

Jesus, What a Savior!



**A Study for Children
on Redemption**

by Jill Nelson

Jesus, What a Savior!

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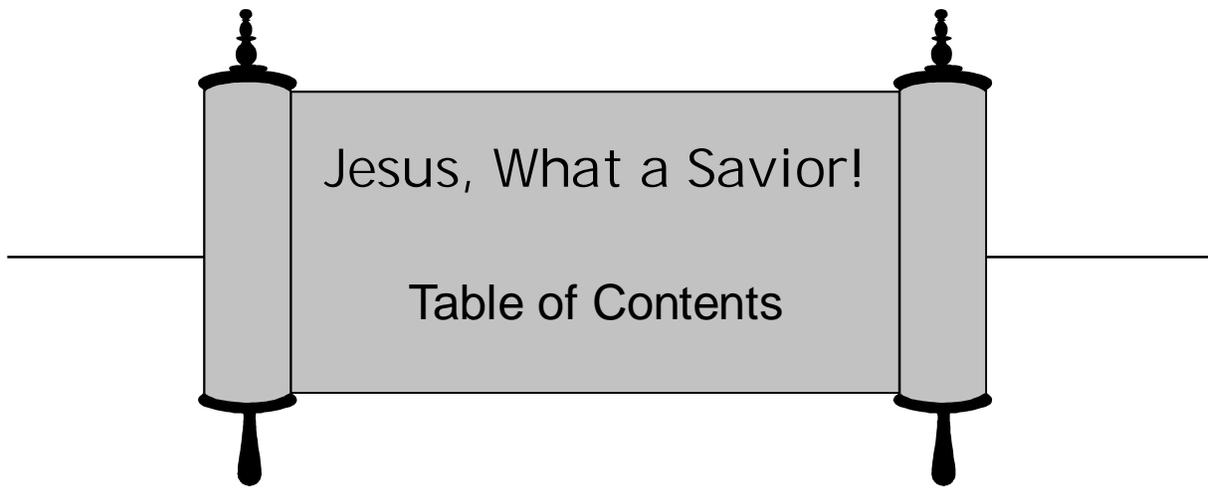
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Scripture taken from the HOLY BIBLE: NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION ®. NIV ®.

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Preface	vii
Acknowledgements	ix
Introduction	xiii

Lessons		
1	God is the Most Special Person of All	1
2	God Created the World to Show How Speical He Is	7
3	God Created People to Enjoy His Glory	13
4	Adam and Eve Sin and Reject God	19
5	Sin Alienates Adam and Eve from God	25
6	All People Are Born Sinners and Alienated from God	31
7	God Makes a Way for Sinners to Come to Him	37
8	God Punishes a Sinful World	43
9	God Makes a Promise to Abraham	49
10	The Ten Commandmens Show Us God's Ways	55
11	The Ten Commandments Show Us Our Sin	61
12	God Promises to Remove the Sin of His People	67
13	Jesus the Savior Is Born	73
14	Jesus Is the Most Special Person of All	79
15	Jesus Understands Sinners	85
16	Jesus Proclaims His Good News to Sinners	91
17	Jesus Teaches Sinners	97

18	Jesus Calls Sinners	103
19	Jesus Heals Sinners	109
20	Jesus Spends Time with Sinners	115
21	Jesus Changes Sinners	121
22	Jesus Welcomes All Kinds of Sinners	127
23	Jesus Calms Fearful Sinners	133
24	Jesus Satisfies Sinners	139
25	Jesus Receives Childlike Sinners	145
26	Jesus Gives Rest to Weary Sinners	151
27	Jesus Seeks for Lost Sinners	157
28	Jesus Is Kind to Undeserving Sinners	163
29	Jesus Brings Joy to Unhappy Sinners	169
30	Jesus Serves Sinners	175
31	Jesus Loves Sinners	181
32	Jesus Is Patient with Sinners	187
33	Jesus Gives Up His Life for Sinners	193
34	Jesus Takes Away the Sin of His Friends	199
35	Jesus Gives New Life to His Friends	205
36	Jesus' Promise for His Friends—Joy Forever!	211
37	Jesus' Friends Love Him Most of All	217
38	Jesus' Friends Obey Him	223
39	Only Jesus!	229
40	Jesus Invites You to Receive Him	235

