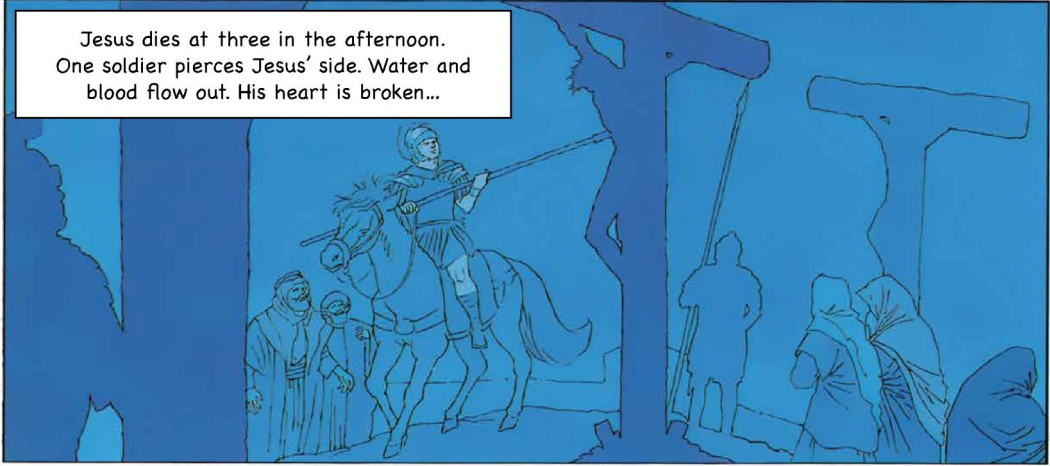


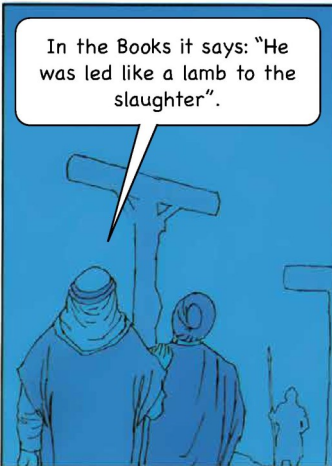
THE SACRIFICE OF JESUS

READ FOR YOURSELF: John 19:31-42

Jesus dies at three in the afternoon.
One soldier pierces Jesus' side. Water and
blood flow out. His heart is broken...



In the Books it says: "He
was led like a lamb to the
slaughter".



"He was maltreated for our
faults, killed for our sins".



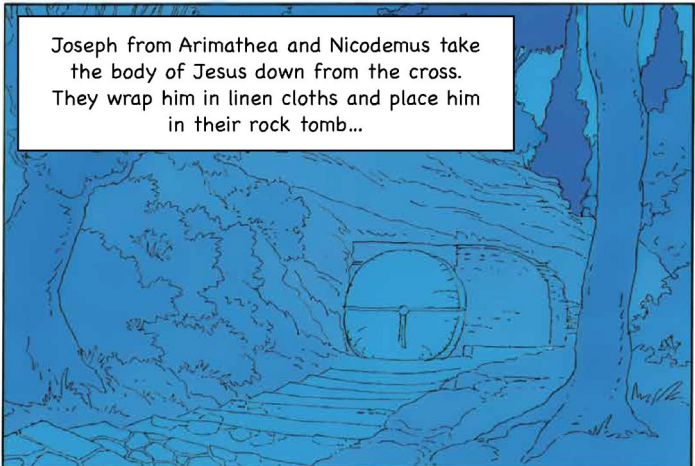
Was he the messiah who
was to come or not?



Come, we'll ask if we can
bury him.



Joseph from Arimathea and Nicodemus take
the body of Jesus down from the cross.
They wrap him in linen cloths and place him
in their rock tomb...



THE SACRIFICE OF JESUS

Jesus is dying on the cross. Everyone who is there can see that. Even so, more is happening with the Lord Jesus than you can see. He dies differently than any other person. In the unnatural darkness of that day He gets all of our sins loaded onto Him. Jesus was without sin. But He is made a sinner. All of our sins and sicknesses go into His body. And He carries the consequences of that...

What happens as a result of sin? Those who don't do what God wants can't live in His presence. They have to die. Sin is followed by death. The Jews usually bring offerings in the temple: offering lambs. In the hope that such an offering would be able to reconcile the problem of sin. But a lamb can never really make-up what people have done wrong.

