

# CHRIST'S CRUCIFIXION & BURIAL

THE LIFE OF CHRIST WITH SAINT LUKE



## JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS & THE BURIAL OF JESUS

Orthodox Children's Bible Reader  
pages 253-256

After reading or summarizing these stories, explain the provided icons to your children. Then ask each child to tell you about an icon. Through their storytelling back to you, you are reinforcing the information they learned for long term memory, you can see what they retained from the lesson, you can evaluate your own teaching methods (Did they learn what I set out to teach

1

### GOAL

Learn to read  
iconography through  
the Gospels

2

### AT CHURCH

Holy Friday and  
Sunday of the  
Myrrhbearing Women

3

### AT HOME

We wear a cross and  
we are anointed with  
holy oil



Class routine:  
Move my photo from  
"home" to "church"



Class routine:  
Light a candle -  
respectfully  
prayerfully  
without playing



Class routine:  
Venerate our icon



Sing "Lord have  
mercy" in  
English, Greek,  
Arabic, Romanian

them?), you can provide additional details you want them to learn, ask them questions, and provide correction for any misunderstandings.

## ICONS

### The Crucifixion



In this icon, we see Jesus in the center on the cross. On the left side, we see the Theotokos and the myrrh-bearing women. On the right side, we see St. John the Theologian and the centurion, St. Longinus who realized that Jesus was the Son of God after seeing everything that happened.



On a similar icon of the crucifixion, we see only three people: Jesus (center), Theotokos (left), and John (right). John was the youngest of all of the disciples and the only one of them who was present when Jesus was crucified. He has been given several titles by the Church: St. John the Theologian, the Evangelist, and he was one of the “sons of thunder” mentioned in the gospels.

In this icon, we witness the moment that Jesus asks St. John to take care of His mother after He dies. (John 19:26-27) During this time period, women could not work like they do today and needed the support of either their husband or son.

## EXTENDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

*The Crucifixion of the King of Glory* by Eugenia Scarvelis Constantinou

*The Gospel of Luke: Good News for the Poor* by Fr. Lawrence Farley

*The Explanation of the Holy Gospel According to Luke* by Blessed Theophylact

GOARCH - [Learn: Holy Friday](#)

Orthodoxwiki: [Myrrh-bearing women](#)

Orthodoxwiki: [Joseph of Arimathea](#)

Orthodoxwiki: [Nicodemus the Righteous](#)



## The Burial



In this icon, we see the Theotokos lovingly holding the head of her Son, Jesus.

At the top left side of the icon, we see the myrrh-bearing women.

On the left side of the icon, towards the center, we see John tenderly holding and kissing the hand of Jesus. Left top, we see Nicodemus the Righteous and left we see Joseph of Arimathea.

They are preparing Jesus' body for burial in the sepulchre (tomb). Today, there is a church built on top of the place where Christ was buried. This church is called the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

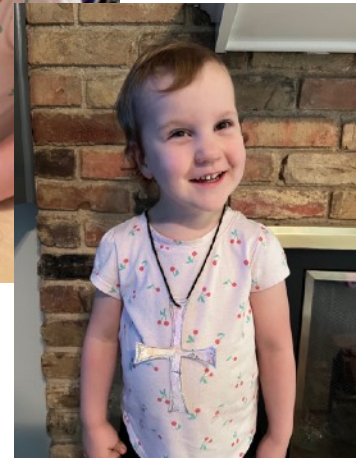
## ACTIVITIES

### Why do we wear a cross?

- We are a follower of Christ.
- Jesus died on the cross to save us.
- Our cross around our neck is a constant reminder of my faith and my commitment to live a life according to Jesus' teachings.

Pass out a paper cross to each child. Let them color or paint the cross, cut it out, punch a hole at the top, and then tie a string through it for them to wear home. Before leaving class, ask them again

and wait for each child to tell you in their own words, "Why do we wear a cross?" Encourage them to tell their parents in the car on the way home from church.



### When do we use holy oil?

Jesus was anointed with oil by Mary, "For in pouring this fragrant oil on My body, she did it for My burial."

The myrrh-bearers prepared Jesus' body for burial with oils and perfumes.

Orthodox Pebbles has a lesson on [Holy Unction](#).

We use holy oil: Holy Unction; Baptism / Chrismation; from monasteries; from myrrh-streaming icons

# CHRIST'S CRUCIFIXION & BURIAL

## AT HOME

### FOR PARENTS

**T**here was darkness over the whole earth.” One of the most extraordinary details of the day Christ died was the strange darkness that covered the earth. We are not certain what time Christ was crucified, although usually we say about noon. Jews marked the time of day beginning with sunrise, which they referred to as the ‘first hour,’ about six a.m. All evangelists agree that the Lord died at the ninth hour, or three p.m., after a prolonged period of inexplicable darkness that began at noon, the sixth hour, when the sun would have

been at its highest point. ‘It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour’ (Luke 23:44; Matt. 27:45; Mark 15:33).

A popular explanation for the darkness is that it was a solar eclipse, but that is a demonstrable mistake, for a number of reasons. An eclipse is a natural occurrence, but this was an unnatural darkness. An eclipse does not last for three hours as this darkness did.

Eugenia Scarvelis Constantinou  
*The Crucifixion of the King of Glory*  
pages 253-254

## HOME ACTIVITY #23

Trisagion Films: [The Icon of the Myrrh Bearing Women](#)

YouTube: [Jerusalem, Tomb of Jesus at Night. Church of Holy Sepulchre](#)