AppendixTake Home Sheets, etc	
Key Verse Games	A1
Bible Verse Games	A2
An Explanation Concerning the Person of Jesus	A7
References	A9
Additional <i>Desiring God Ministries</i> Resources	A11

Take Home Sheets	
An Introduction for Parents	
Lesson Take Home Sheets	



Preface

Maggie is a delightful six year old girl. She is a joy to her parents and all those around her. Her round, smiling, dimpled face is surrounded by a mass of dark wavy hair. Being a typical little girl, Maggie loves to fix her hair up with curls and ribbons and barrettes. Maggie and her mother love spending time together working with her hair. Everyone admires it and tells her what beautiful hair she has.

One day Maggie and her Mommy go to the doctor for a visit because Maggie has a cold that won't go away. Maggie enjoys visiting the doctor. He is friendly and gentle and always has a surprise for Maggie before she leaves. However, today after the check-up, Dr. Howard asks Maggie to go and wait in the other room for awhile. He wants to talk with her Mommy – alone.

“Mrs. Anderson, I must be perfectly frank with you. I'm afraid I have some very bad news. Maggie is a very sick girl.” Mrs. Anderson lets out an agonized gasp.

“But doctor, how could she? Look at her! She just has a little cold! She's not.... It can't be true!”

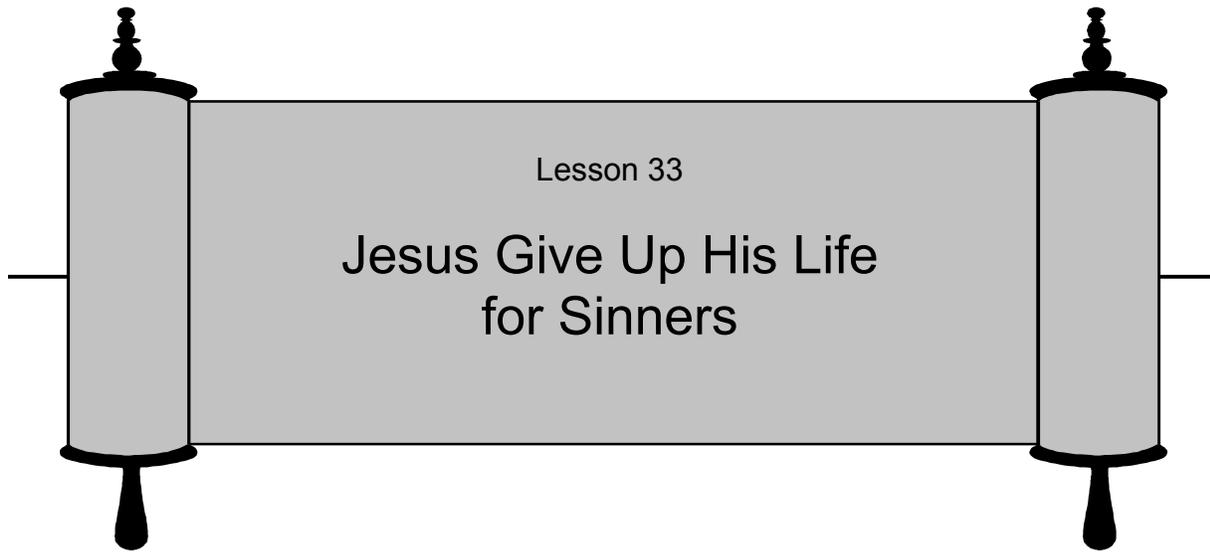
Dr. Howard moves over and sits across from the distraught mother. As he looks her in the eye, he says with great confidence, “Mrs. Anderson, do not lose hope. There is a cure that is 100% effective. We can start Maggie on it right away.”

