

Do you want to know God and live as his friend?

It's not about trying to be good. That's great news, since you can't be totally good all the time! It's about accepting what Jesus did on the cross to rescue you. To do that, you will need to **ABCD**.

a Admit your sin - that you do, say and think wrong things. Tell God you are sorry. Ask him to forgive you, and to help you to change. There will be some things you have to stop doing.

b Believe that Jesus died for you, to take the punishment for your sin; that he came back to life, and that he is still alive today.

c Consider the cost of living like God's friend from now on, with him in charge. It won't be easy. Ask God to help you do this.

d Do something about it! In the past you've gone your own way rather than God's way. Will you hand control of your life over to him from now on? If you're ready to **ABCD**, then talk to God now. This prayer will help you.



Dear God,
I have done and said and thought things that are wrong. I am really sorry. Please forgive me. Thank you for sending Jesus to die for me. From now on, please help me to live as one of your friends, with you in charge. Amen

what now?

Jesus welcomes everyone who comes to him. If you have put your trust in him, he *has* rescued you from your sins and will help you to live for him.

That's Great News!

WOW

When you are forgiven by God, you become his friend for ever. He loves you and will always be with you.

This is why the day Jesus died is called **Good Friday**.

what next?

God will help you to change, and to live like his friend. Meeting with some of God's other friends (called Christians) will help you too. You can learn more about Jesus together. See if you can join a group at a local church, or ask the person who gave you this leaflet. Tell them that you have become one of God's friends too.



? why did Jesus die



We call the day that Jesus died Good Friday.

What an odd name!

Jesus died a horrible, painful death

- so why do we call it good?

And what really happened when Jesus died?

Soldier Surprise

Imagine watching someone being killed. How would you feel?

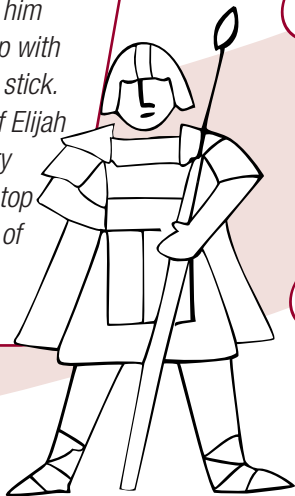
Shocked? • Scared? • Angry?

The Roman soldiers who nailed Jesus to a cross were used to watching people die. It was their job. Even so, some of the unusual things that happened this time came as a real surprise - and probably scared them too.

Read what happened. Look out for four surprises.

Mark chapter 15 verses 33-39

³³At noon the whole country was covered with darkness, which lasted for three hours. ³⁴At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud shout, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why did you abandon me?" ³⁵Some of the people there heard him and said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah!" ³⁶One of them ran up with a sponge, soaked it in cheap wine, and put it on the end of a stick. Then he held it up to Jesus' lips and said, "Wait! Let us see if Elijah is coming to bring him down from the cross!" ³⁷With a loud cry Jesus died. ³⁸The curtain in the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. ³⁹The army officer who was standing there in front of the cross saw how Jesus had died. "This man was really the Son of God!" he said.



Four surprises - and why they happened

Fill in the gaps

1 Look at verse 33. Even though it was the middle of the day, the country was in **d** _____

why?

The darkness was a picture of God's anger. He was angry because of sin. Jesus came to rescue people from the terrible problem caused by sin.

What is Sin?

We all like to be in charge of our own lives. We do what **we** want, instead of what **God** wants. This is called Sin.

Sin separates us from God. It stops us from knowing him and stops us being his friends. The final result of sin is death.

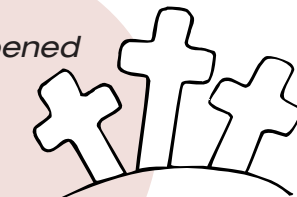
2 Jesus always lived close to God, calling him Father. But look at verse 34. Jesus **c** _____ out that God had abandoned him.

why?

As Jesus died, all the sins of the world (all the wrongs people had done) were put onto him. This cut him off totally from God his Father.

Jesus is God's Son. He lived a perfect life. He never sinned.

When Jesus died on the cross he was being punished—not for his own sin, but for the sin of the whole world. Jesus took all of our sin onto himself. He died in our place, taking the punishment we deserve, so that we can be forgiven.

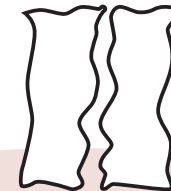


3

Read verse 38. This isn't a window curtain! This curtain separated the rest of the Temple from the bit in the middle - where God was said to live. Only the high priest could go in & only once a year! No-one else was allowed. But what happened when Jesus died? The curtain was **t** _____ in two.

why?

This curtain was a picture of what sin does. It reminded people that sin separated them from God.



When Jesus died, he dealt with the problem of sin. That's why the curtain in the Temple was ripped in two, to show there is nothing to separate us from God any more.

4

The Roman centurion had watched many criminals die. But look at what he said in verse 39: "This man was really the **S** _____ of **G** _____."

why?

The way Jesus died convinced the centurion that Jesus wasn't like any other man. He now believed that Jesus was God's Son.

Jesus didn't stay dead!

After three days God brought him back to life. This shows that God accepted Jesus' death as the way for us to be forgiven. Jesus is still alive today. We can know him as our friend and Lord.

