

Family Faith

Chapter 21

Jesus Died on the Cross

Jesus died on the Cross because he loves us.

Chapter Summary

After the Last Supper, Jesus went out into the Garden of Gethsemane to pray. He prayed to do the will of his Father. Out of love, Jesus obeyed his Father to offer himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of mankind. Jesus carried his Cross to Calvary, where he was crucified. Mary, Saint John, and a few others stayed with Jesus until he died. By dying on the Cross, Jesus redeems mankind and opens the gates of Heaven. Jesus died for each of us and for the sins of all mankind. Jesus' great act of love shows us the meaning of perfect self-giving love. Each of us is called to do small acts of love for God and for one another.

More for Parents

We have seen a crucifix so many times in our lives that we can see one and not be very shocked by it. Children, on the other hand, typically catch just how different it is from other images and art that are more cheerful. They see Jesus hanging on the Cross and are perplexed: *What happened? Why did he die?* Perhaps they are thinking: *Why are we hanging it on our wall?* It is a shocking image! This is an incredible opportunity to teach them of God's love. We might answer them, "Jesus gave up his life so that we can go to Heaven. A crucifix reminds us of how much we are loved by God." Can your family spend some time looking at the crucifix and thinking about God's love for each of you? Since God loves us this much, what are ways the family can thank God for that kind of love?

Our Family Prays Together

Dear Jesus, you died on the Cross so that we can go to Heaven. Please help us to know how much you love us and learn to love you in return. Amen.

Let's Talk about It as a Family

- **Who is our Savior?** (Jesus.)
- **What do we call the day that Jesus died?** (Good Friday.)
- **Jesus died on the Cross to open the gates of _____.** (Heaven.)
- **Jesus' Death on the Cross was the ultimate act of _____.** (Love.)
- **Who shows us the perfect example of love?** (Jesus.)

Let's Live Our Faith

- Explain the importance of showing acts of love to others.
- Discuss the ways that your family can show acts of love to others.

Family Faith Activities

Choose one or more of the following to do as a family:

- Choose an "act of love" that you can do together as a family.
- Have your children draw a picture of Jesus on the Cross. Add your family at the foot of the Cross.
- Before or after Mass, walk your children around to see the Stations of the Cross. After each station or at the end, teach them to pray: "Have mercy on us and on the whole world."
- Read and discuss the Small Wonders story as a family at www.wordofliferies.org/parents.

For more family faith formation resources go to www.wordofliferies.org/parents.

Small Wonders



Pencil-Neck tries to stop the explosion of water from the broken pipe.

Read the full Small Wonders story at www.wordoflifeseries.org/parents.