is not circulating, the body begins to stiffen. Dead bodies begin to feel differently than an unconscious body with a beating heart.

#### **Dark Blood**

Gravity begins to act on un-circulating blood. As blood settles in those extremities that are closest to the ground, discolouration is notable.

In all the time it took to prepare Jesus' body, with all the extended contact the disciples had, they would have been checking and hoping he would start breathing BUT HE DID NOT because He was Dead.



## This image shows a full page of blank handwriting practice paper. It features approximately 28 evenly spaced horizontal blue lines across the entire page, providing a guide for letter height and placement. The lines are uniform in color and thickness, set against a plain white background. There are no margins, text, or other markings present.

# LESSON #3

## OUTSIDE EVIDENCE FOR THE DEATH OF JESUS

Many people mock our belief in Jesus because they say ALL of the PROOF and EVIDENCE comes from the Bible which we believe in.

**Is there ANY PROOF or EVIDENCE outside the Bible that says Jesus DIED?**

### OUTSIDE EVIDENCE

There are twelve reliable, non-Christian sources, dated approximately 20 to 150 years after Jesus crucifixion, that record that Jesus died.

#### Pilate wanted to Proof of Jesus Death

Only after four Roman executioners certified that Jesus was indeed dead, did Pilate give the order for His body to be removed.

The executioners were certain that Jesus was dead because when a spear was thrust into Jesus' side, both blood and water flowed out (John 19:34).

*Had Jesus been alive when the spear entered His body, strong spouts of blood would have come out with every beat of His heart.*

Jesus was dead.

#### The Jewish Leaders

The Jewish leaders were well aware that Jesus had predicted His own resurrection. So they asked that a Roman Seal be placed over the tomb. They then had His body sealed in a tomb under heavy Roman guard. The reason why they wanted the SEAL and the SOLDIERS is because they KNEW Jesus was dead, they wanted to make sure He did not come out of the tomb.

**Josephus, the Jewish historian** of the time of Jesus, confirmed His death. He wrote: "Pilate, at the suggestion of the principal men among us, had condemned him to the cross."

**The Jewish Talmud says**, "On the eve of Passover they hanged Yeshu (of Nazareth). They found naught in his defense and **hanged him on the eve of Passover.**"

The Talmud are the writings of Jewish Rabbis around the 5th century, the tradition of these Rabbinic authors indicates they are faithfully transmitting teachings from the early "Tannaitic" period of the 1<sup>st</sup> Century BC to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Century AD.



Scholars believe there are a number of Talmudic writings referring to Jesus, and many of these writings are said to use code words to describe Jesus (such as “Balaam” or “Ben Stada” or “a certain one”).

**“Jesus practiced magic and led Israel astray”** (b. Sanhedrin 43a; cf. t. Shabbat 11.15; b. Shabbat 104b)

“Rabbi Hisda (d. 309) said that Rabbi Jeremiah bar Abba said, ‘What is that which is written, ‘No evil will befall you, nor shall any plague come near your house’? (Psalm 91:10)... ‘No evil will befall you’ (means) that evil dreams and evil thoughts will not tempt you; ‘nor shall any plague come near your house’ (means) **that you will not have a son or a disciple who burns his food like Jesus of Nazareth.**” (b. Sanhedrin 103a; cf. b. Berakhot 17b)

“It was taught: **On the day before the Passover they hanged Jesus.** A herald went before him for forty days (proclaiming), “He will be stoned, because he practiced magic and enticed Israel to go astray. Let anyone who knows anything in his favor come forward and plead for him.” But nothing was found in his favor, and they hanged him on the day before the Passover. (b. Sanhedrin 43a)

**From just these passages mentioning Jesus by name,** we can conclude the following: Jesus had magical powers, led the Jews away from their beliefs, had disciples who were martyred for their faith (one of whom was named Matthai or Matthew), and was executed on the day before the Passover.

**The Roman historian Cornelius Tacitus confirmed it:** “A wise man who was called Jesus ... Pilate condemned Him to be condemned and to die.”

**Tacitus** reports Christians got their name from a historical person called Christus (from the Latin), or Christ. He is said to have *“suffered the extreme penalty,”* referring to the Roman method of execution known as crucifixion. This is said to have occurred during the reign of Tiberius and by the sentence of Pontius Pilatus.

**This confirms and lines up** with much of what the Bible tell us about the death of Jesus.

**The Roman writer Phlegon (80-140AD) speaks of Jesus** having been crucified but then “he rose after death, and exhibited the marks of his punishment.”

In a manner similar to Thallus, Julius Africanus also mentions a historian named Phlegon who wrote a chronicle of history around 140AD. In this history, Phlegon also mentions the darkness surrounding the crucifixion in an effort to explain it:

“Phlegon records that, in the time of Tiberius Caesar, at full moon, there was a full eclipse of the sun from **the sixth to the ninth hour.**” (Africanus, Chronography, 18:1)

Phlegon is also mentioned by Origen (an early church theologian and scholar, born in Alexandria):

“Now Phlegon, in the thirteenth or fourteenth book, I think, of his Chronicles, not only ascribed to Jesus a knowledge of future events . . . but also testified that the result corresponded to His predictions.” (Origen Against Celsus, Book 2, Chapter 14)

“And with regard to the eclipse in the time of Tiberius Caesar, in whose reign Jesus appears to have been crucified, and the great earthquakes which then took place . . . ” (Origen Against Celsus, Book 2, Chapter 33)

“Jesus, while alive, was of no assistance to himself, but that he arose after death, and exhibited the marks of his punishment, and showed how his hands had been pierced by nails.” (Origen Against Celsus, Book 2, Chapter 59)

**From these accounts, we can add something to our understanding: Jesus had the ability to accurately predict the future, was crucified under the reign of Tiberius Caesar and demonstrated His wounds after he was resurrected.**

### **Evidence from the Babylonian Talmud**

There are only a few clear references to Jesus in the Babylonian Talmud, a collection of Jewish rabbinical writings compiled between approximately A.D. 70-500. In the case of the Talmud, the earliest period of compilation occurred between A.D. 70-200.[20] The most significant reference to Jesus from this period states:

**On the eve of the Passover Yeshu was hanged.** *For forty days before the execution took place, a herald ... cried, "He is going forth to be stoned because he has practiced sorcery and enticed Israel to apostasy."*

### **Tacitus (56-120AD)**

Cornelius Tacitus is among the most trusted of ancient historians. He was a senator under Emperor Vespasian and was also proconsul of Asia. In his “Annals” of 116AD, he describes Emperor Nero’s response to the great fire in Rome and Nero’s claim that the Christians were to blame:

“Consequently, to get rid of the report, Nero fastened the guilt and inflicted the most exquisite tortures on a class hated for their abominations, called Christians by the populace. Christus, from whom the name had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilatus, and a most mischievous superstition, thus checked for the moment, again broke out not only in Judea, the first source of

the evil, but even in Rome, where all things hideous and shameful from every part of the world find their centre and become popular.”

**In this account**, Tacitus confirms several historical elements of the Bible account: Jesus lived in Judea, **was crucified under Pontius Pilate**, and had followers who were persecuted for their faith in Christ.

### **Mara Bar-Serapion (70AD)**

Sometime after 70AD, a Syrian philosopher named Mara Bar-Serapion, writing to encourage his son, compared the life and persecution of Jesus with that of other philosophers who were persecuted for their ideas. The fact Jesus is known to be a real person with this kind of influence is important.

Mara Bar-Serapion refers to Jesus as the “Wise King”:

“What benefit did the Athenians obtain by putting Socrates to death? Famine and plague came upon them as judgment for their crime. Or, the people of Samos for burning Pythagoras? In one moment their country was covered with sand. Or the Jews by murdering their wise king?...After that their kingdom was abolished. God rightly avenged these men...The wise king... Lived on in the teachings he enacted.”

**From this account**, we can say that Jesus was a wise and influential man who died for His beliefs. **The Jewish leadership was somehow responsible for Jesus’ death.** Jesus’ followers adopted His beliefs and lived their lives accordingly.

### **Josephus (37-101AD)**

In more detail than any other non-biblical historian, Josephus writes about Jesus in his “the Antiquities of the Jews” in 93AD. Josephus was born just four years after the crucifixion. He was a consultant for Jewish rabbis at an early age, became a Galilean military commander by the age of sixteen, and he was an eyewitness to much of what he recorded in the first century A.D. Under the rule of Roman emperor Vespasian, Josephus was allowed to write a history of the Jews. **This history includes three passages about Christians, one in which he describes the death of John the Baptist, one in which he mentions the execution of James (and describes him as the brother of Jesus the Christ), and a final passage which describes Jesus as a wise man and the messiah.**

“Now around this time lived Jesus, a wise man. For he was a worker of amazing deeds and was a teacher of people who gladly accept the truth. He won over both many Jews and many Greeks. Pilate, when he heard him accused by the leading men among us, condemned him to the cross, (but) those who had first loved him did not cease (doing so). To this day the tribe of Christians named after him has not disappeared”

Now there are many other ancient versions of Josephus' writing which are even more explicit about the nature of Jesus' miracles, life and his status as the Christ, but let's take this conservative version and see what we can learn. **From this text, we can conclude: Jesus lived in Palestine, was a wise man and a teacher, worked amazing deeds, was accused by the Jews, crucified under Pilate and had followers called Christians.**

## **UNUSUAL EVENTS Happened when He Died**

- **The Earth was covered in DARKNESS for 3 hours**
- **AN Earthquake shook the ground**

### **Thallus (52AD)**

Thallus is perhaps the earliest secular writer to mention Jesus and he is so ancient his writings don't even exist anymore. But Julius Africanus, writing around 221AD does quote Thallus who previously tried to explain away the **darkness occurring at Jesus' crucifixion:**

"On the whole world there pressed a most fearful darkness; and the rocks were rent by an earthquake, and many places in Judea and other districts were thrown down.

This darkness Thallus, in the third book of his History, calls, as appears to me without reason, an eclipse of the sun." (Julius Africanus, Chronography, 18:1)

**From his writings we can say: Jesus lived, He was crucified, and there was an earthquake and darkness at the point of His crucifixion.**

### **Phlegon (80-140)**

Julius Africanus also mentions a historian named Phlegon who wrote a chronicle of history around 140AD. In this history, Phlegon mentions the darkness surrounding the crucifixion in an effort to explain it:

"Phlegon records that, in the time of Tiberius Caesar, at full moon, there was **a full eclipse of the sun from the sixth to the ninth hour.**" (Africanus, Chronography, 18:1)

"And with regard to the eclipse in the time of Tiberius Caesar, in whose reign Jesus appears to have been crucified, and the **great earthquakes which then took place ...**" (Origen Against Celsus, Book 2, Chapter 33)

## **The Curtain in the Temple was RIPPED in TWO from TOP to Bottom**

In the Jewish temple, the veil served as the barrier to the Holy of Holies.

The Holy of Holies was said to be where God's presence rested and that is where the Ark of the Covenant was kept.

Only the high priest could enter this area, and then only one time per year, to make atonement for the sins of Israel (Exodus 30:10).

First Kings 6:2 records that Solomon's temple was 30 cubits high. This would have been 45 feet tall.

The first century Jewish historian Josephus records that Herod extended the temple's height to 40 cubits high, about 60 feet tall.

Josephus also mentions in his documents that the veil was four inches thick, and that horses tied to each side could not pull the veil apart.

Matthew 27:50-51 says, "And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit. And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom."

Notice the details: 1) Jesus died, 2) the enormous 45 to 60-foot high, four inch thick curtain was torn in half, and 3) the tear was from top to bottom. This is important because it tells us that GOD opened the way back into His Presence. We could never do it on our own. HOW DID GOD DO THIS? It happened when Jesus died.

## **Is there EVIDENCE outside of the Bible that PROVE this Fact?**

Mark wrote his gospel in the 50s AD.

This was only about 20 years after the event. There would have been thousands of eye-witnesses to the events surrounding the crucifixion. If what Mark said was not true, it would have been very easy for those eye witnesses to say challenge his story about the crucifixion and what he wrote about the veil in the Temple BUT NO ONE DID. We can then say it was true.

