

A few years ago at a Christian bookseller's convention, with several thousand people present, one Christian group did a survey asking people to define the gospel ... and only one out a hundred qualified as an adequate description of the gospel. People think that the gospel is having a warm relationship with Jesus, or asking Christ into your heart. Those things are important, but that is not the gospel. The gospel has a clear content that focuses on the person of Christ, the work of Christ, and how the benefits of Christ are appropriated into the Christian's life by faith.

R.C. Sproul

The Gospel is a message about God and His holiness, man and his sinfulness, the Person and work of Jesus Christ, and a summons to repentance and faith. If these truths are not declared, then no matter what else might have been preached, it was not the Gospel.

George Martin

To the question: what must I do to be saved? The old gospel replies: believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. To the further question: what does it mean to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ? Its reply is: it means knowing oneself to be a sinner, and Christ to have died for sinners; abandoning all self-righteousness and self-confidence, and casting oneself wholly upon Him for pardon and peace; and exchanging one's natural enmity and rebellion against God for a spirit of grateful submission to the will of Christ through the renewing of one's heart by the Holy Ghost.

J.I. Packer

The good news is that God himself has decreed a way to satisfy the demands of His justice without condemning the whole human race. Hell is one way to settle accounts with sinners and uphold his justice. But there is another way. The wisdom of God has ordained a way for the love of God to deliver us from the wrath of God without compromising the justice of God. And what is this wisdom? The death of the Son of God for sinners!

John Piper

The gospel by itself does not save, but God through the gospel saves a person in Christ.

F.W. Grosheide

*The Gospel of the Cross, Part 1*

Luke 23:26-49

**Introduction:** To tell the story of the crucifixion of Jesus, Luke weaves together a complex set of themes that include both history and theology. Jesus, an innocent man, gives his life on the cross to save those who have rejected, taunted, mocked, and even executed him. Refusing to save himself, he saves the world. Rejected by mankind, he is nonetheless approved by God, and accomplishes redemption for all who will believe. This is no martyr story; rather, it is the story of the God-Man, the Hero, the Rescuer of Creation – Jesus Christ the Lord.

**The Story**

**Luke 23:26-49**

**The Significance**

Jesus: *The innocent hero of the Gospel*

God's sovereignty: *The eternal outworking of the Gospel*

The Cast: *The world's reactions to the Gospel*

Judgment and Forgiveness: *The message of the Gospel*

The Taunts: *The irony of the Gospel*

The Criminal: *The hope of the Gospel*

Cosmic Signs: *The security found in the Gospel*

The Veil: *The heart of the Gospel*

God's Hands: *The rest available in the Gospel*

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# Kids Notes

## The Gospel of the Cross

### The Questions

Answer the following questions. The answers are on the back.

#### 1. The various reactions to Jesus in this story:

- A. show the ways people in every age respond to the Gospel .
- B. show how blind people can be to the truth of the Gospel.
- C. make the fact that he died for all kinds even more amazing.
- D. all of the above.

#### 2. Jesus sternly warned the Jewish people:

- A. that he was innocent.
- B. that they were distant cousins.
- C. that judgment would come on their nation.
- D. none of the above.

#### 3. One of the criminals crucified with Jesus:

- A. believed that Jesus was God's Son.
- B. believed that Jesus had a kingdom.
- C. believed Jesus was innocent, and could save him.
- D. all of the above.

For Family Discussion: What do you learn from the fact that Jesus asked his Father to forgive the men who were nailing him to the cross?

Space to Doodle

## Did You Hear It?

Mark the times you hear these key words:

	TOTAL:
JESUS _____	_____
GOSPEL _____	_____
CROSS _____	_____
FORGIVENESS _____	_____
RESPONSE _____	_____
CRIMINAL _____	_____

## Word Search

Find the following words in the scramble below. Letters are sometimes used twice, and words may go around corners.

JESUS GOSPEL CROSS FORGIVENESS SALVATION SIN BLOOD  
TAUNT CRIMINALS RESPONSES CAST DAUGHTERS WOMEN  
ISRAEL GENTILES ROMAN SOLDIERS JERUSALEM TREE GREEN  
DRY VEIL SUN DARKNESS CRUCIFIXION COVER HILLS SKULL LOVE

Y N G V L J S N M L F D S G S T T  
R E E I E X L D O O E L C O C A R  
D I N E A W A J R I L P L A N U E  
L K T Q R A N G E I T D S U S N E  
G B I L S G I E H R I A S O J T I  
S A L I I V M N K E U E V N G K P  
L W E O E B I C R O S S X L A T X  
Z Z S N O W R S N N S U A B A Y M  
O B E I O D C N O U E V O L K S X  
R S V M M X M P S N A M O R E E L  
S L E Y Z S S E N K R A D S W M R  
D N C O X E J K N U W Z P G N Z E  
E N E Y R I J D A U G H T E R S V  
N O I X I F I C U R C S K U L L O  
E V L S D W V O S Q I W P R J O C