

The Death of Jesus (Mark 15:33-39)

1. What was Jesus feeling on the cross?

2. What is the temple curtain for? How tall was it?

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Teacher Notes

Video Abstract (Author: Max7.org): This segment of The Easter Story video series is about the Death of Jesus. It is a short narration of Jesus' death from Mark 15 (CEV version). It is suitable for children from about 4 years of age. As with all videos showing the crucifixion, please review this carefully to determine suitability for your audience.

Dramatically read the account and help the student visualize what is happening and then show the video:

When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And at three Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lemá sabachtháni?" which is translated, "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?"

When some of those standing there heard this, they said, "See, he's calling for Elijah."

Someone ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, fixed it on a stick, offered him a drink, and said, "Let's see if Elijah comes to take him down."

Jesus let out a loud cry and breathed his last. Then the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. When the centurion, who was standing opposite him, saw the way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!" (Mark 15:33-39, CSB)

1. What was Jesus feeling on the cross?

This may be a challenging subject to discuss at this age.

The key point for the student to see is that Jesus died a horrible death, and He really felt pain (worse than falling off your bike!). He took on Himself our sins so that He would be punished instead of us. He died so that we could have our sins forgiven and be acceptable to a holy God.

2. What is the temple curtain for? How tall was it?

It will be difficult to teach the student the approximate dimensions of the Temple. If the teacher wants to try, the approximate dimensions are (1 Ki 6:2, 19-20; 2 Chron 3:3, 8; assuming 1 cubit = 1.5'): Holy of Holies (length 30' x width 30' x height 30') and Sanctuary (length 60' x width 30' x height 45').

More importantly is the curtain itself. Help the student understand that the Holy of Holies was the most sacred room of the Temple where God met the High Priest. It was the room that held the Ark of the Covenant. The Holy of Holies is only entered once a year by the High Priest to make a sacrifice to God who would make His presence known.

The blue, purple, and red curtain (2 Chron 3:14) shielded the holy God from the presence of sin. If anyone entered the Holy of Holies besides the High Priest on the special day of the year, that person died.

Help the student visualize:

- 1) Teacher stands up and asks the student: imagine a curtain 5x taller than me (or a multiple of the ceiling height).
- 2) How would you tear the curtain? Where would the tear start from?
- 3) Did you notice that the tear started from the top? Who tore the curtain?

Help the student understand that by tearing the curtain, it symbolized that anyone who believed in God's Son Jesus Christ was no longer considered sinful and could enter into the presence of God.