## **There is extra-NON biblical evidence for the Torn Curtain.**

1. Roman historian Tacitus (Hist. V. 13),
2. Jewish historian Josephus (Wars of the Jews VI, 5, 3)
3. Jewish Talmud (Jer. Yoma 43c; Yoma 39b) all make reference to some "great disaster as a sign of the coming destruction of the Temple, (that) had occurred in the Sanctuary about this very time."



[illegible]

## Lesson # 4

# The EMPTY TOMB MADE ROOM

**We BELIEVE IN THE  
RESURRECTION**

**JESUS IS ALIVE**

That is what EASTER SUNDAY is  
ALL ABOUT

That FIRST SUNDAY -  
RESURRECTION SUNDAY must  
have been a CRAZY DAY



Word was getting out - the TOMB was EMPTY  
HOW?

Have A COIN in your hand and ask the  
children "HOW MANY SIDES are there to a  
coin? (TWO)

THE CRUCIFIXION & RESURRECTION are  
TWO SIDES to the SAME COIN



WITHOUT the OTHER SIDE each side by  
themselves cannot BE.  
For a RESURRECTION you have to have  
someone DIE.



IF Jesus ONLY DIED, that would be no different from anyone else dying.

We know the Bible says that Jesus DIED for our SIN - everything that separates us from God

There are lots of people who have died for causes that made them hero's

**Jesus didn't just die for a good cause - he died to remove the barrier that separated us from God CALLED SIN**

**Jesus dying for our sin was necessary and important  
BUT if He only DIED, what would that prove?**

**EVERYONE DIES**

**Jesus HIMSELF had said He would die**

BUT He made another CLAIM - He would come back from, the dead after 3 days

That is a HUGE CLAIM

Every Religion has its leader BUT NONE of them EVER made such a claim - that they would die to make us right with God and to PROVE it, they would rise from the dead, come back to life.

**JESUS made the CLAIM**

**Jesus spoke openly about what would happen to him: crucifixion and then resurrection from the dead.**

“The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, **and after three days rise again**” (Mark 8:31; see also Matthew 17:22; Luke 9:22).



**EVERYONE KNEW** that he made this claim to come back from the Dead **Even those who hated him** and had him put to death on the cross

His accusers said that this was part of Jesus' claim: **“Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, ‘After three days I will rise’”** (Matthew 27:63).

It was IMPORTANT that HE CAME BACK from the DEAD

Mark 8:31-38 New International Version (NIV)  
Jesus Predicts His Death

**31** He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again.

### WHY was the RESURRECTION IMPORTANT?

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is important because it **(PROVES, UPHOLDS, SUPPORTS, BACKS UP, )**

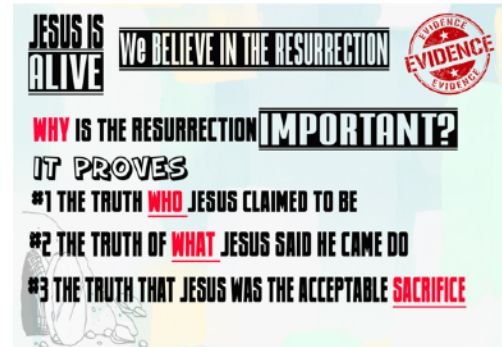
**#1 The TRUTH of WHO Jesus claimed to be,**  
He claimed to be the Son of God and Messiah.

**#2 It PROVED WHAT He SAID He Came to DO:** that He came to Die to make us Right with God and He would prove it by coming back from the Dead

**#3 It PROVED That He was the ACCEPTABLE Sacrifice**  
**that could take away the Sins of the World**

If Jesus is not resurrected, we have no Saviour, no salvation, and no hope of eternal life.

**The Apostle Paul said, our faith would be “useless,” the gospel would be altogether powerless, and our sins would remain unforgiven**





## Lesson #5

# The Tomb is Empty: Who STOLE Jesus Body

### The TOMB WAS EMPTY

“When they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus” (Luke 24:3).  
And the enemies of Jesus confirmed it by claiming that the disciples had stolen the body (Matthew 28:13).

The dead body of Jesus could not be found.

There are **four possible ways** to account for this.

We spoke about this **FIRST Reason**:

**#1 Jesus was not dead, but only unconscious (like in a coma) when they laid him in the tomb. He had Fainted (SWOONED)**

*Here is what they say happened:*

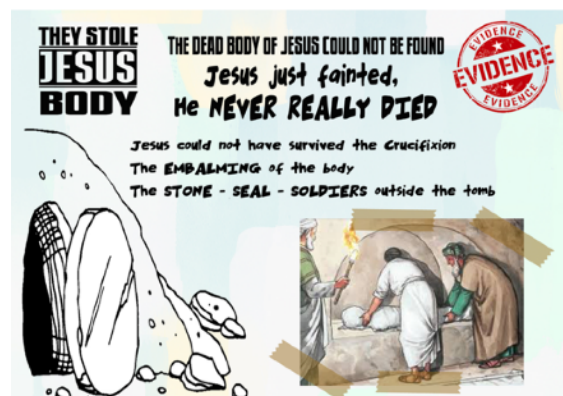
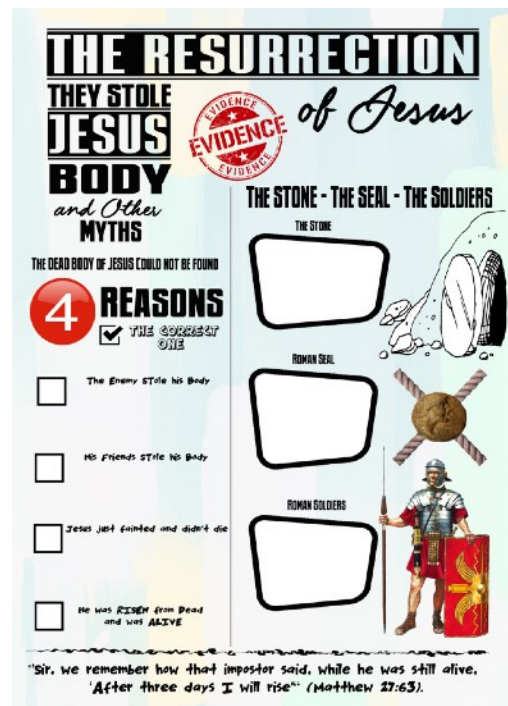
He awoke, removed the stone, overcame the soldiers, and vanished from history after a few meetings with his disciples in which he convinced them he was risen from the dead.

**Even the enemies of Jesus did not say this.**

He was dead.

The Romans saw to that.

The stone could not be moved by one man from within who had just been stabbed in the side by a spear and spent six hours nailed to a cross.





**#2 His friends stole the body.** This was an early rumour (Matthew 28:11-15).

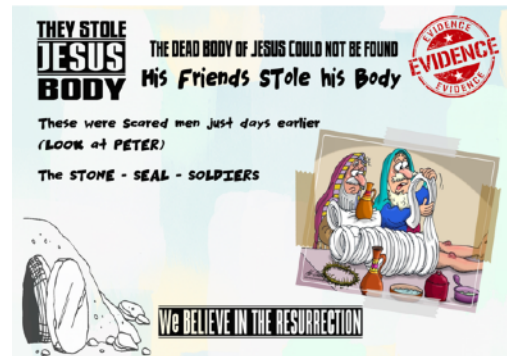
**COULD they have DONE THAT?**

Could they have overcome the guards at the tomb?

More important, would they have begun to preach with such authority that Jesus was raised, knowing that he was not? Would they have risked their lives and accepted beatings for something they knew was a fraud or a lie?

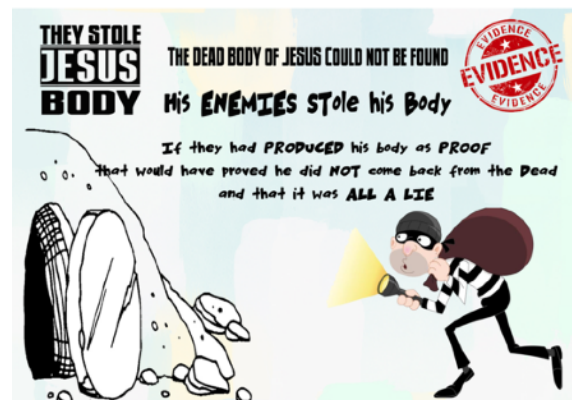
**They were SO SCARED just a few days before.**

We will look at PETER in a few moments. He was so scared YET something changed him that he could stand up in front of a crowd of thousands and preach.



**#3 His Enemies stole the body.**

If they did (and they never claimed to have done so), they would have produced the body to stop the lie that Jesus was Alive. These disciples were preaching in the VERY city where Jesus had died and was buried. They could have easily gone and fetched his body BUT they DIDN'T and COULDN'T because they didn't have it.



Here are some more VERY IMPORTANT FACTS to THINK about:

Everyone say them together:

**THE STONE - THE SEAL - THE SOLDIERS**



The Tomb had a stone in front of it  
Most scholars put the weight of the stone at about 2 tons (1815 Kg), probably at least seven or eight feet high (OVER 2 Metres high)

Look at the photo. See that truck - it is a 2 Ton truck. It is heavy. That was the weight of the stone in front of the grave / the tomb of Jesus.



### **The Tomb had a Roman seal**

Clay was attached to a rope (stretched across a rock) and to the tomb, itself. The Roman seal was pressed into the clay. If anyone broke the seal, they would be breaking the law. If you broke the law you would die.

That SEAL was to make sure no one went into the tomb or came out of the tomb.

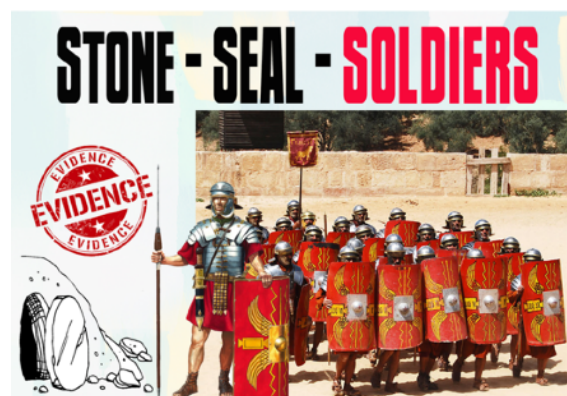
His accusers said that this was part of Jesus' claim: "**Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise'"**" (Matthew 27:63).

This was the reason they asked for a Roman Seal so that NO ONE could steal his body.



### **The Tomb had a Roman Soldiers stationed there**

The "guard" was at least four men, possibly up to sixteen, of highly trained soldiers. These soldiers were experts in torture and in fighting. They were killing machines. They knew how to FIGHT. They were strong and would not easily be frightened off by a group of fishermen and tax collectors. Had they fallen asleep or left their post they would have disobeyed their orders and the law which would have meant their own execution.



**The resurrection was preached in the same city where Jesus had been buried shortly before.**

Jesus' disciples did not go to some far away and unknown place where no one had heard of Jesus to begin preaching about the resurrection, but instead **began preaching in Jerusalem**, the very city where Jesus had died and been buried.

**They could not have done this if Jesus was still in his tomb--no one would have believed them.**

That would be CRAZY - JUST ACT LIKE Jesus is not in the TOMB!

If the Jesus body was still in the tomb on the Day of Pentecost when Peter preached in Jerusalem, the Jewish leaders could have grabbed Peter, taken him to the tomb, and said, “Look, there’s Jesus. He didn’t rise from the dead. Now stop lying to everyone about it.” Yet, there is not a single ancient record of this sort. Instead, the Jewish leaders who opposed Christianity invented the incredible idea that the disciples stole the body to explain away the empty tomb (Matthew 28:11–15).

No one would be foolish enough to believe a man had raised from the dead when his body lay dead in the tomb for all to see.

The REASON WHY they could PREACH about HIM being ALIVE is BECAUSE HE WAS ALIVE



**EVEN TODAY** - there are those who will say IT IS NOT TRUE

## **OBJECT LESSON #1**

**You will need:**

2 Cup Cakes

2 Birthday Candles that look the same. One needs to be the "Magic" or Trick candle that keeps reigniting after it is blown out.

Make sure that BOTH Candles look similar or the same.