“Are you really sure? Will it work for my little girl?”

“Trust me,” states Dr. Howard.

Dr. Howard begins to explain to Mrs. Anderson the course of treatment. He has just finished saying, “She will lose her hair ...” when Mrs. Anderson breaks in with, “Oh no Doctor! We can't let that happen. Maggie loves her hair. She would feel terrible. She loves to look at it and fix it up. She would feel ugly without it. People tell her how wonderful it is. Her feelings would be hurt. We can't let that happen to our sweet Maggie! Can't we just wait awhile?”

“But Mrs. Anderson, you don't seem to understand. Unless we do this treatment Maggie will surely die!”



Themes:

- Jesus displays the greatness and worth of God
- Jesus was obedient to the will of His Father
- Jesus is sovereign over the actions of all people
- Jesus willingly gave up His life for sinful people

Scripture:

Matthew 27:11-54

Memory verse:

But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8

Materials and Visuals:

Lesson:

Scraps of paper

Waste paper basket

“No” and “Yes” signs (Resource Pack: 33 A,B)

Wooden spoon

***Cross -Make as large as possible using cardboard or other sturdy material**

Large nails and hammer

***Save these visuals for future lessons**

NOTES**Background Information for the Teacher:**

Children have an acute sense of fairness, especially as it pertains to their own wellbeing. For example, to ask them to accept the consequences of a sibling's wrong doings will bring an immediate and strong negative response: "*But that's not fair!*" Now picture the narrative of Isaiah 53. The vision of a suffering servant -- a quiet and perfect lamb -- despised, rejected, pierced, crushed, and punished to death. Willingly, He goes to the cross to bear not His own sin, but the sin of others. That vision is Jesus. Jesus came to save sinners. All the events of His life led to this moment in history. Every moment leading to Jesus' death -- the trial, the floggings and beatings, the nails, the mocking crowds -- were all part of God's glorious plan. Jesus never cried out, "*But it's not fair.*" Instead Jesus cried out, "*It's finished.*" Jesus said yes to the will of the Father in order to show the greatness and worth of God in saving unrighteous sinners.

Planning Ahead:

Before class time, take the scraps of paper and scatter them on the floor in the front of the classroom.

Lesson Presentation:

When you come up front to begin the lesson make the following comments:

Look at all of these scraps of paper on the floor. What a mess! Let's pretend for a moment that (child's name) came in the room and made this mess. Was that a good thing for her/him to do? No, of course not. Now suppose that I told (another child) to pick up (child's name) mess. What would your answer be? (hold up YES and NO signs)

Give the "innocent" child a chance to respond. If they respond, NO, ask the children if it was fair to ask one child to pick up another child's mess. Emphasize that the child who made the mess deserves the consequence of picking the mess up. If the child responds, YES, ask them if they think it's fair that you have asked them to clean up the mess. Ask the child if he/she is happy to do it, or doing it just because you, the teacher, told the child to do it.

What if I also decided that (child's name) deserved some kind of punishment for messing up the room. (Hold the wooden spoon in your hand and look again to the second child.) How would you feel about taking (child's name) punishment for him/her? Would you be willing to do that for (child's name)? Would that be fair?

Emphasize that there is a limit to how much we will do for another person, especially when the consequences are very painful. There is a point at which we say: *"NO, it isn't fair!"*

Explain that today's Bible story tells us about someone who was treated unfairly by everyone. Someone who could have said, "No, I won't do it. It's not fair." But instead said, "Yes, I'll do it. I'll be happy to do it!"

STORY: THE CRUCIFIXION OF JESUS Matthew 27: 11-54

This narrative is long, so it will be necessary to carefully summarize the story. This lesson is focused on the actual events leading to the death of Jesus, especially His unfair treatment and His absolute willingness to fulfill His goal and die for sinners.

