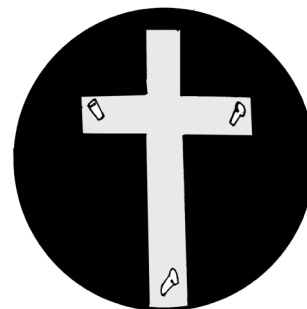


Lesson #1-L3*The Crucifixion*

Matthew 27:27-61

**Key Verse:**

Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last.
Matthew 27:50

The Point:

Jesus' death was felt by all of creation.

Unit Theme (April 14—April 28)

God's Greatest Promise

The Silence of Death

Reverencing the cross in silence.

You will need:

- † Large wooden cross
- † Optional: quiet and contemplative music and nature images, projection device

Instructions:

1. **Our spiritual practice for today is worship. We usually associate worship with preaching, shouting of praise, singing of hymns, prayers of thanksgiving, or sharing a meal together as a body. Even though we rarely make time for it in community, worship can also be spending time with God in silence. Today of all days, let's take three minutes of silence to reflect on Jesus' sacrifice, to thank God for God's love, to**

confess the ways we have sinned, and to contemplate our response to the cross.

2. During the silence, individuals can come forward as desired and touch the cross, kiss the cross, bow or kneel before the cross, or otherwise show respect or compassion.
3. For younger participants and groups new to the practice of silence, quiet and reflective music can be played, or artwork depicting the crucifixion can be projected during the time of contemplation.