Lighter or Matches

**On one cupcake, put a regular birthday candle; on the other cupcake, the "trick" candle. Tell the group you want to have a party to celebrate Easter.**

Matthew 28:20

Say: **Jesus told us he would always be with us.**

**How could he be with us ALWAYS if he was dead?**

**Let's celebrate that.**

We have seen those who wanted to LIE about Jesus rising from the dead JUST LIKE this CANDLE cannot be blown out - THE TRUTH of JESUS RISING from the DEAD and IS ALIVE CANNOT be DESTROYED

EVERY-TIME someone says - HE IS DEAD

They try to BLOW out the TRUTH

He KEEPS coming BACK

What happened to the candles?

Say: **People thought they had gotten rid of Jesus just as you thought you had blown out your candles. But God had other plans.**

God brought Jesus back to life, and Jesus is always with God now.

That means he is always with us.

He will never go away again because he told us so in the Bible





## This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



## Lesson #6

# OTHERS SAW JESUS ALIVE

For over six weeks, He appeared to different groups of various sizes in different places.

He appeared to over 500 at one point – a huge number to be an outright fabrication.

“Then he appeared to more than **five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive**, though some have fallen asleep” (1 Corinthians 15:6).

**WHAT ABOUT:** the people whom He appeared to didn't just *see* Him, but *ate* with Him, *walked* with Him, *touched* Him. Jesus even made breakfast (John 21:9) at one point.

Several people had seen Jesus alive for a period of 40 days.

The **eyewitnesses include**

**Mary Magdalene Mark 16:9-11**

**The women at the tomb accompanying Mary (Matthew 28:1-10),**

**the Roman guards (Matthew 28:4),**

**the Eleven disciples (John 20:19-25**

**Seven of the Disciples (John 21:1-14),**

**The two men on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35),**

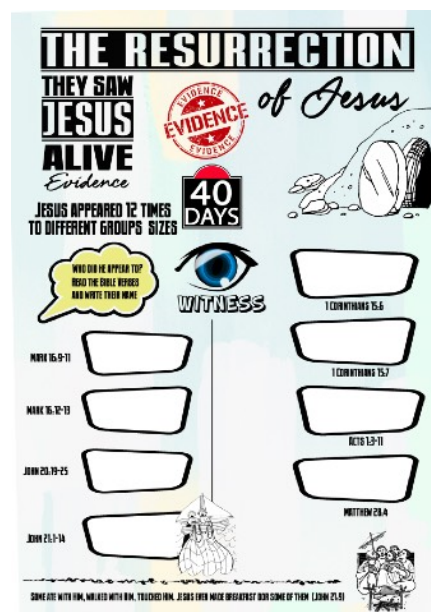
**A number of disciples were together when they saw Jesus.**

**(Matthew 28:16-20);**

**Five Hundred (500) people at ONE TIME saw Jesus. (1 Corinthians 15:6), James the brother of Jesus WHO ONLY became a follower of Jesus after the Resurrection. (1 Corinthians 15:7)**

**Paul who did not see Jesus in person met Jesus on a Road to Damascus (1 Corinthians 15:8-9).**

Change the format for this lesson by having your kids be in groups where they are able to open their Bibles to go through EACH of the verses above highlighting who saw Jesus or what they did. Use the Take Home paper as part of the group activity.





## This image shows a full page of blank white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, providing a template for writing or drawing. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

# Lesson #7

## DISCIPLES LIVES CHANGED EVIDENCE

The RESURRECTION Changed / TRANSFORMED the lives of the Disciples  
One moment they were fearful and scared to even be seen with Jesus just before he died.

In this lesson we will look closely at PETER.



A. Peter was a rough Fisherman who came into contact with Jesus. When Jesus said FOLLOW ME - he left everything and followed.

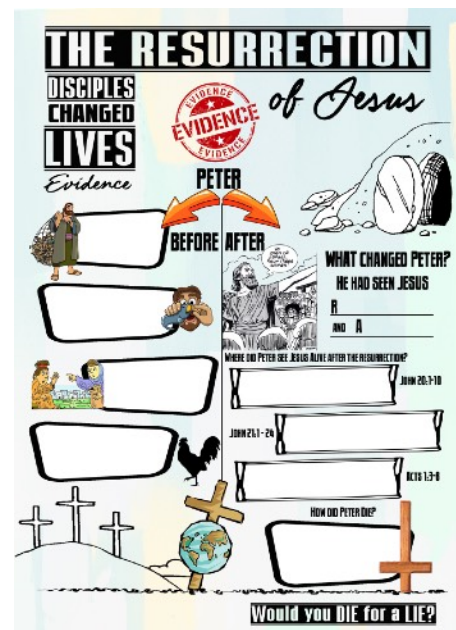
B. Peter had seen so MANY MIRACLES including the time Jesus said he needed to go down to the sea and there would be a fish with the coin for taxes in it's mouth - HOW COULD JESUS have KNOWN This? Peter experienced many miracles around Jesus

C. The next time we see Peter who had been with Jesus for over 3 years. He is sitting around a fire place just out of sight as Jesus being questioned and put on trial. **A YOUNG GIRL** see him and asks him - Are you not one of his disciples?

Peter - I don't know him

She says - YES YOU ARE

and he begins to swear and deny Jesus



Let's read Luke 22: 54 - 62

**54** Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house, and **Peter was following at a distance.** **55** And when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, **Peter sat down among them.** **56** Then a servant girl, seeing him as he sat in the light and looking closely at him, said, "This man also was with him." **57**

But he denied it, saying, "Woman, I do not know him."

#### **D. TWO MORE PEOPLE SAID - YOU WERE WITH JESUS**

**58** And a little later someone else saw him and said, “You also are one of them.”

But Peter said, “Man, I am not.”

**59** And after an interval of about an hour still another insisted, saying, “Certainly this man also was with him, for he too is a Galilean.”

**60** But Peter said, “Man, I do not know what you are talking about.”

And immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. **61** And the Lord turned and looked at Peter.

And Peter remembered the saying of the Lord, how he had said to him, “Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times.” **62** And he went out and wept bitterly.

**After the Resurrection - he stands up and preaches to thousands** in Acts 2:22 - 24 “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested (CERTIFIED, Given PROOF, CONFIRMED) to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— **23** this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, **you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. 24 God raised him up**, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.

vs 32 “This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses.”

He was talking to a large crowd - many would have seen Jesus die - Jews and Romans

***Why would you preach a LIE that could easily have been proved a Lie by all of those standing in front of you.***

NO ONE there DISPROVED what Peter said

**WHAT CHANGED PETER’S LIFE** from one moment so scared to even say he knew Jesus and HERE he is preaching to thousands?

**Their explanation of this change in PETER’S LIFE and those of the disciples**

They had seen JESUS

**RISEN and ALIVE**

**NOT just once but on a few occasions:**

**John 20: 1-10**

**John 21:1-24**

**Acts 1:3-8**

**Peter was so convinced about the RESURRECTION of Jesus and he had seen Jesus alive on more than one occasion - He COULD NOT DENY JESUS even in DEATH**

When they were going to **kill Peter by CRUCIFIXION**

He said he was unworthy to be crucified the same way that Jesus was and **asked to be crucified upside down.**

**Would you die for a LIE?**

It says in vs 14 **“Peter standing with the 11...”**

**All the disciples were standing behind what Peter was saying.**

Would you be willing to leave your families, go to the ends of the earth, die horribly gruesome and painful deaths to protect a lie?

Everyone one of these Disciples would DIE for this TRUTH that Jesus ROSE from the DEAD

Not one of them, while being beheaded, fed to lions, boiled in oil, crucified upside down or burned alive changed their story. Instead, they sang hymns of trust and praise, knowing that the Lord who defeated death would raise them up, too.

[illegible]

## **Lesson #8**

### **DISCIPLES LIVES CHANGED EVIDENCE**

#### **James the Brother of Jesus**

The man who wrote the Epistle of James was the half-brother of Jesus, the son of Mary and Joseph, and an early leader of the church in Jerusalem. For whatever reason, James did not believe in Jesus as the Messiah before the Resurrection. In fact, none of His brothers believed in Him early on (John 7:5), and they even tried to prevent Him from speaking, thinking He was out of His mind or crazy (Mark 3:20–21, NET). YET just a few weeks after the Crucifixion they were counted among His followers (Acts 1:14). And by the time of the “Jerusalem Council” in Acts 15, James was one of the leading figures at the church in Jerusalem.

What could compel a man who had grown up with Jesus to suddenly change his mind about his older brother? James likely remained in his unbelief until after Christ’s death. After all, while He was on the Cross, Jesus entrusted the care of His mother to the Apostle John (John 19:26–27). If one of his brothers had been a believer at this point, it would have been their responsibility to care for Mary. Although Scripture does not describe the conversion of James for us, it does provide the most likely cause for his drastic change of heart. Upon telling his readers that Jesus appeared to over 500 people at once, Paul wrote, ““After that He was seen by James”” (1 Corinthians 15:7).

While it is possible that James converted to the faith based on reports of his brother’s Resurrection, it is far more likely that he became a believer when Jesus appeared to him. Whatever it was that triggered his conversion, James believed in the Resurrection so strongly that he was willing to die for his faith.

#### **Conversion of Saul / Paul**

The Apostle Paul (also called Saul) is responsible for penning at least 13 books of the New Testament and is arguably the most influential Christian ever. But he was not always a devout follower of Christ. We are first introduced to him observing the stoning of Stephen (Acts 7:58). A few verses later we read that Saul ““made havoc of the church, entering every house, and dragging off men and women, committing them to prison”” (Acts 8:3). He would later tell an angry crowd in Jerusalem that he persecuted Christians ““to the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women”” (Acts 22:4). He wrote that he ““persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it”” (Galatians 1:13).

From a human perspective, this is not the person we would select to carry the gospel message throughout the Roman Empire, but God had other plans for Paul. Acts 9 opens with the following words: ““Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest



and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem” (Acts 9:1–2). Paul was the church’s greatest persecutor, but he was about to see the Light (pun intended).

As Paul approached Damascus, Jesus appeared to him and asked, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?” (Acts 9:4). Upon seeing the risen Savior, Saul converted to the Christian faith and tirelessly preached the gospel—Christ’s death for sins, burial, and Resurrection—until his martyrdom many years later. The apostle described some of the trials he endured for Christ:

*... in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often. From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren, in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness ... (2 Corinthians 11:23–27)*

What could possibly explain such a drastic change of heart? This was not a foolish man who could be swayed by poor argumentation, nor was he prone to changing his views based on shifting public opinion. Paul was a scholar and a well-respected Pharisee. But he was suddenly transformed into a fearless evangelist and church planter who suffered greatly for preaching the gospel before Jews and Gentiles, kings, civil leaders, and commoners. The only reasonable explanation for this change of heart is precisely what Paul said it was: “Then last of all [Jesus] was seen by me also” (1 Corinthians 15:8). Paul was so committed to serving Christ that he was beheaded in Rome during Nero’s reign.<sup>4</sup> His treatise on the absolute necessity of the Resurrection for the Christian faith in 1 Corinthians 15 demonstrates this former Pharisee’s undying commitment to the gospel of Christ.

### **The Change in the Disciples**

James and Paul were not the only people to undergo drastic changes. On the night Jesus was arrested, His disciples fled in fear (Mark 14:50). As far as we know, of the eleven disciples only John had the courage to remain close enough to Jesus to observe some of the proceedings up to and including the Crucifixion (John 18:15; 19:26). Peter attempted to stay with Jesus but ended up denying Christ several times before fleeing in shame (Matthew 26:69–75). Less than two months later, Peter stood in front of thousands of Jews in Jerusalem and boldly delivered one of the least “seeker-sensitive” messages

of all time. He declared that they had ““taken by lawless hands, [had] crucified, and put to death”” their Messiah, but ““God raised [Him] up”” (Acts 2:23). It’s difficult to imagine how offensive Peter’s words would have been to such a crowd. These people had been longing for the Messiah to come, but when He came, they failed to recognize Him (Luke 19:41–44; Acts 3:17; 1 Corinthians 2:8). Instead of welcoming Him with open arms, they had delivered Him to be executed by one of the most brutal means imaginable—crucifixion.

But Peter and the disciples weren’t done. After healing a crippled man in the name of Jesus, Peter soon spoke to another large crowd of Jews in the temple. He unflinchingly proclaimed, ““But you denied the Holy One and the Just, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, and killed the Prince of life, whom God raised from the dead, of which we are witnesses”” (Acts 3:14–15).

