



Day 12: You Will Be With Me

Let's Start

ASK: Imagine you are throwing a party. Put these people in order, from the most likely to be invited, to the least likely.

- Your best friend
- A stranger from your street
- A jailed criminal
- The new kid in your class
- A police officer
- A school bully

SAY: In today's true story, we will start to look at what happened when Jesus died. We will meet someone who Jesus says will live with him forever in God's perfect place. And it's not who you might expect...

Let's Listen to God

READ: Luke 23: 33, 35-36, 39

33 The soldiers brought them to the place called the Skull. There they nailed Jesus to the cross. He hung between the two criminals. One was on his right and one was on his left...

35 The people stood there watching. The rulers even made fun of Jesus. They said, "He saved others. Let him save himself if he is God's Messiah, the Chosen One."

36 The soldiers also came up and poked fun at him. They offered him wine vinegar...

39 One of the criminals hanging there made fun of Jesus. He said, "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself! Save us!"

ASK: How did the Jewish religious leaders, the soldiers, and even the criminal treat Jesus?

READ: Luke 23: 40-43

40 But the other criminal scolded him. "Don't you have any respect for God?" he said. "Remember, you are under the same sentence of death. 41 We are being punished fairly. We are getting just what our actions call for. But this man hasn't done anything wrong."

42 Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

43 Jesus answered him, "What I'm about to tell you is true. Today you will be with me in paradise."

ASK: What did this criminal say about himself and the other criminal? What did he say about Jesus? What promise did Jesus make to him?

Let's Learn

SAY: The second criminal understood the truth about himself. He knew he was sinful and deserved to be shut out of God's place. The criminal also understood the truth about Jesus. He knew Jesus was the King who could let him into his kingdom—into God's perfect place. All he could do was to ask Jesus to let him in—to forgive him. *And Jesus said YES!*

But even though Jesus invited the criminal to come and live with him, what about the "Keep Out" sign? How could the criminal come in? We'll have to find out more about that tomorrow...

Let's Pray

Say: Lord Jesus, we know we are facing your right and fair punishment. We should be shut out from your perfect place. Please remember us when you come into your kingdom. Please give us the same understanding about ourselves and the same faith in you that the second criminal had. Amen.

Adapted from "The Garden, the Curtain, and the Cross" family devotional guide. 2020