[**Note:** the theology of redemption will be explained in the next lesson.]

Use the YES and NO signs, and other pictures and visuals at the appropriate time in the lesson. Points to emphasize:

-After Jesus was arrested, He was put on trial. A trial is where someone decides whether or not someone has done something wrong and what their punishment should be.

-The priests and teachers made up lies about Jesus. Do you think Jesus would answer and say, *Those are lies. It's not true!*? (hold up NO sign)

-Jesus would not answer back. He was saying, *Yes, I will let them tell lies about Me.* (YES sign)

-The people decided that Jesus was guilty, and had done wrong things. They said Jesus was a criminal. The crowd wanted Jesus punished to death. **"Crucify Him! Crucify Him!"** they shouted.

-**Ask:** *Who is Jesus?* Jesus is God! Jesus never sinned! He never did anything wrong! Jesus didn't deserve to die. Is Jesus more powerful than the crowd? Yes, He is all-powerful. He could say *"NO, I won't let you kill me.* But Jesus said, *Yes, I will let them kill Me.* (YES sign)

-Jesus was whipped. He could have stopped them, but Jesus said, *Yes, I will let them whip Me.* (YES sign)

-The soldiers took off Jesus' clothes, and dressed Him up like a pretend king with a robe and crown made of thorns. They made fun of Him. They did not understand that Jesus is the greatest King of all. They shouldn't have made fun of Him. But Jesus said, *Yes, I will let them make fun of Me.* (YES sign)

NOTES

-The soldiers spit on Jesus and hit Him on the head over and over again. Would that hurt? Yes, Jesus was human. It hurt Him a lot. Couldn't Jesus say, *No, you can't do that. It's not fair. I'm God!* ? Jesus is God. He could have said "No!" and made the soldiers stop. But Jesus said, *Yes, I will let you spit on Me and hit Me.* (YES sign.)

-The soldiers placed Jesus on a cross and hammered nails through His feet and hands. The very hands that healed people, and fed crowds, and calmed storms and loved sinners. It bled and hurt a lot! Jesus said, *Yes, I will let you hurt Me.* (YES sign)

-The crowd mocked Jesus saying, ***Save Yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!*** (Show the children the YES and NO signs) Ask the children: *How will Jesus answer? Jesus is God. Is He able to come down from the cross? Yes, He is.* But Jesus said, *NO, I will not save Myself.* (NO sign)

-Jesus chose to stay on the cross and slowly and painfully die. Jesus always obeyed God even to the point of dying on the cross. Just before He died He said, *Yes, "It is finished."* (YES sign)

Read John 15:13. Jesus said,

Greater love has no one than this, than he lay down his life for his friends.

Did Jesus really love His friends? YES! And so Jesus said YES to the cross and died. Because Jesus came to save sinners.

Application:

-Have the children turn to lesson 33 in their workbooks. Have them begin to color or decorate the border around the cross. Use black construction paper to cut out two or three nails. Have the children glue the nails on or near the cross.

-Ask the children how they felt while listening to the story of Jesus' death on the cross. Is it a fun story to listen to? It is very sad to listen to the story. Jesus is the most special person of all. Recall some of the wonderful things that Jesus did. And yet, what did the people want to do to Jesus? They made fun of Him, beat Him, and painfully killed Him.

-Explain to the children that you are going to read to them some verses from the book of Isaiah. Show them where the book of Isaiah is in the Bible. Tell them that the words in Isaiah were written a long, long time ago, a long time before Jesus was even born. These words tell about someone. Read the verses and have the children

guess who the verses are describing. (Be sure to define any difficult words in the texts.)