The disciples were arrested and on the next day they stood before ““their rulers, elders, and scribes, as well as Annas the high priest, [and] Caiaphas...”” (Acts 4:5–6). What was Peter’s message? ““Let it be known to you all, and to the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole... Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved”” (Acts 4:10, 12). The disciples were commanded by the authorities to stop preaching in the name of Jesus (Acts 4:18), but they replied, ““Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard”” (Acts 4:19–20). Upon their release and following a prayer for boldness, we are told, ““And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus”” (Acts 4:33).

In the next chapter of Acts, the disciples were arrested and imprisoned, miraculously freed by an angel, and taken into custody again. They refused to stop preaching and told the council, ““We ought to obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree”” (Acts 5:30).

According to church tradition, all of the disciples except for John suffered a martyr’s death because they continually preached what they had seen and heard: Jesus was crucified, but now He was alive again because God had raised Him from the dead. James, the brother of John, was killed by Herod with the sword (Acts 12:2). An early church tradition records that Peter was crucified upside down, which is consistent with what Jesus told him in John 21:18–19. Early church tradition also holds that the other disciples suffered martyrdom in various manners: spearing, flaying, crucifixion, the sword, and boiling oil.

The book of Acts makes it pretty clear why these men who fled in fear on the night Jesus was arrested were willing to die for Him. They were filled with the Spirit (Acts 2:4; 4:8), and they knew that even though Jesus had died, He was alive and well. They had seen Him with their own eyes and touched Him with their own hands (1 John 1:1–3), and only death could silence them.

Scoffers have attempted to downplay this remarkable proof of the Resurrection by claiming that many people are willing to die for a cause. For example, some Muslims are willing to blow themselves up to kill Jews. That's true, but it misses the point. The Muslims who do this sort of thing sincerely *believe* in their cause, but they do not *know* if it's true. The disciples were in a position to know whether or not Jesus was raised from the dead. It simply is not plausible to suggest that each of these men would face continual persecution and horrifying deaths for something they *knew* to be a lie. After all, liars don't make good martyrs. And in contrast to suicide bombers, the disciples didn't kill others in their respective martyrdoms. And they didn't use violence to force people to convert to Christianity. In fact, they did no harm to anyone, but loved their enemies and willingly accepted persecution from them for the sake of the gospel.<sup>5</sup>

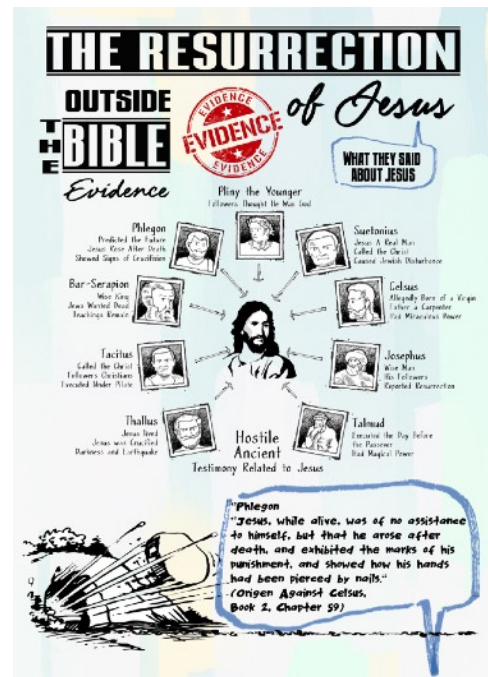
## This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

## Lesson #9

# Outside the Bible Evidence for the Resurrection

### Josephus (1st Century Jewish Historian) - Antiquities 18.3

At this time there was a wise man who was called Jesus. His conduct was good and (he) was known to be virtuous. And many people from among the Jews and the other nations became his disciples. Pilate condemned him to be crucified and to die. But those who had become his disciples did not abandon his discipleship. They reported that he had appeared to them three days after his crucifixion, and that he was alive; accordingly he was perhaps the Messiah, concerning whom the prophets have recounted wonders.



### Cornelius Tacitus (1st Century Roman Historian) - Annals 15.44

Consequently, to get rid of the report, Nero fastened the guilt and inflicted the most exquisite tortures on a class hated for their abominations, called Christians by the populace. Christus, from whom the name had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilatus, and a most mischievous superstition, thus checked for the moment, again broke out not only in Judaea, the first source of the evil, but even in Rome, where all things hideous and shameful from every part of the world find their centre and become popular. Accordingly, an arrest was first made of all who pleaded guilty; then, upon their information, an immense multitude was convicted, not so much of the crime of firing the city, as of hatred against mankind. Mockery of every sort was added to their deaths. Covered with the skins of beasts, they were torn by dogs and perished, or were nailed to crosses, or were doomed to the flames and burnt, to serve as a nightly illumination, when daylight had expired



## This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

# Salvation Object Lessons

## Object Lesson #1

**Our Sins are FORGIVEN at the CROSS**

**You will Need: A Wooden Cross ( 2 Pieces of flat wood panels will work)**

**Small Hammers, small pin nails**

**Sticky Notes**



**You can use one of the Object Lessons in this manual to share the message of the Cross.**

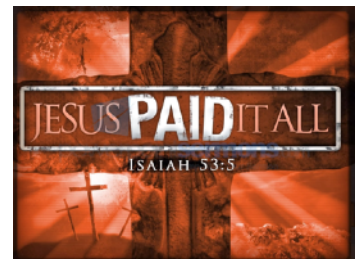
**At the end of the message, you will challenge the children to Ask God to forgive them of their sins.**

**Tell them that when we ask forgiveness, it is like God takes your sins and nails them to the CROSS.**



**What has God done about our sin?**

- 1. He chooses to remember them no more (Isaiah 53:6)**
- 2. God carried away our sins (Isaiah 53:6)**
- 3. God removes them as far as the east is from the west (Psalm 103:12)**
- 4. God nailed our sins to the cross with the debt paid in full (Colossians 2:14)**



**Let the Children write down the sins on the Sticky Note that they feel keep them from God, then let them bring them to the cross and stick them on the cross.**

**Alternative: You could have small nails hammered into the cross upon which the kids can put their papers.**



## Object Lesson #2

### THE BLOOD REMOVES our SIN

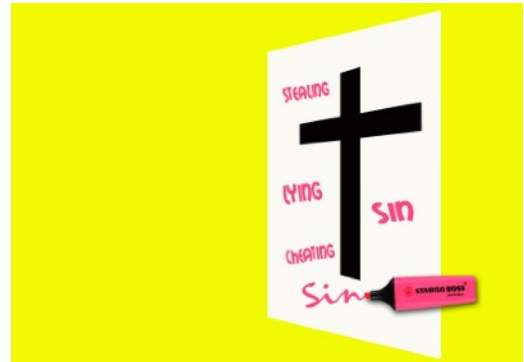
You will need:

Red Cellophane

Pink Texta

A3 or Larger size White card or Paper

Draw an outline of CROSS in Black  
Marker / Texta



The **SECRET** of this object lesson is that you will use a PINK Permanent marker to write the sins on the white page. IF YOU USE a dark Marker - the “sins” will not be removed.

The RED Cellophane absorbs the PINK marking therefore making it disappear. The BLACK Cross will show through the RED Cellophane.



### What you SAY

Hey Guys & Girls

We have been talking about the CROSS of Jesus in this series.

the CROSS was just wood put together. The thieves next to Jesus also had crosses. There was nothing special about the CROSS. It was about the ONE on the CROSS and what HE DID. The Bible tells us that Jesus GAVE HIS BLOOD to forgive our sin.

HOW Powerful is that Blood of Jesus?

It is powerful enough to REMOVE our SINS.

I want to show you with this Object lesson

Here is the CROSS (Draw it in BLACK or a Dark Colour Marker)

### What is SIN?

S - Selfish Living

I - “I” is the MOST IMPORTANT -

N - NOTHING of GOD

Could you name some sins?

As the Kids mention them, write them in the “PINK” Marker

Once done, the Bible tells me that JESUS Gave His Blood and His Life to FORGIVE and REMOVE our sins  
Take the RED Cellophane and COVER the cross with the SINS.  
the SINS are REMOVED, COVERED

Now this is an Object Lesson

If I remove the Red Cellophane - the sin will be seen again.  
that DID NOT HAPPEN when Jesus DIED. His Blood WASHES and they are NEVER Remembered or SEEN by GOD.  
FORGIVEN and FORGOTTEN

## Object Lesson #3

### The POWER OF SIN Washed Away

**You will need:**

Permanent BLACK TEXTA

What is done cannot be UNDONE

RED - Whiteboard Marker

White Board or some plastic sheet (Transparency film) you can write on.

The POWER of SIN needed someone to DIE for to remove it from our lives.

The PENALTY of SIN needed someone to DIE in our place.

The devil must have thought SIN was PERMANENT NEVER to be REMOVED. It would always be in our lives.

When he saw Jesus die on the cross, he must have thought FAILED - God you have FAILED

Can PERMANENT COME OFF?

NO

It means it is PERMANENT.

If I wrote on a Whiteboard with a Permanent Black TEXTA / Marker, would that be a good thing?

NO because it is permanent

You need to use a WHITEBOARD Marker on a WHITEBOARD like this

Act like you think it is a Whiteboard marker then write the word "SIN" on the whiteboard with the PERMANENT Black Marker

"WHAT HAVE I DONE?"



PERMANENT - the devil wants you to believe it cannot be FORGIVEN  
Take the RED Whiteboard Marker and say "RED Reminds me of the BLOOD  
that Jesus SHED, gave as He died on the cross"

Begin to write or scribble over the Permanent Marker word "SIN" then RUB it  
off with a cloth.

It will remove.

HINT: Don't write the word **"SIN" TOO BIG**

It will take a long time to REMOVE IT.

## **Object Lesson #4**

### **The POWER of the CROSS**

**What you Need:** 2 pieces of A3 size card and Scissors. You could use Maizy Plastic

**Bible Verse:** 2 Corinthians 5:21 “He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God IN Him.”

You will need **a piece of RED card and a piece of WHITE card.**

Cut out a CROSS from each of the pieces of Card. They need to be the EXACT same size.

This is a powerful yet simple understanding of the CROSS.

Question:

Do you know what the cross is all about?

Some would say it is something they wear around their neck or another may say it is that symbol on the top of some churches you see. We see many of the pop stars and movie stars wearing crosses. Some with gold and jewels encrusted into it.

Some see it as a fashion piece of jewellery.

**What is the cross?**

**Diagram 1:** Show the WHITE CROSS first

The WHITE CROSS represents Jesus. Did Jesus ever sin?

He was sinless. He never did anything wrong. Not even his enemies could find fault with Jesus. Even Pilate finally had to say as he washed his hands – I find no fault in him

Jesus was SINLESS

Even though He was SINLESS Jesus went on to die. Why would someone who did no wrong have to die?

**Diagram 2 :** Show the RED CROSS

This represents YOU.

## THE POWER OF THE CROSS



**DIAGRAM 1**



**DIAGRAM 2**



**DIAGRAM 3**



**DIAGRAM 4**

Question: Have you ever sinned, done things wrong?

EVERYONE has sinned, done things wrong.

Romans 3:23 “All have sinned and fallen short of Gods standards / glory”

God made him who knew no sin to be sin for us

Jesus willing came to die on the cross for our sins

Why was his feet nailed to the cross?

Why was his hands nailed to the cross?

Why was a crown of thorns placed on his head?

His hands never reached out to do anything wrong but mine have

His feet never took him to wrong places but ours have

We should be punished for the Bible says All we like sheep have gone astray  
each one of us have turned to our own ways

Have you ever thought bad thoughts, sinful thoughts. A crown of thorns  
pierced his head

**Diagram 3** : Take the RED Cross and place it OVER the WHITE Cross –

God took him who knew no sin to be Sin for us

Jesus cried out on the cross what we should have said “My God my God why  
have you forsaken me.”

It is finished – paid in full

He was placed in a grave. He lay there for three days.

**Diagram 4:** On the third day he arose from the dead (Pick up the WHITE  
cross)

Where are our sins?

They are paid in FULL – they are gone

**Diagram 5:** There are THREE ACTIONS you will do at this point

## THE POWER OF THE CROSS



**DIAGRAM 5**



**DIAGRAM 6**



**DIAGRAM 7**



**DIAGRAM 8**



# Object Lesson #5

## The BIBLE is HISTORY

**What you Need: A4 size paper and Scissors.**

**You can use a larger size paper (A3 or Larger) if you are presenting to a larger group.**

This Paper Tear is one of my very favourites. It has a number of different stories and applications.

