

**Big Idea:** People lied about Jesus, this led to his death. But the torn curtain and the centurion's words show that Jesus is God's son who died to make us friends with God.

**Aim:** To see from the story of Jesus' death that we can now be friends with God.

## ACTIVITY

**YOUNGER CHILDREN:** Print page 2 to colour in. Remind them of the detail of the story using the pictures and words. You can also provide small pieces of fabric cut to fit the outline of the curtain. Tear or cut these down the middle and let the children paste these in place.

**OLDER CHILDREN:** Print page 3 to fill in.

## DISCUSS and APPLY

There are two key aspects to this week's story:

1. The events of Jesus' death (negative): People rejected Jesus over and over again as the Christ/ Messiah until he was eventually killed.
2. The explanation of Jesus death (positive): 15:37-39 unlocks the story. The centurion sees that Jesus is really the Son of God, and the torn curtain shows that his death allows people to be friends with God.

**YOUNGER CHILDREN:** The aim is for them to hear, understand and remember the narrative of Jesus' death on the cross. It would be good for them to understand the positive – Jesus is God's Son who came so we can be friends with God. Do they understand that Jesus dies so we can be friends with God? Remind the children of the barrier from the Introductory Idea. Break through the barrier and produce the picture of the throne and 'hands of friendship'. Explain that the picture shows friendship with God which we can only have if the barrier is broken.

You could also personalise the problem of sin by using Lego bricks (or other building blocks). Build a wall and label each brick with a different sin. Ask the children to suggest what these might be as you build the wall. Explain that when Jesus died, he took the punishment for all our sin (the way we treat God and the naughty things we say, think and do). Break down the wall you have built. Because Jesus takes the punishment, the barrier is taken away so we can be friends with God. Help the children to also understand that the way we can be friends with God is by trusting that Jesus died for our sin.

**OLDER CHILDREN:** To revise the events of Jesus' death, you could go around the group asking each child in turn to think of one way Jesus was hurt. You may need to remind them that Jesus was not just hurt with nails and a hammer. He was also hurt by what people said. Finally, he was hurt by his father placing on him the punishment for the sin of the whole world.

Do the children understand which part hurt Jesus the most?

Ask the children to imagine they are proving to someone why Jesus died. They have to put together a file of evidence. Can they suggest the clues and what each shows us?

Do they see how Jesus' death makes friendship with God possible?

Explain visually how sin separates us from God. Use Lego bricks or wooden building blocks to build a physical barrier. You could get the children to each label a number of blocks with various sins. Remind them of the previous lesson and how each of those sins needs to be punished. Because Jesus took the 'cup' (the punishment), the barrier is broken down. Do they also understand that we are not automatically friends with God. We can only become friends with God if we trust in Jesus and his death. What in this story do they find, shocking, surprising, amazing or unbelievable?

If Jesus was here with them, what would they want to ask him or say to him. This could easily lead to prayer.

When Jesus died on the cross, the Temple curtain tore in two to show that we can be friends with God.

Mark 15:38

## The King's Cross



# The King's Cross

This true story can be found in Mark 14:55-65, 15:1-47



## Discover

Draw lines to connect the people to what they did to see why Jesus' trial was unfair.

Sanhedrin

Said Jesus was blaspheming

Pilate

looked for any reason to kill Jesus

High Priest

Didn't defend the lies against him

Jesus

Shouted, "Crucify Him!"

Witnesses

Scared of the crowds

Crowds

Lied about Jesus



## Discuss

Could Jesus have defended himself? Why didn't he?

What made Jesus cry out in 15:34?

## Think Spot

When does the centurion realise who Jesus really is? Did Jesus look like a king?

When did the curtain tear?

What does this mean for you?



Fill in the centurion's speech bubble.

Do you agree with the centurion?