



Luke 23:33-24:7

Review

- The last several times we have met, we saw how Jesus treated people. Which story did you like the best?
- Who can tell us one of those stories?
- What changes have you seen God make in your life?

Hook Question

When did someone really surprise you?

Tell the Story

Retell

Have the group retell the story in their own words. Work together to recreate what was just heard asking 'what's next' questions.

Personal/Group Retell

Let everyone draw or journal what was the most significant thing for them from today's story. Give some time for those that may want to share what they have drawn or written.

Introduction

Jesus grew up like any other child except he never did anything wrong. WOW! He became smart. He matured like all of us do. He was in love with God and people liked him. Jesus did many amazing things while he lived on this earth. He taught people about God and how much he loved them. He healed people who were sick and hurting. He forgave people of the wrong things they did against God. He told demons to leave people alone and for a few people, Jesus raised them from the dead. He was awesome!! People loved him and came to hear him teach about God's love. But not everyone liked him...

Late one night Jesus and his disciples went to an olive grove to pray. Filled with pain and sorrow, Jesus fell face down on the ground and he cried, "Abba, Father ('abba' meaning daddy), you can do anything. If there's another way besides my death, please let that happen... but I will do whatever you ask."

Just as he had finished praying, one of Jesus' disciples, Judas, showed up with an armed mob. He kissed Jesus on the cheek—a sign to show the guards which one to arrest... You don't see it now, but this is part of God's plan, just as the prophets predicted long ago. The guards arrested Jesus and dragged him away. Jesus' disciples ran away and hid.

The guards beat Jesus and brought him before the religious leaders for questioning.

They asked, "Do you think YOU are the Messiah... the Son of God?" Jesus answered, "I AM... and soon you'll see me in the highest place of power next to God."

Discussion Questions

Listed below are some basic questions that can be asked. You may want to supplement these questions with other Head, Heart, and Hands questions.

- What kinds of emotions do you think the people in the story were feeling?
- How does this story challenge or reinforce something you already know?
- What do you feel after reading/hearing this story?
- Something I never realized before today is...
- What did you hear today that makes you think you ought to make a change in your life?
- How can you put this insight into practice this week?

Story Continued...

When Jesus said this, the High Priest tore his clothing in anger and said, “Any man who claims to be God must be put to death.”

When morning came, they led Jesus to a place where he was nailed to a heavy wooden cross that was planted in the ground next to two criminals. Hanging there, Jesus cried out, “Father, please forgive them... they don’t know what they’re doing.”

At noon, darkness filled the skies, blocking the sun for three hours. Suddenly, the thick curtain hanging in the Temple tore down the middle! At that moment, Jesus shouted, “Father! I give you my life... it’s complete.” Then Jesus breathed his last breath and died. (Pause.)

Late Friday afternoon, Jesus’ body was taken down from the cross, wrapped in long strips of cloth, and placed in a tomb given by one of the wealthy religious leaders. A large stone was rolled over the entrance to the tomb and Roman guards were posted to make sure nothing happened to Jesus’ body. (Long pause.)

Early on Sunday morning, some of the women who had followed Jesus went to prepare his body for burial. When they arrived at the tomb, the stone was rolled away and the soldiers were gone...

Suddenly, two angels appeared and asked, “Why are you so surprised? You’re looking for Jesus, but he’s not here—he is no longer dead. Jesus is ALIVE” The women, afraid and excited, hurried to tell the disciples what they saw. As soon as they got the news, some of the disciples ran back to the tomb and looked inside for themselves... Jesus was not there!

Closing Blessing

Read Acts 2:25

Pray Father God, I ask that you bless each person with a pouring out of your Spirit; that they would know you are right there with them and will never leave them.