I will give you each story as a separate Paper Tear referring you back to Diagrams from this Paper Tear.

**Diagram 1:** We start with an A4 /A3 size piece of paper / card

**Diagram 2 – Diagram 4:** Most of the Paper Tears start off with the first four steps as per

Diagram 1 – 4.

I start this story by folding the paper up to Diagram 4. I then fold the Pointed part inwards so that it almost looks like a book. The Paper Tear is called “The Bible is HIS Story” So I want to emphasise the fact that right from the first book of the Bible – the book of Genesis right through until the last book – the book of Revelation – it is the story of Jesus. Every book points to ONE Story – the story of Jesus.

I mention a few places where it talks about Jesus –the prophecies of the Old Testament ( The First Testament)

Right throughout this presentation I keep using the words “The Bible say...” I want the children to know it is the Bible I am emphasising.

**Diagram 5:** In the beginning you may need to draw these lines lightly so you know where to cut. BUT after a few practices you will not need to draw lines – you will just know it. They need to be cut in EQUAL portions.

**Diagram 6:** You may want to lay your three groups of paper out before you as seen in Diagram 6 or you may simply place them altogether. The LARGEST Portion ( on the left of the Diagram 6 will be your cross.

## THE BIBLE IS **HIS** STORY



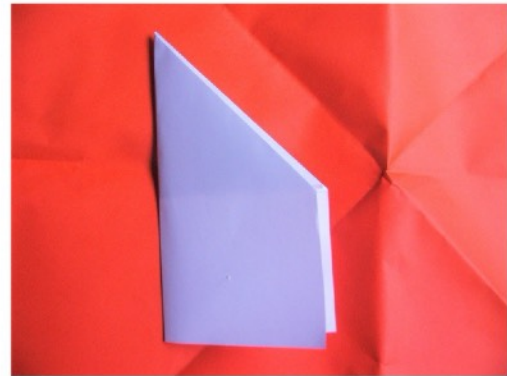
**DIAGRAM 1**



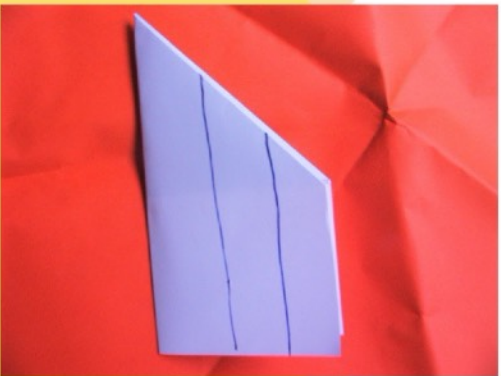
**DIAGRAM 2**



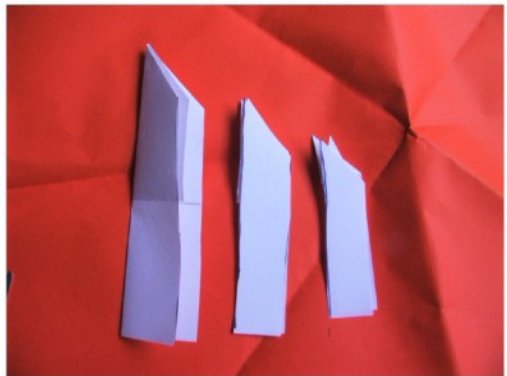
**DIAGRAM 3**



**DIAGRAM 4**



**DIAGRAM 5**



**DIAGRAM 6**

The other two parts will make up the rest of your story.

**IMPORTANT:** Do not lose any parts otherwise you may have another Gospel!!!

**Diagram 7:** This gives you the layout of your entire story. There are seven (7) parts to this Paper Tear as seen on Page 19.

You are now ready to share the message.

This is the CENTRAL Story of the entire Bible. (Read Matthew 27: 27 – 54 – The Crucifixion)

I simply share the message in a very straight forward way declaring “The Bible say..”

# 1 Jesus Died on the cross

# 2 that was placed into the ground. (There are two parts to the ground)

# 3 The Bible says that a sign / notice was placed above Jesus head -it was written in three languages –the three languages of that time. Jesus dying on the cross was for EVERYONE. Everyone there could read it in his own language.

# 4 The Bible says that one of the soldiers took a spear and thrust / pushed it into Jesus side.

# 5 The Bible says that while Jesus hung on the cross the soldiers threw dice for his seamless garment. Instead of ripping it up, they cast the dice so someone would get the whole garment.

#6 The Bible says there were two (2) thieves that were crucified - one of each side of Jesus. This one (#6) mocked Jesus –saying if you are the son of God as you say – get yourself off the cross and get us off as well. He REJECTED Jesus /He Turned AWAY from Jesus

# 7 The Bible say The other thief turned TOWARDS Jesus .He said Jesus remember me when you come into your Kingdom. He RECEIVED Jesus.

With one piece of paper , you have shared the entire Gospel message of the Cross.

## **Application #1:**

We all have a choice just like the two Thieves. We can either REJECT or RECEIVE Jesus.

We can TURN AWAY from Jesus or we can TURN TOWARDS Jesus

**IMPORTANT:** Do not lose any parts otherwise you may have another Gospel!!!

THE BIBLE IS **HIS** STORY



DIAGRAM 7

- #1 THE CROSS**
- #2 THE GROUND**
- #3 THE SIGN /NOTICE**
- #4 THE SPEAR**
- #5 THE DICE**
- #6 THE THIEF WHO TURNED AWAY**
- #7 THIEF WHO TURNED TOWARDS JESUS**

## Object Lesson #6

### The WORDLESS BOOK

**Wordless BOOK.** This is a Salvation presentation using FIVE (5) colours. Each representing an aspect of the salvation message.

You could use: 5 Balloons, pieces of Card,  
If you click on the website below, you will find a whole lot of creative ideas on sharing the Wordless Book.

**Great Website with a number of variations on how to use the Wordless Book**

<https://www.letthelittlechildrencome.com/child-evangelism-resources/wordless-book-share-the-gospel>

**Ten Creative ways to share the Wordless Book**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L-MG6KmsSzs>

**Wordless Book Tutorial Video using Balloon Sculpturing**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UDgQC9XFbYU>

**The South African National Flag** has all Five Colours in it. A great tool to share the Good News in that nation



### WORDLESS BOOK

**BLACK** - DARKNESS of SIN

**RED** - BLOOD of JESUS

**WHITE** - WASHES us CLEAN

**GREEN** -

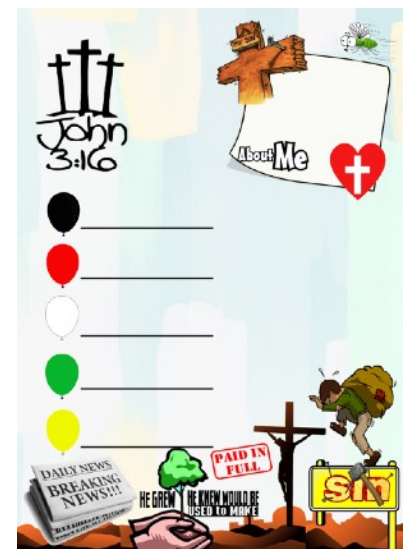
**G. - GO** to Church

**R. READ** the BIBLE - God's LIFE MANUAL

**O. - OBEY** what you READ

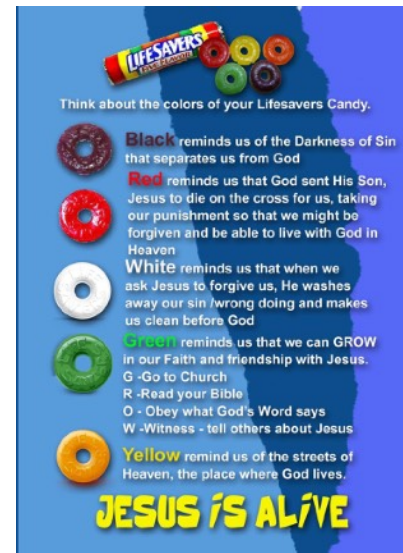
**W. - WITNESS** to others about WHAT Jesus has done in your life.

**YELLOW / GOLD** - Streets of Gold



## USING LIFE SAVERS or JELLY BEANS

This is a great way to share the Wordless Book. You can either use LifeSavers or Jelly Beans.

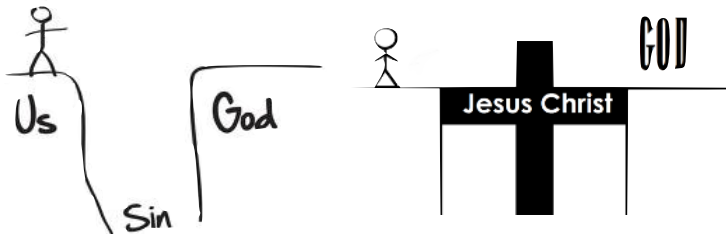




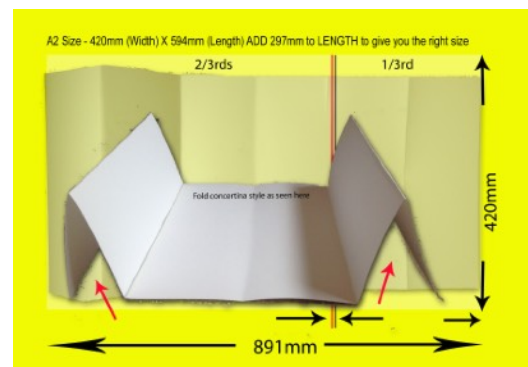
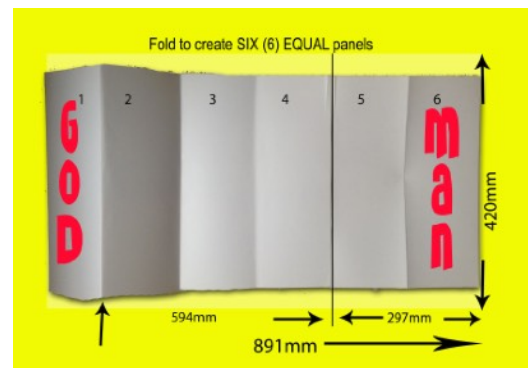
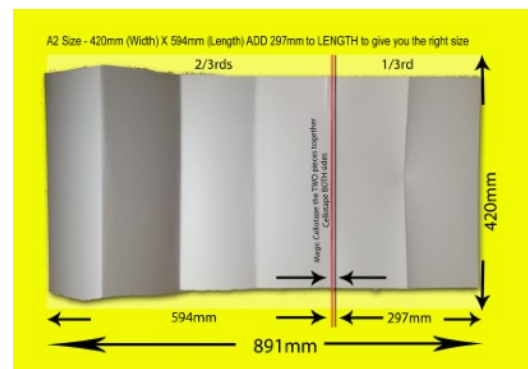
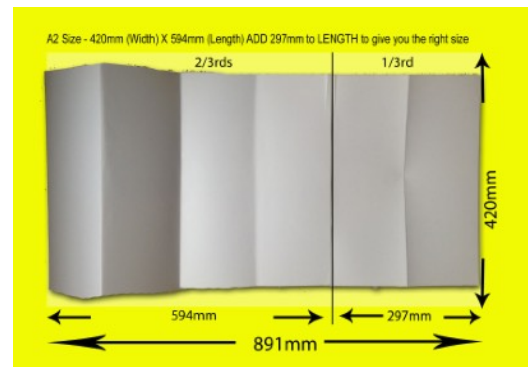
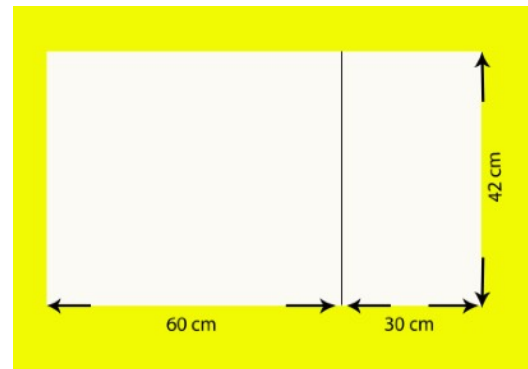
# Object Lesson #7

## GOOD NEWS God & Man RESTORED

This is a version of the BRIDGE Gospel presentation.



