

Heathfield Baptist Church
Family Devotions
Title: Love is the Reason: Its about the Cross

Prayer: Dear Lord please bless this time that we spend as a family, reading Your Word and discussing it to learn more about You and what You would have us do in obedience to what we learn from Your Word. Amen

Reading: John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

Luke 23: "When they came to the place, called ,the 'Skull' they crucified Jesus there, and the two criminals, one on the right and the other to the left."

Matthew 27:54 "When the army officer and the soldiers with him who were watching Jesus, saw the earthquake and everything that happened they were terrified and said, He really was the son of God."

1Peter3:18 "For Christ died for sins once and for all, a good man on behalf of all sinners,in order to lead you to God. He was put to death physically, but made alive spiritually."

Explanation: We are the reason that God sent His Son, Jesus to die on the cross of Calvary in our place. No other verse in the Bible so succinctly summarizes God's relationship with humanity and the way of salvation. Some consider [John 3:16](#) as the "theme verse" for the entire Bible. [John 3:16](#) tells us of the love God has for us and the extent of that love—so great that He sacrificed His only Son on our behalf. [John 3:16](#) teaches us that anyone who believes in Jesus Christ, God's Son, will be saved. [John 3:16](#) gives us the glorious hope of eternal life in heaven through the love of God and death of Jesus Christ. Jesus in His moment of suffering and despair still had time to forgive the thief on the cross. The Skull was a public place just outside the city of Jerusalem, a place of humiliation, ridicule, suffering and death. It became a place of obedience, surrender, sacrifice, forgiveness and victory because through the Holy Spirit he was made alive to His glorious body which was spirit. We too will have spiritual bodies when we die and upon Christs return in the Second coming. The army officer came to the truth, when he declared that Jesus was the Son of God. Jesus' death has made it possible for all to gain salvation, eternal life and to become children of God. We repent of our sins and declare Jesus as Lord and Saviour of our lives.

Discussion: Why did God let Jesus die such a cruel death? What would have happened if Jesus did not die for our sins? Is there any other way to gain eternal life other than accepting Jesus as Lord and Saviour? Why was the Place of the Skull such a horrible place, and yet such a place of significance? Why is it important for us to come to the same truth as the army officer? How do we accept Jesus as our Lord and Saviour? What are the benefits of such a decision.? What is meant that although died physically he was made alive spiritually.

Activity: Write down some of the things you discussed on a page and colour it in (children can do this/ family can do it together) and place it on the fridge/ kitchen wall or a prominent place to serve as a reminder of the things you are doing / may want to do the will impact the lives of others, leaving a legacy worth celebrating and following. Draw a picture of the cross. Write down the steps we must take to become Christians. (Four Spiritual Laws, The Sinners Prayer).

Application: Walk in the truth, which is God's Word, obey it, live it and see the results of you serving God wholeheartedly. Know that God loves you has sent Jesus to die in your place on the Cross of Calvary. He died to take away your sins, so that you might have everlasting life with God. He become the final sacrifice for all sins of all men, tribes and nations. Christ commands that you repent of your sins and seek His forgives and to confess Him as Lord and Saviour of your life.

Prayer: Father God may Your Word dwell in us richly so that we may never forget the Price that You paid on the Cross of Calvary. Lead us to a place of repentance, seeking Your forgiveness and to declare You as our Lord and Saviour. May we testify of Your Lordship over our lives and be witnesses to others who need to be saved. Amen.