

Let's Start

ASK: Listen to this list. What do you know has happened or is about to happen when you see or hear each of these things?

- The school bell rings
- A fire alarm goes off
- A traffic light goes to yellow

SAY: Certain sights or sounds tell us something. A siren tells us "danger," a bell or alarm says "get ready." In today's story, we'll read about two sights that told the people there at the time that something astonishing was happening.

Let's Listen to God

READ: Mark 15:33-34

33 At noon, darkness covered the whole land. It lasted three hours. 34 At three o'clock in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" This means "My God, my God, why have you deserted me?"

ASK: What did Jesus say as he hung on the cross in the darkness? So, who was God's anger at people's sin falling on?

READ: Mark 15:37-38

37 With a loud cry, Jesus took his last breath.38 The temple curtain was torn in two from top to bottom.

ASK: Can you remember what the temple curtain was there to remind people of? God tore the curtain from top to bottom! What do you think he was showing by doing this?

Let's Learn

SAY: Jesus' words on the cross told everyone that it was HIM being punished, even though he had done nothing wrong. On the cross, Jesus took our sin. Jesus was willing to be spat at, blindfolded, punched and made fun of, even though he is the God who made the universe. Jesus was willing to swap and be punished by God the Father for people's sin, even though he never sinned. All the bad things we do, and all the sad things they cause—Jesus took them all from us. And when he did, something amazing, astonishing, astounding happened...

THE CURTAIN TORE! God ripped up the "Keep Out" sign! God's wonderful place is open again! Because Jesus died in our place, we can go in! Out story has taken us from the garden to the curtain to the cross. But, that's not the end of the story, as we'll see tomorrow.

Let's Pray

Say: Lord Jesus, "thank you" seems far too small a phrase for all that you were willing to do because you love us and want to invite us to live with you forever in your perfect place. Thank you for being willing to swap with us and die to take the punishment we deserve for sin. Please give us grateful hearts that say every day, "Thank you, Jesus! You're amazing!" Amen.