The first 7 panels are giving instruction how to create the presentation.





**Panel 8** shows the beginning of the presentation. Close the panels so GOD & MAN are TOGETHER. You can talk about that is how we were created. To be connected with God. Adam & Eve walked and talked with God everyday.



**Panel 9** speaks about the GAP, the GULF, the DISCONNECTION that took place when man disobeyed. the Bible calls this SIN. What is Sin?  
S - SELF LIVING  
I - "I" is Number 1 = without God  
N -



SIN did NOT catch God by surprise. Can you see the CROSS on the side. The Bible tells us that Jesus was already slain BEFORE the foundations of the world.

There was nothing that we could do to get to God.

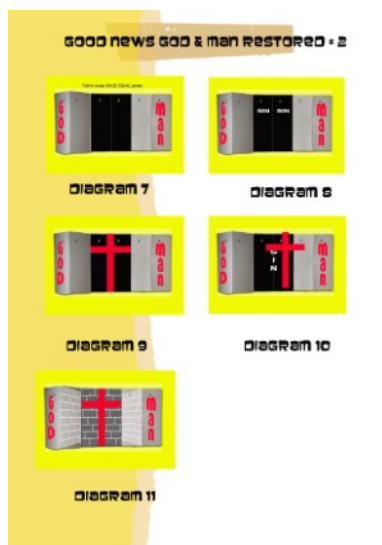
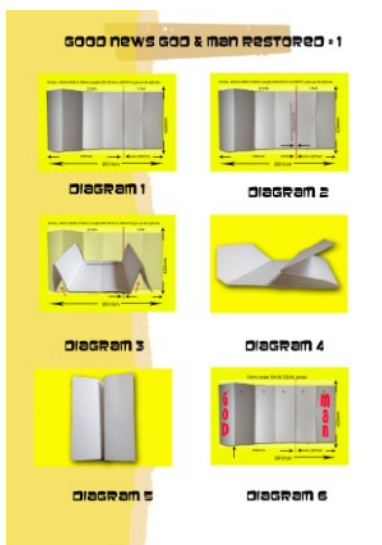
GOOD WORKS don't count

It took Jesus dying on the CROSS. He helped RECONNECT us to God. The CROSS is like a BRIDGE over the SIN GAP



I love this idea given as TWO phones that are DISCONNECTED

**Something came between that cut off the connection.**



## Object Lesson #8

### The HAND Gospel



# RESURRECTION OBJECT LESSONS

## Resurrection Eggs

**You will need: A set of Resurrection Eggs which you can buy from:**

**OR you can create your own set using Plastic Eggs.**

**There are a number of different versions of the story meaning some have different pieces of the story in them.**

Resurrection eggs are a visual way to walk your children through the Easter story. Each egg contains a small trinket that provides a reminder of a portion of the story. Use the **pre-made resurrection eggs set** or make your own using an egg carton, plastic eggs, and small items you can find around your house.

Number the eggs with a marker so they will be in the correct order when you're ready to talk about the contents.

You can hide the eggs around your home for a mini Easter egg hunt, then have your child put them in the egg carton in number order.

**Egg #1:** Oyster cracker (or bread) – Matthew 26:26

**Egg #2:** Silver coins – Matthew 26:14-16

**Egg #3:** Purple cloth – Matthew 27:28

**Egg #4:** Thorns – Matthew 27:29

**Egg #5:** Rope – Mark 15:15

**Egg #6:** Cross – John 19:16-17

**Egg #7:** Nail – John 19:18

**Egg #8:** Sign that says, "This is the king of the Jews." – Luke 23:38

**Egg #9:** Sponge (with vinegar) – Matthew 27:48

**Egg #10:** Cloves or spices – Luke 23:5-6

**Egg #11:** Rock – Matthew 27:59-60

**Egg #12:** EMPTY! – Matthew 28:55-56





# HE IS RISEN



## You NEED

Long Balloon to fit into the Brown Bag

A Medium size round balloon that can fit into the Bag

A Pin that will be used to "POP" the Balloon

2 Brown Paper Bags. You can use carrier bags with handles if needs be..

## Preparation

You will need to "Prepare" the Brown Bag. Take one bag and fold it down to make it a FALSE bottom to fit into the other Bag. You will need to Sticky Tape it so it does not unfold.

You will place the Long Balloon at the bottom inside of the bag and place the False Bottom ON TOP of this balloon. The Line represents the False Bottom.



Hold the Bottom of the Brown Bag as you tell the story, holding the False bottom. You are able to "show" them the inside of the bag is empty. The False bottom will hide the long balloon.

As you place the small round balloon into the bag. Close the top of the brown bag. Mention that Jesus was placed on the cross.



As you say HE DIED, "POP" the Balloon from the BOTTOM. It will pop the hidden balloon. On the 3rd Day, Jesus rose from the Tomb as He promised. Open th Bag and take out the Small Round Balloon.



On ONE SIDE of the bag  
Place a Cross

## HE IS ALIVE

On ONE SIDE of the  
bag. Write "HE IS ALIVE"





# The Tea Bag Gospel

## Scripture

Ephesians 2:5-10

## Objective

Use a tea bag as an object lesson to tell the story of Christ's crucifixion and resurrection. It's the Easter message for children and adults.

## Object Lesson

### The Label

- 1 Remove the tag/label and hold it up for the children to see.
- 2 Explain: The label identifies the tea. Jesus was labeled with many tags. He was called Christ, Messiah, teacher, Savior, the King of Kings, the man from Galilee, the carpenter, the Son of God, Redeemer, friend of sinners, good shepherd, Great Physician, King of the Jews and much more. Then at the cross, a sign was placed over his head – "King of the Jews." Jesus was in the very nature God, but he wasn't concerned with titles. He did not consider equality with God something to be grasped. Instead, he took the nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. He emptied himself and made himself nothing.

### The String

- 1 Remove the string and show it to the children.
- 2 Then explain: People often become attached to things here on earth. They are often attached to possessions, pleasure, and power. Jesus was tempted by Satan after 40 days in the desert with the very same things. But Jesus was not attached to these things. Instead, his focus was on doing the will of God. He came to earth with a purpose. And that purpose was yours and my redemption.

### The Staple

- 1 Carefully remove the staple and show it to the children.
- 2 Explain: This tea bag was pierced and has holes from a staple. Jesus was not pierced with a staple but with nails and a spear. Soldiers nailed his body to a cross.

### The Tea

- 1 Carefully open the tea bag without tearing it. Display the bag of tea leaves to the children.
- 2 Then explain: Tea looks like dirt. If you put it in water, it will change the water to the color of the tea. It will no longer be clear and pure.
- 3 Demonstrate by dropping a bit of tea into the glass of hot water and stirring it around.
- 4 Explain: Like this tea bag, we all have dirt in our lives. We are not pure. The Bible calls this dirt, this impurity, sin. We need help from God to remove the sin from our lives. That's exactly why Jesus came – to help



us remove the sin from our lives. We must trust Jesus to remove the sin from our lives. When we ask him for forgiveness, he will make us clean and pure again.

- 5 Then empty the tea leaves into the saucer.

### **The Tea Bag**

- 1 Carefully open up the tea bag completely. It will open into a long tube that you can stand on the second saucer.
- 2 Explain: When Jesus removes the sin from our lives we can stand pure and proud in the sight of God. We will become a light for God. Philippians 2:15 says that among the perverse generation we will shine as lights in the world.

### **Lights for Christ**

- 1 Light the bag from the top and allow it to burn.
- 2 Explain: As you shine for Jesus you become closer to God in your Christian walk, and one day your soul shall join him for eternal life. Just as Christ was resurrected and went to be with the Father, we will also rise up to be with him. We will be exalted and raised with him.
- 3 The tea bag floats up as it burns.

### **Summary**

That's the story of Easter. Jesus set aside his titles and emptied himself and became one of us. He came with a purpose, to cut us free from the things of the world. He was pierced for us. And when we ask his forgiveness, he will take away the dirt from our lives and make us pure. We can stand strong and become his light to the world. And, just as he has risen we will also rise to be with him

# Gospel Presentations



The Following Youtube Video Clips are great to ADD into your lesson. you can download them as MP4's by ADDING the letters "ss" into the youtube URL before the word "youtube"

Once the page opens; go to the link "Download video in browser"

Click on it and the download will commence.

You can then save them to a USB stick to use.

## **The Gospel in 5 Minutes (An Excellent presentation)**

<https://www.lifeway.com/kidsministry/2016/03/25/watch-the-gospel-story-in-5-minutes/>

## **The Bridge Presentation for Kids (3 Min 46 Sec)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MRcPzh2YxkU>

## **Dot & Bouncy SALVATION (4 Min 30 Sec)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P5hS0AD1M78>

## **True Consequences (Salvation) (3 Min 31 Sec)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UZJ9zwmEv8k>

## **Sharing the Gospel on the Pavement or Sidewalk with Chalk and Presentation**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fYxoeEqHtks>

## **God's Rescue Plan**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qgdU-JnNMT8>

### **The Pocket Gospel Presentation**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cdLbACTAB54>

### **Explaining the Gospel to Kids**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gl\\_4dj2vs-U](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gl_4dj2vs-U)

### **Theo's Gospel Presentation**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j6Q7qUosKDc>

### **Sin TARGET Game**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=49Qs1a9xe8Y>

### **The Sin Chair**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rJq7wWYvbas>

## **Songs that could be sung with Lyrics on screen**

### **I believe in the Resurrection**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nNiYUPsHgls>

### **Resurrection Power by Chris Tomlin**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JTZbbkn-4ZU>

### **1-2-3 Jesus is Alive**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mlf9jv4pVTM>

### **The Rizers - John 3:16**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k2iHNzNJkJw>

# RESURRECTION BIBLE VERSES

**John 11:25-26** Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

**Mark 16:6** “Don’t be alarmed,” he said. “You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him.”

**Luke 24:6-7** “He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: ‘The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.’

**1 Thessalonians 4:14** “For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.”

**1 Peter 1:3** Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

**Matthew 28:5-6** The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.”

**2 Corinthians 5:14-15** “For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

**1 Corinthians 15:14–19** “And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.” In fact, “if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; **you are still in your sins** and believers who have died are lost”

# CROSS BIBLE VERSES

**1 Peter 3:18** “For Christ died for sins once and for all, a good man on behalf of sinners, in order to lead you to God. He was put to death physically, but made alive spiritually”