Isaiah 53...

vs. 4 ***Surely He took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows.***

vs. 5 ***But He was pierced for our transgressions... the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him.***

vs. 7 ***He was led like a lamb to slaughter... He did not open His mouth.***

Emphasize that these verses speak of the death of Jesus even before He was born. The death of Jesus was planned by God. It wasn't a surprise to Jesus. He planned everything that was going to happen and He was in control of everything that happened. It wasn't the soldiers or the priests or the crowd who made it happen -- it was God!!

-Have the children pretend that they were in charge of everything that happened to them for the next day. Would they plan just fun things to happen? Eating only their favorite foods? Watching videos? Playing all day? Why would Jesus plan to have something very sad and painful happen to Himself? Read and discuss today's memory verse from Romans 5:8

But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Additional Activities:

-Yes or No Game: Make small copies of the Yes and No signs from the resource pack for each child. If possible copy the Yes sign on green paper and the No sign on red paper. To make the signs more easy to handle, have the children cut out the sign along the lines. Review the questions or statements from the lesson presentation. Have the children respond to the questions or statements by raising the appropriate sign. You may want to include other additional statements such as: *Did Jesus always obey the commands of God? Did Jesus come to save sinners? Is Jesus the almighty God? Is anything too hard for Jesus to do? Is Jesus a faithful friend?*

-Memory Verse: Have the children take their Yes sign from the previous activity and glue it to the top portion of a piece of paper. Underneath the sign, print today's memory verse from Romans 5:8.

LESSON 33

JESUS GIVES UP HIS LIFE FOR SINNERS

Key Themes

- ♦ Jesus displays the greatness and worth of God
- ♦ Jesus was obedient to the will of His Father
- ♦ Jesus is sovereign over the actions of all people
- ♦ Jesus willingly gave up His life for sinful people