There is only one solution for sin. That is the offering of Jesus on the cross. Through that, He can save us from the power of Satan. God makes His Son a sinner, by laying all of our sins on Him. When Jesus gives His life and dies, He is dying for our sins. He carries the punishment for you, for me, for the whole world. He gets condemned so that we can be free. In that moment God has deserted Him. Terrible! But He does not want it differently. He becomes one with us so that we can become one with Him.

TIP

Read all of Isaiah 53. It describes the suffering on the cross that Jesus went through and why.

MEMORY VERSE

"For by the blood of Christ we are set free, that is, our sins are forgiven. How great is the grace of God." (Ephesians 1:7)

WHO IS JESUS?

Perfect and Spotless Lamb

"For you know what was paid to set you free from the worthless manner of life handed down by your ancestors. It was not something that can be destroyed, such as silver or gold; it was the costly sacrifice of Christ, who was like a lamb without defect or flaw." (1 Peter 1:18-19).

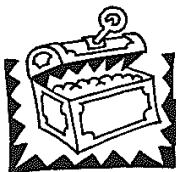
John the Baptist pointed to Jesus as God's lamb of offering. It was at the start of His ministry:.

John cries: "There is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29b).

Isaiah also writes about the Messiah as a lamb:

"He was treated harshly, but endured it humbly; He never said a word. Like a lamb about to be slaughtered, like a sheep about to be sheared, He never said a word." (Isaiah 53:7).

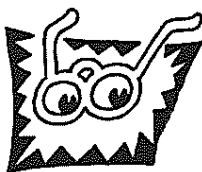
In Revelation 5:11-13 we read that Jesus is worshipped by everyone as the lamb that was killed.



OLD TREASURES

The prophet Isaiah foretold the suffering and dying of the Messiah hundreds of years before Jesus came. Nowhere in the Bible it describes Gods meaning with Jesus better than in Isaiah 53. It speaks of how He must suffer and die, but also that He will live again and why. He makes us righteous in God's eyes. Righteous means that you have been accepted by God.

“After a life of suffering, He will again have joy; He will know that He did not suffer in vain. My devoted servant, with whom I am pleased, will bear the punishment of many and for his sake I will forgive them.”
(Isaiah 53:11).



EXTRA INFORMATION

Death on the Cross

Crucifixion can last many hours and sometimes even several days. The crucified dies through dehydration and choking. Sometimes the soldiers speed up the death of the one who is hanging by breaking their bones. That is not necessary with the Lord Jesus: He has already died. He gave his life freely. The blood and water that flow out of Jesus' side shows that Jesus' heart is probably broken.

Usually the bodies of the criminals are burned. But friends of Jesus take care of His body. They receive the permission of the Romans to take Him from the cross and lay Him in a new burial cave . That happens quickly because something like that is forbidden for the Jews, during the Sabbath day. The following day is a very special Sabbath; it is the beginning of the Passover.

THANKS TO JESUS YOU HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED!

THE SACRIFICE OF JESUS IS A SOURCE OF HOPE AND HEALING

The cross of Jesus has become a well known symbol. It is made up of two lines. One from top to bottom and one from left to right. Do you think that might have any specific meaning? The line upwards could have to do with our relationship with God. And the line from left to right could be about our relationship as people with each other. Reflect on that the next time you see a cross.



DO YOU KNOW...?

What does the cross mean for you?

Fill in the missing words:

- 1. That Jesus is the perfect offering for sins:
He took punishment upon Himself.

- 2. Thatdon't have to be afraid of God's judgement
onlife: on the cross He has forgiven

- 3. That received God's grace to always be allowed
to live close by Him.

- 4. That Satan has lost: death is not the end, because
Jesus has overcome the death and He gives
.....eternal life.

- 5. That Jesus gives the wonderful life that God
meant for

- 6. What does the word grace mean?

- 7. What does it mean that you are righteous in God's eyes?

BIBLE READING

Sun	John 19:31-42
Mon	Isaiah 53
Tue	Ephesians 1:4-10
Wed	Colossians 2:13-15
Thu	1 Peter 1:14-21
Fri	Hebrews 10:1-14
Sat	Revelation 5:6-13



ACTION POINT!

Read:
Deuteronomy 28:2-12.

Meditate on the fact that thanks to Jesus God wants to share all these blessings with you.