**1 Corinthians 15:3** “For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures.”

**Romans 5:8** “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, **Christ died for us.**”

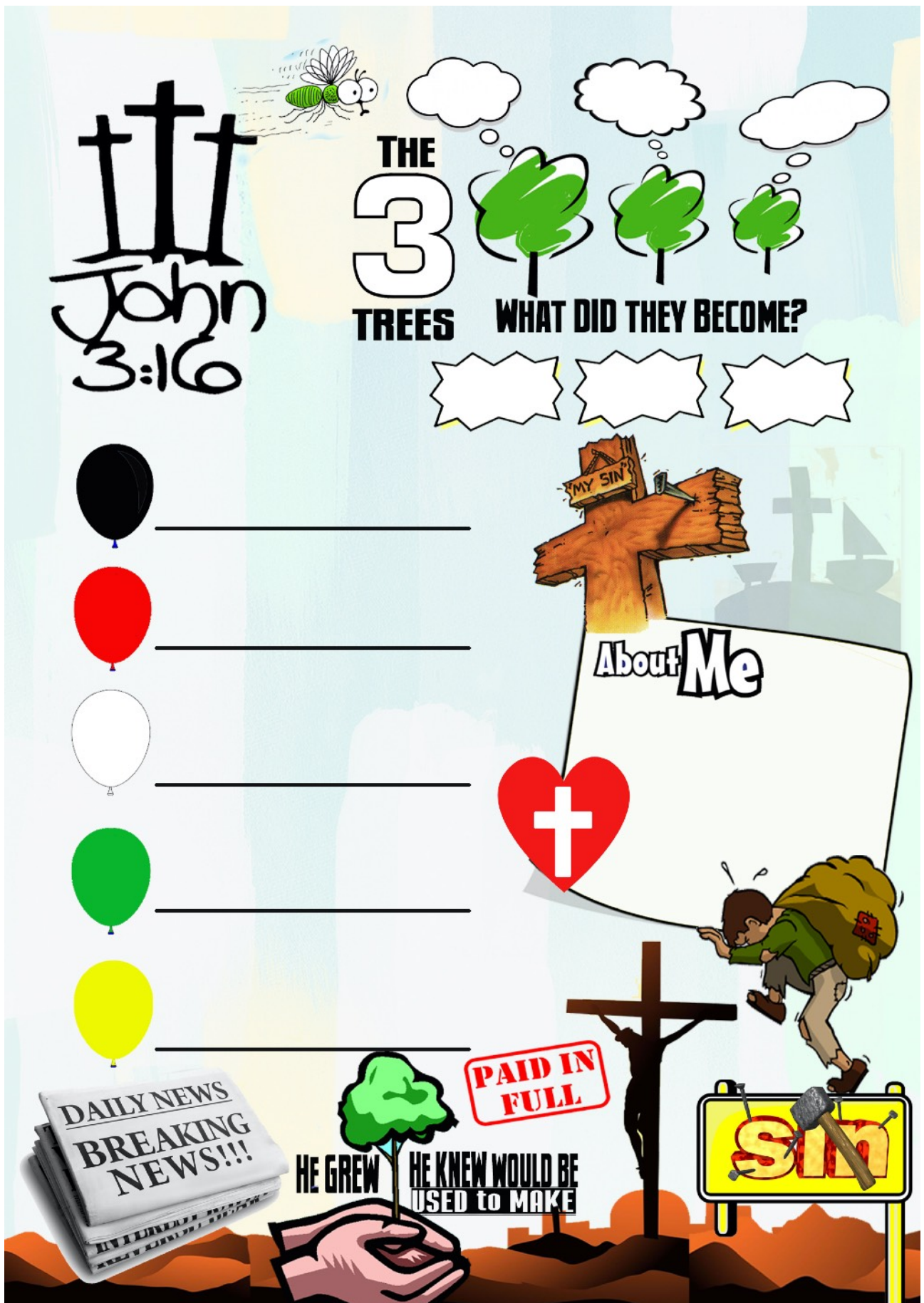
**Romans 5:10** “For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.”

**Romans 5:6** “For while we were still helpless, at the right time **Christ died** for the ungodly”

**Romans 6:10** For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God.”

**Hebrews 10:12** “but He, having offered **one sacrifice for sins for all time**, sat down at the right hand of God.”

**Colossians 2:14** “He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross.”

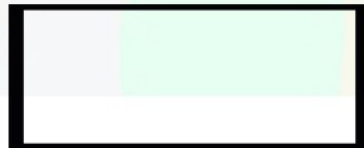
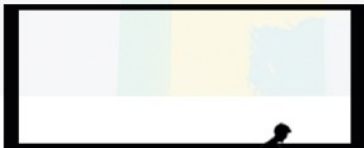
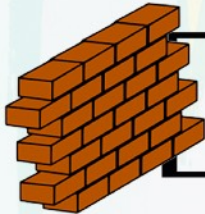
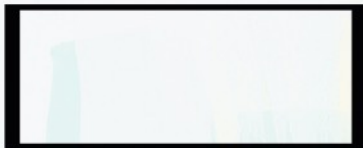
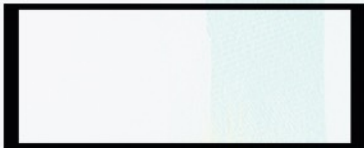




# PICTURES OF SIN



# PICTURES OF SALVATION



# WHAT? IS SIN?

Sin is any thought or behavior that is contrary to the Word of God or His character. It is anything one thinks, says or does that is displeasing to God.

Using the Above Definition of SIN, USE the Letters of S.I.N. below to write WHAT Sin is

**S**

**I**

**N**

**POWER**

---

---

---

**PENALTY**

---

---

---

**PRESENCE**

---

---

---



## TO ASK YOURSELF

1. If I do this will I be disobeying one of God's commands?
2. If I do this will I be loving God with all my heart, soul, mind and strength?
3. If I do this will I be loving "my neighbor" as myself?
4. Would I do this if I could see Jesus standing next to me?
5. If I am still not sure what to do who is a trusted adult I can talk to?

- 
1. If it feels good it must be right.
  2. If everyone else is doing it, it must be okay.
  3. God is loving and forgiving so I'll just do it and say I'm sorry afterwards.





# PICTURES OF SALVATION



JESUS, GOD'S SINLESS SON, TOOK THE PUNISHMENT FOR ALL YOUR SINS. "CHRIST DIED FOR OUR SINS... HE WAS BURIED... [THEN HE] WAS RAISED [BACK TO LIFE] ON THE THIRD DAY" (1 CORINTHIANS 15:3-4).

WE ALL HAVE A SIN DEBT, WE OWE GOD. NO MATTER WHAT WE DO OR COULD HAVE DONE, WE CAN NEVER PAY THIS DEBT. WHEN JESUS WAS ABOUT TO DIE, HE SAID "IT IS FINISHED" MEANING "FATHER, I HAVE PAID THE SIN DEBT MANKIND OWES YOU." JESUS WIPED AWAY OUR DEBT COMPLETELY AND FOREVER.



**PAID IN FULL**



**JESUS**

**WHY DID  
JESUS  
DIE**



**WHY?**

#1 To REMOVE the S \_\_\_\_\_ B \_\_\_\_\_



What was the OBJECT LESSON we used to explain the Barrier of SIN?



Draw What you saw explaining HOW God solved the problem



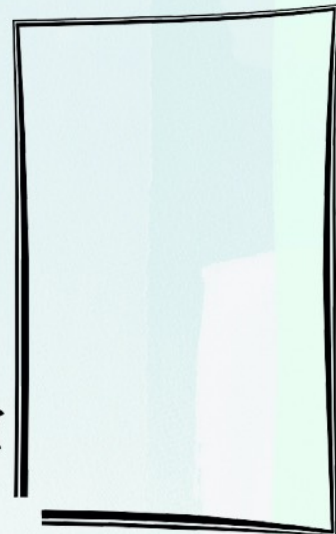
#2 To S \_\_\_\_\_ God L \_\_\_\_\_ 4 US

#3 To SHOW J \_\_\_\_\_ own L \_\_\_\_\_ 4 US



Did JESUS DO THIS?

Draw a Picture of HOW JESUS SHOWED HIS LOVE



#4 To BRING US to GOD



1 PETER 3:18  
1 CORINTHIANS 15:3  
ROMANS 5:6  
ROMANS 5:8  
ROMANS 6:10  
HEBREWS 10:12  
COLOSSIANS 2:14

CHOOSE ONE OF THE WORD WATCH VERSES AND WRITE IT OUT BELOW  
UNDERLINE WHAT THE VERSE SAID WHAT JESUS DID





# PROOF JESUS DIED



FIND THE RIGHT BIBLE VERSE FROM WORD WATCH AND PLACE IT BELOW THE CORRECT STATEMENT ABOVE

#1 Everyone heard Jesus Death Cry



#2 The Soldiers **DID NOT** break his legs

#3 They Put a Spear in his side

#4 Pilate Checked that Jesus was Dead

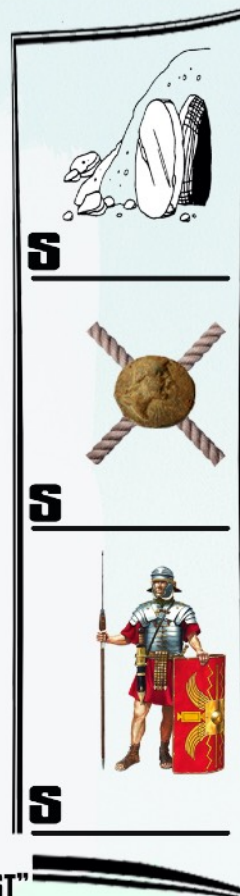
#5 The Burial Cloths and Spices

JOHN 19:33  
1 PETER 3:18  
ROMANS 5:8  
ROMANS 6:10  
MARK 15:37  
MARK 15:44  
JOHN 19:34  
JOHN 20:7

WRITE A PRAYER OF THANK YOU TO JESUS  
FOR DYING FOR YOU ON THE CROSS



MARK 15:37 "BUT JESUS LET OUT A LOUD CRY AND BREATHED HIS LAST"



**SWOON**  
**MEANS**

---

---

---

---

---

---

# ROAD **2**

## The CROSS

NOT ONE DROP OF BLOOD WAS WASTED

#1 Jesus BLED with His SWEAT

---

---

---

#2 Jesus BLED from His FACE

---

---

---

#3 Jesus BLED from His BACK

---

---

---

#4 Jesus BLED from His HEAD

---

---

---

#5 Jesus BLED from His HANDS

---

---

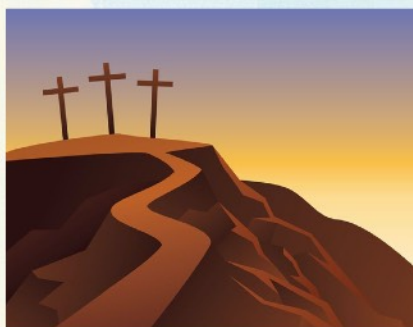
---

#6 Jesus BLED from His FEET

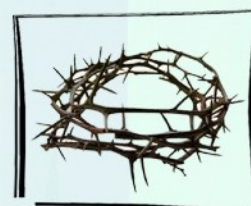
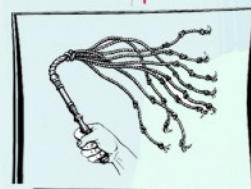
---

---

---



LUKE 22:44  
MATTHEW 27:26  
MATTHEW 27:29  
LUKE 23:33  
JOHN 20:24-27  
LUKE 24:39

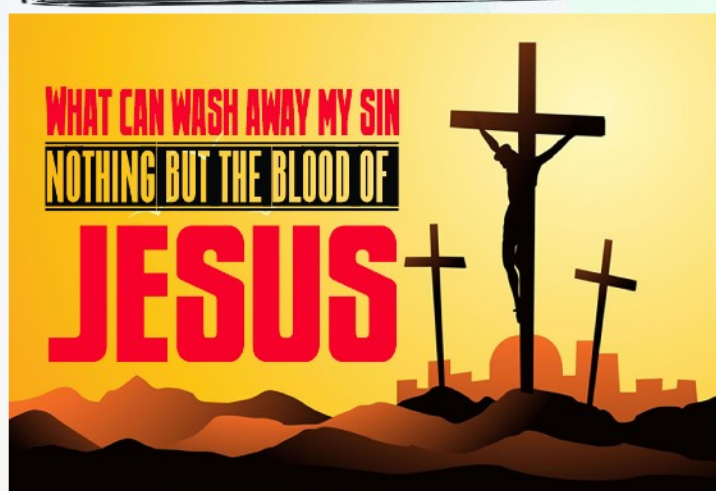


WRITE OUT JOHN 1:29

---

---

---





# THE RESURRECTION

Christianity Stands and Falls on the **RESURRECTION** of JESUS

## JESUS MADE THE CLAIM

Jesus spoke openly about what would happen to him: He would be **Crucified** and then **Resurrected** from the dead.



## MEANING

### Crucified

Put (someone) to death by nailing them to a cross, especially as an ancient punishment.

### Resurrection

Being raised from the dead. It comes from the Greek a-na'sta-sis, which means "raising up" or "standing up again." A person who is resurrected is raised up from death and restored to life as the person he was before.



Every Religion has its leader **BUT NONE** of them **EVER made such a claim** - that they would die to make us right with God and to **PROVE** it, they would rise from the dead, and come back to life.



