



Week of Dec 24 - a

Scripture: Mt 27:45-66

Main Idea: When Jesus died several things happened. The curtain of the temple was torn, the earth shook, rocks split, and people rose from the dead. Even the Roman centurion witnessing these things said, “Truly this was the Son of God!” The Jewish leaders meanwhile are afraid of Jesus’ body being stolen from the tomb where he was to be buried. So, they asked Pilate for help and he approved of them to take Roman soldiers to guard it, just in case.

Questions

Preschool: How do you think the people felt when they realized that Jesus was in fact the Son of God?

Grade school: If you didn’t believe Jesus was who he said he was before, would you believe now? Would the darkness make you wonder? Especially when it felt like you were also in the middle of an earthquake? Don’t you wonder who the saints were that were raised from the dead? And still they don’t believe and put armed guards to watch his body.

Teen: The centurion, who probably worshipped other gods, believed Jesus was the Son of God. But, the Chief Priests and Pharisees still refused to believe even though they knew to expect the messiah. Are there still people today who refuse to see Jesus as Lord? Is it possible for Christians today to get lost in their own ideas and miss seeing Jesus, just as the Pharisees did?

Adult: We see widely varying responses after Jesus' death. The centurion, a Roman military man, confessed that Jesus was the Son of God. Joseph asked for the body, to give it a decent burial. The religious leaders want to ensure the followers cannot perpetrate a fraud by stealing the body. Do you wonder what impact this had on their lives 1, 2, 5, 10 years after Jesus' death? Do you think the centurion became a Christian and lived for Jesus? Or did he return to his old ways? Joseph of Arimathea is not mentioned later in the Bible – is this because he allowed the Council to turn him from Jesus? Do you think Joseph had himself buried in the same tomb as Jesus? Do you believe some of the religious leaders later turned to Christ and regretted their actions on these days?

PRAYER REQUESTS

December Memory Verse:

Romans 8:28 (NIV)
And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.



Week of Dec 24 - b

Scripture: Mt 28:1-10

Main Idea: The Sabbath is now over and at dawn the women go to Jesus' tomb to anoint his body. Meanwhile he has risen, and an angel informs them of the resurrection. Jesus is anxious for his disciples to hear the good news and the women are told to go quickly and tell them.

Questions

Preschool: How do you think the women felt as they went to tell the disciples that Jesus' tomb is empty?

Grade school: Early in the morning, two of Jesus' friends were heading to Jesus's tomb. They were both named Mary. Sometimes when someone you love has died, it helps to go to the graveyard, even if it is just to cry. When they got there, nothing was what they expected. First there was a big earthquake. The ground was shaking like crazy! Second, the stone was rolled away from the door of the tomb! Third, there was someone sitting on it — an angel, a messenger of God, and his clothes were glowing with light! How do you think they reacted?

Teen: Jesus is risen! Is there anything more beneficial for us than this? The guards were fearful. The women were fearful and joyful. When you think about or read about the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, what do you feel?

Adult: The Marys came to the tomb as soon as they could following the sabbath. They were the first of the followers to know that Jesus had been raised from the dead. Why do you think it was announced this way? Jesus was raised and could have appeared first to Peter, James and John-the three in the inner circle. What was it about these women? What do you think was in their character that made them the first to hear? And why was Mary Magdalene first to see Jesus?

PRAYER REQUESTS

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