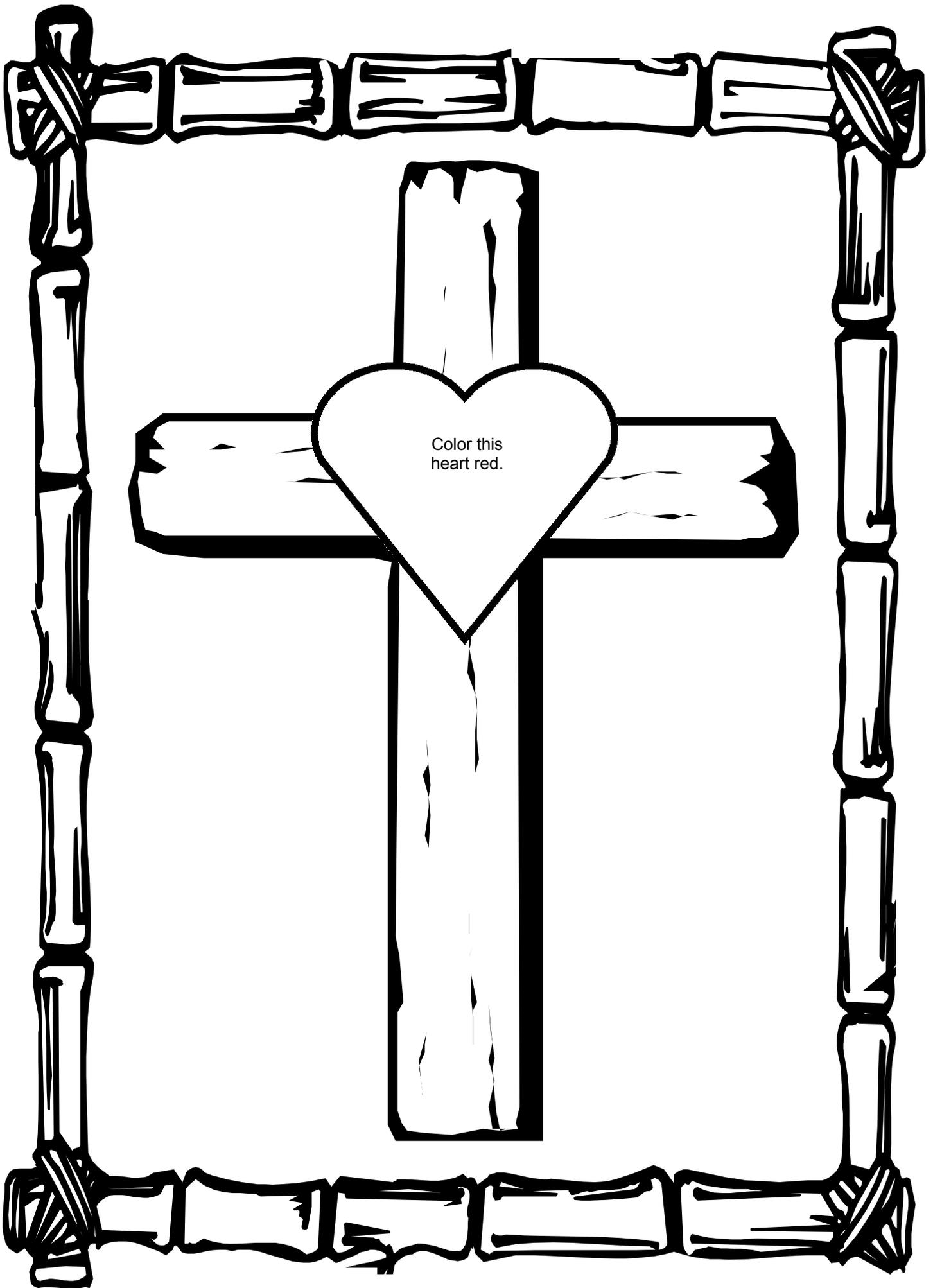
Scripture

Matthew 27:11-54

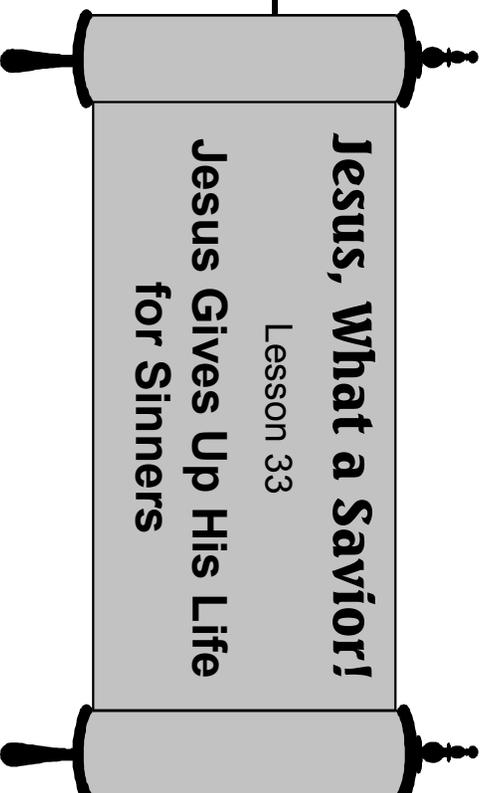
Memory Verse

*But God demonstrates His
own love for us in this:
While we were still sinners,
Christ died for us.*

Romans 5:8



Color this
heart red.