**IF Jesus ONLY DIED, that would be no different from anyone else dying.**

of Jesus



## Mark 8:31

"The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after

Complete the ABOVE Bible Verse

## WHY IS THE RESURRECTION IMPORTANT?

## IT PROVES

The TRUTH of W Jesus Claimed to be

The TRUTH of W Jesus said He came to DO

The TRUTH that Jesus was the **ACCEPTABLE**  
**S**



## 1 Corinthians 15:14-18

Write out this Bible Verse and **UNDERLINE** what Paul says it means if Jesus has NOT RISEN from the dead

---

---

---

---

---





# THE RESURRECTION

THEY STOLE  
JESUS  
BODY

and Other  
MYTHS



of Jesus

THE DEAD BODY OF JESUS COULD NOT BE FOUND

**4** REASONS

✓ THE CORRECT ONE

☐

The Enemy STole his Body

☐

His Friends STole his Body

☐

Jesus just fainted and didn't die

☐

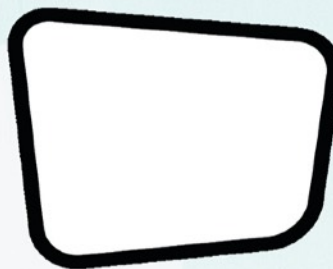
He was **RISEN** from Dead  
and was **ALIVE**

## THE STONE - THE SEAL - THE SOLDIERS

THE STONE



ROMAN SEAL



ROMAN SOLDIERS



"Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive,  
'After three days I will rise'" (Matthew 27:63).

# THE RESURRECTION

**THEY SAW  
JESUS  
ALIVE**

*Evidence*

**JESUS APPEARED 12 TIMES  
TO DIFFERENT GROUPS SIZES**



**40  
DAYS**

*of Jesus*



**WHO DID HE APPEAR TO?  
READ THE BIBLE VERSES  
AND WRITE THEIR NAME**



**WITNESS**

**MARK 16:9-11**

**MARK 16:12-13**

**JOHN 20:19-25**

**JOHN 21:1-14**



**1 CORINTHIANS 15:6**

**1 CORINTHIANS 15:7**

**ACTS 1:3-11**

**MATTHEW 28:4**



**SOME ATE WITH HIM, WALKED WITH HIM, TOUCHED HIM. JESUS EVEN MADE BREAKFAST FOR SOME OF THEM (JOHN 21:9)**



# THE RESURRECTION

**DISCIPLES  
CHANGED  
LIVES**

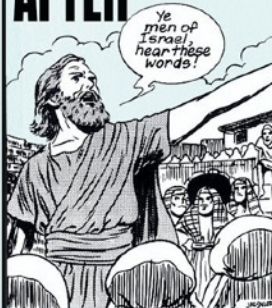
*Evidence*



*of Jesus*

**PETER**

**BEFORE AFTER**



**WHAT CHANGED PETER?**

**HE HAD SEEN JESUS**

**R** \_\_\_\_\_  
**AND A** \_\_\_\_\_

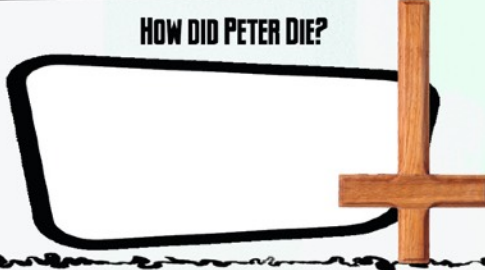
**WHERE DID PETER SEE JESUS ALIVE AFTER THE RESURRECTION?**

\_\_\_\_\_ **JOHN 20:1-10**

**JOHN 21:1-24** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **ACTS 1:3-8**

**HOW DID PETER DIE?**



**Would you DIE for a LIE?**

# THE RESURRECTION

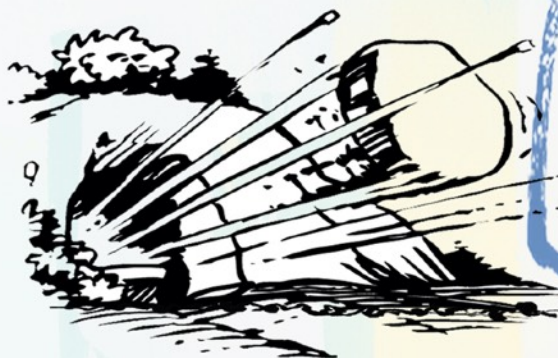
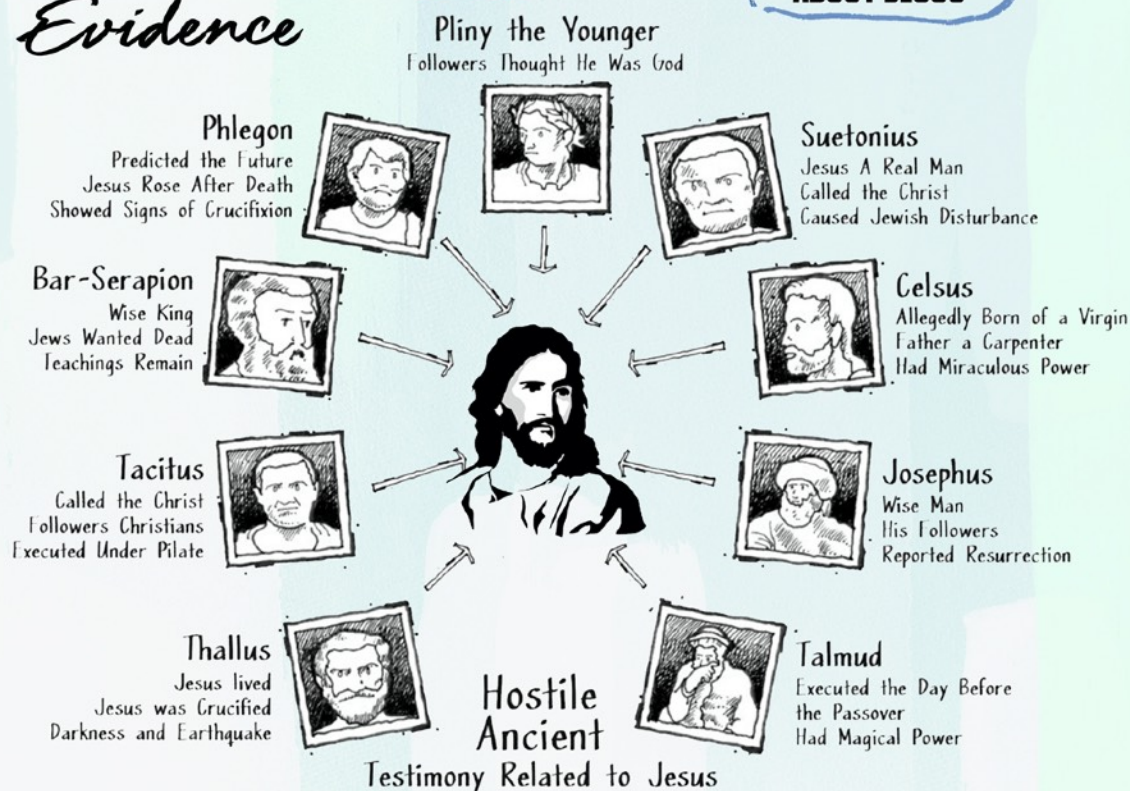
**OUTSIDE  
THE BIBLE**

*Evidence*



*of Jesus*

**WHAT THEY SAID  
ABOUT JESUS**



**"Phlegon**

**"Jesus, while alive, was of no assistance to himself, but that he arose after death, and exhibited the marks of his punishment, and showed how his hands had been pierced by nails."**

**(Origen Against Celsus,  
Book 2, Chapter 59)**



## **1 Drops of Blood:**

- Luke 22:44** tells that in the Garden of Gethsemane as Jesus was praying, just before His arrest *“And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.”*
- 2 The first time Christ bled. Thus the atonement, the substitutionary sacrifice to win back authority over the world begins in a garden, reflecting the location of the original loss of authority, the Garden of Eden.
  - 3 As the first Adam, the first human and the first to be made by God, lost the authority to rule over the earth as God’s agent, in a garden; God’s first and only begotten son, the “Second Adam,” begins to win back authority, also in a garden.
  - 4 This was the beginning of the shedding of His redemptive blood – redemptive meaning that we are ransomed and brought back to the original condition or place.
  - 5 With the words of Matthew 26:39, the redemption commenced in earnest, *“Yet not as I will, but as You will”*.

## **6 The Whipping Post:**

- 7 **Matthew 27:26** tells us that first Pilate released Barabbas to the jeering crowd “And when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered Him to be crucified.” The second time Christ bled.

## **8 The Crown of Thorns:**

- 9 **Matthew 27:29** tell us “And plaiting a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand. And they bowed the knee before Him and mocked Him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews!” The third time Christ bled. The imposition on the head of Jesus of this symbol of the curse of poverty would have drawn blood as the thorns pierced the scalp.
- 10 In **Genesis 3:17-2** God said to Adam *“Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”*

11 By placing the crown of thorns on the head of Jesus, that which the enemy intended as a humiliation, for Christ became a blessing.

12 As Jesus became a curse for the land and the error of Adam, the curse of poverty on all mankind was broken. This is confirmed in **2 Corinthians 8:9** where Paul says *“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.”*

### **13 His Hands:**

The fourth time Christ bled was when they drove spikes through his wrists/hands into the cross. Again this is reflected at the beginning in **Genesis 39:3** *“His master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord caused all that he did to succeed in his hands.”*

14 We are also the recipients of this blessing: for with our hands we have the power of Jesus to bless, heal and take authority of all things in the name of Jesus.

### **15 His Feet:**

The fifth time Christ bled was when they drove spikes through his feet into that Golgotha cross. With our feet we can take dominion over every place the sole of our foot touches (**Deuteronomy 11:34**) and with our feet we can exercise the Great Commission of **Mark 16:15** where Jesus said *“Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.”*

### **16 His Side:**

The sixth time Christ bled was then the soldier drove a spear into His side to make certain he was dead as **John 19:34** says *“But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water.”* By this time Jesus was dead. He had given up His spirit and laid down His life to redeem us, being made a curse hanging on a tree. He died in physical pain and agony. But he also died in unbelievable suffering under the weight of our sins and for the first time in His life, he felt the total and absolute separation from His Father.

### **17 His Bruises:**

Jesus suffered extensive bruising and bruising is simply bleeding on the inside. This is the seventh time Christ bled. **Isaiah 53:5** says *“But He was wounded for our transgressions; He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our*



*peace was on Him; and with His stripes we ourselves are healed.”*

18 Sometimes the bruising we have is invisible to others. We hurt internally in the hidden places but as **2 Corinthians 5:21** says *“For He has made Him who knew no sin, to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”* In that, we have healing, not just for the body which is external and can be seen, but for the internal pains and hurts too.

19 Jesus did not only shed His blood externally, he also shed it internally and from this we can plead the Blood of Jesus both internally and externally. There is nothing which the blood cannot overcome, providing we stay under the blood.

Without delving too far into the prophetic and symbolic meaning of numbers in the Bible, it seems however opportune to mention in passing that the number 7 represents perfection, and is the sign of God, divine worship, completions, obedience, and rest. The “prince” of Bible numbers, it is used 562 times, including its derivatives (e.g., seventh, sevens).

The Seven Places JESUS Shed His Blood – and the curse that was broken because of His Blood

1. SWEAT TURNED TO BLOOD – He was in such agony of spirit that His sweat fell to the ground as drops of blood. Adam surrendered his dominion to satan in the Garden of Eden. JESUS paid for our dominion over satan in the Garden of Gethsemane.

\* Luke 22:44 NIV – And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.

2. BY HIS STRIPES – He received 39 lashes. There are 39 known root diseases worldwide. JESUS paid for our healing by His stripes.

\* Isaiah 53:5 KJV – But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

3. BEATEN AND BRUISED (bleeding under the skin) – He bled on the inside for our iniquity (inherited weakness in a person’s nature). JESUS paid for our iniquities so we don’t have to pass them on to our children.

\* Isaiah 53:5 KJV – But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

4. CROWN OF THORNS – He shed His blood on His brow. JESUS paid the price for the “curse of poverty”.

\* Genesis 3:19 NIV – By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life.

5. SPIKES IN HIS HANDS – He shed blood in his hands when he was nailed to the cross. JESUS paid for our inheritance. We have authority in His name.

\* Galatians 4:4-5 NIV – But when the time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.

6. SPIKES IN HIS FEET – He shed blood in his feet when he was nailed to the cross. JESUS paid the price for our peace. You have this promise – that He will never leave you nor forsake you.

\* Deuteronomy 31:6 NIV – ....the Lord your God goes with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you.

7. SPEAR IN HIS SIDE – He shed his blood from his side. When it was pierced, both blood and water came from Him. This is a physical symbol that his heart burst. JESUS paid the price to heal the broken hearted.

\* Luke 4:18 KJV – The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He has annointed me to preach the good news to the poor. He has sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives...

