



CONSIDER IT

LEADER DEVO

“And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.”

—1 John 4:14

Today’s episode can be hard to share with kids—or anyone.

First, it’s brutal. What happened to Jesus—from His arrest to His death on the cross—is horrendous. Beatings, whippings, humiliation, show trials, torture, and a slow, painful execution. It’s awful and on full display in today’s Bible passages.

The Gospel writers didn’t skimp on details, so we have a visceral understanding of what it cost Jesus to save us. When we read the Gospel accounts, we feel every stroke of the lash, every punch to the gut. We can feel blood running down our faces as thorns are shoved into our scalps.

There’s no avoiding the truth: Jesus was in a staggering amount of pain. It hurt—it hurt because Jesus was paying the price for sin, and sin hurts too.

And second, today’s episode is intensely personal. Jesus didn’t die on the cross to settle the score on just any sin—some of it was *your* sin. You, just like everyone else, have sinned. So He hung there for you too.

Don’t let that reality shame you. Instead, let it point you toward gratitude. Jesus *chose* to carry the weight of your sin. He values you so highly and loves you so much, that He was willing to give all to obey God and have you with Him now, and in Heaven forever.

Today’s Bible account may be tragic, but it’s not a tragedy. It’s a love story—and you’re the one who’s loved.



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BIBLE BACKGROUND

JESUS SAVES US

The account of Jesus' crucifixion is horrific. We've heard about it often, but when we pause to consider the reality of what happened to Jesus, it takes our breath away. Jesus was beaten, mocked, nailed to a cross, murdered—and He'd done nothing wrong.

Yet, it's also a beautiful story because the death of Jesus—awful as it was—was part of God's plan from the time sin entered the world. God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to right what had gone wrong back in the Garden of Eden.

Read Genesis 3:14-15. When Adam and Eve disobeyed God, the world faced the curse of sin. And as God was cursing the serpent—His enemy, Satan—God made a promise. One day, God said, the offspring of the woman would crush the head of the serpent.

For centuries the people of God, the earth, and all of Heaven, longed for this offspring to show himself and defeat sin and death. There were hopeful glimpses: the family of Abraham, the king named David, the prophets of righteousness. But none of them could accomplish what needed to be done.

But then, Jesus showed up on the scene. This man, who would live a sinless life, came to earth. He was born to die.

Read Mark 15:21-37 and John 19:28-35. Jesus intentionally suffered the agony of a crucifixion. And when He'd completed His mission, He gasped out, "It is finished." The promise of God had been fulfilled. Through His death, Jesus crushed the head of the serpent. Jesus is Savior!

Jesus died, not for himself, but for us—for the sin that you and I can do nothing to erase.

Read Isaiah 53:4-6. The victory Jesus achieved was through His death on the cross. God sent His Son into the world to provide the forgiveness we need to be reconciled to Him. This is the Savior the world had been waiting for since the time of Adam and Eve, the Savior all of us need.

Before you lead today's episode, pause to reflect on what Jesus did for you when He gave His life. Allow your thoughts to take you to the hill where Jesus' cross stood. Don't shy away from the gruesome details of what sin does, both physically and spiritually. Thank Jesus for saving you—really thank Him—and let your gratitude show as you share this episode with others.