

# RESCUED

Family Page • Session 4: He Gave His Life for You • Luke 23:32-46

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## WHAT WE READ

Jesus was crucified between two criminals. His first words were a prayer for the men killing him: Father, forgive them. The rulers, the soldiers, and one criminal all told him to save himself. He did not, because saving himself would have meant not saving us. The other criminal admitted he deserved his sentence, said Jesus had done nothing wrong, and turned to him: Jesus, remember me. Jesus promised him: today you will be with me in Paradise. We flashed back, in pairs, to Isaiah 53, written centuries earlier: he was wounded for our transgressions; and we remembered the Passover lamb from our first session. Then we answered the question the whole study has been reading toward: why did Jesus have to die?

## THE BIG IDEA

Jesus freely gave his life for our sins, for every single person (CCC 605, 613-614). The Father already loved us; the Father and the Son chose this together. The criminal beside Jesus could not earn God's first gift of grace, but he admitted his sin and turned to Jesus in trust, and Jesus welcomed him. We cannot earn God's first gift of grace; with his help we respond in faith, repentance, and love. It is never too late to turn to Jesus.

## MEMORY VERSE

**“Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.” (Luke 23:43)**

## ONE QUESTION FOR DINNER

The criminal beside Jesus admitted what he had done and turned to Jesus. If you turned to Jesus tonight, what would you want him to remember about you? Parents, you go first.

## THIS WEEK'S ONE STEP

Once a day, look at a crucifix and say one sentence: You did that for me.

## A PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Jesus, you did not save yourself, so that you could save us. We are sorry for our sins. Remember our family. Amen.

## ONE MORE QUESTION

Ask your child the study's big question: why did Jesus have to die? Listen to how they answer it now, four sessions in.

## NEXT TIME

Session 5: Death Did Not Win. We read the story of two disciples walking home on Easter Sunday who do not recognize the stranger beside them, and then Jesus proving to his friends that he is not a ghost (Luke 24:13-43).