Luke 23 V1-49

Teacher notes to share with the children

The four [New Testament](https://www.bibleodyssey.org/en/passages/main-articles/jesus-crucifixion-in-lukes-gospel.aspx) Gospels each tell how Jesus’ life led to his death on a Roman cross. Although the historicity of this event is supported by Christian, Jewish, and Roman sources, the New Testament and the Christian tradition have generally been more concerned with interpreting Jesus’ death than with proving that it took place.

**Did you know…?**

* According to Luke, Jesus was crucified as a potential threat to Rome.
* Luke portrays Jerusalem’s Jewish leadership as instrumental in Jesus’ execution.
* Luke does not name Pharisees as participants in the events leading to Jesus’ death.
* Luke’s Gospel says that Jesus anticipated and interpreted his violent death.
* Only in Luke does Jesus ask God to forgive those responsible for Jesus’ death.
* For Luke, Jesus’ death was integral to God’s plan to bring salvation to the world.

The Gospel of Luke’s interpretation of Jesus’ suffering and death (together known as his “passion”) focuses on the political and [theological](https://www.bibleodyssey.org/en/passages/main-articles/jesus-crucifixion-in-lukes-gospel.aspx) implications of Jesus’ death.

Luke zeroes in on:

* Jesus’ non-violent opposition to Roman rule
* his practice of universal love (even of one’s enemy)
* and his [promise](https://www.bibleodyssey.org/en/passages/main-articles/jesus-crucifixion-in-lukes-gospel.aspx) of salvation.

Luke talks of the charges brought against Jesus ([Luke 23:1-5](https://www.bibleodyssey.org/lightbox-bible-passage.aspx?passage=Luke+23%3a1-5), [Luke 23:14](https://www.bibleodyssey.org/lightbox-bible-passage.aspx?passage=Luke+23%3a14))

Herod’s questioning of Jesus ([Luke 23:7-12](https://www.bibleodyssey.org/lightbox-bible-passage.aspx?passage=Luke+23%3a7-12))

Pilate declaring Jesus innocent three times ([Luke 23:4](https://www.bibleodyssey.org/lightbox-bible-passage.aspx?passage=Luke+23%3a4), [Luke 23:14-15](https://www.bibleodyssey.org/lightbox-bible-passage.aspx?passage=Luke+23%3a14-15), [Luke 23:22](https://www.bibleodyssey.org/lightbox-bible-passage.aspx?passage=Luke+23%3a22)).

Only Luke writes of the women who mourn Jesus’ execution ([Luke 23:27-31](https://www.bibleodyssey.org/lightbox-bible-passage.aspx?passage=Luke+23%3a27-31)).

Luke depicts Jesus praying that God would forgive those responsible for his execution (Luke 23:34)

Luke includes the words of those crucified alongside Jesus, including Jesus’ promise that one of them would join him in paradise ([Luke 23:39-43](https://www.bibleodyssey.org/lightbox-bible-passage.aspx?passage=Luke+23%3a39-43))

Luke shows how Jesus practiced his own message ([Luke 6:27-28](https://www.bibleodyssey.org/lightbox-bible-passage.aspx?passage=Luke+6%3a27-28)) and extended salvation in surprising ways.