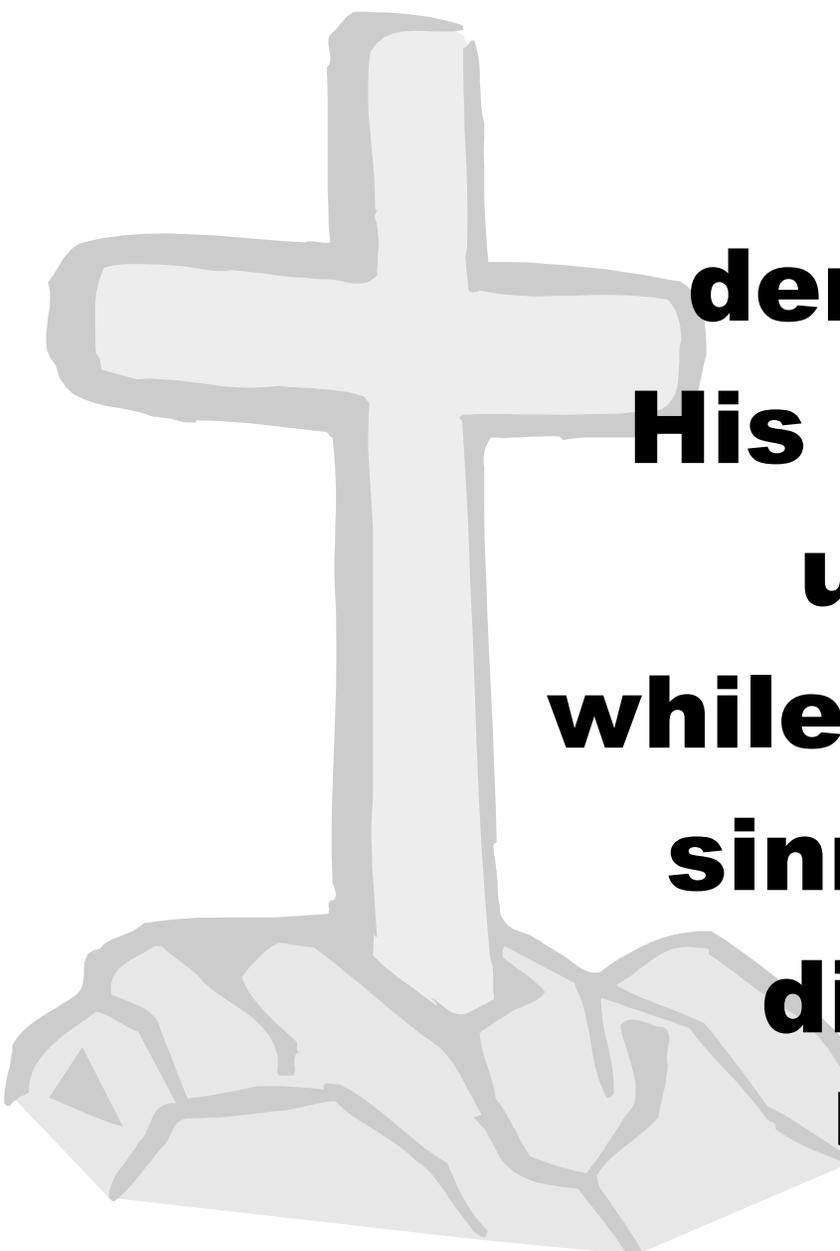


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- Jesus displays the greatness and worth of God
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 - Jesus willingly gave up His life for sinful people

Scripture:
Matthew 27:11-54

Memory verse:
Romans 5:8 (See the reverse side.)

Lesson Summary:
Children have an acute sense of fairness, especially as it pertains to their own wellbeing. For example, to ask them to accept the consequences of a sibling's wrong doings will bring an immediate and strong negative response: "*But that's not fair!*" Now picture the narrative of Isaiah 53. The vision of a suffering servant -- a quiet and perfect lamb -- despised, rejected, pierced, crushed, and punished to death. Willingly, He goes to the cross to bear not His own sin, but the sin of others. That vision is Jesus. Jesus came to save sinners. All the events of His life led to this moment in history. Every moment leading to Jesus' death -- the trial, the floggings and beatings, the nails, the mocking crowds -- were all part of God's glorious plan. Jesus never cried out, "*But it's not fair.*" Instead Jesus cried out, "*It's finished.*" Jesus said yes to the will of the Father in order to show the greatness and worth of God in saving unrighteous sinners.



**But God
demonstrates
His own love for
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Romans 5:8