

# THE CROSS

## FAMILY DEVOS



# Why Have You Forsaken Me?

**Scripture:** Matthew 27:45-51

**Memory Verse:** 2 Corinthians 5:21

“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. “

## For My Family

Jesus was exhausted. He had been whipped and beaten, carried His heavy cross to the Golgotha, and was crucified. He had been hanging on the cross for three hours. His mouth was dry from dehydration, so when He cried out in a loud voice, “Eli, Eli, lama sabacthani,” the crowd couldn’t understand what He said. Some thought He was calling for Elijah to come down from Heaven and save Him from the cross, but that wasn’t it at all.

Jesus was not calling for Elijah, He was calling to His Father. The words that He spoke mean, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” For the first time ever, God the Father had turned His face away from God the Son. Jesus and His Father had become separated because Jesus, who had never known sin, had taken the sin of the whole world upon His shoulders. Every lie, every fight, every murder, all of the most vile and disgusting things ever done throughout history, and every horrible thing that will ever be done in the future, was placed upon Jesus. He took it from us.

In the book of Romans we read that, “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,” and also that, “The wages of sin is death.” We have all deliberately broken God’s law, and because of that we were separated from Him. We couldn’t be in His presence, just like Adam and Eve could no longer be in the Garden. There was a great veil that hung between mankind and God in the temple, showing that we were forever separated from Him.

Jesus had never sinned and had always been in perfect union with God the Father. When He took our sin upon Himself, He was separated from God, but something amazing happened for us. The veil tore in half from top to bottom. By taking our sin, Jesus opened the door for us. Because of what He did, we could now be with God again. God made Jesus, who never knew sin, to become sin for us, so that we might be made right and whole with God by Jesus.

Isn’t it wonderful to think that everything that we have ever done, ever said, or even ever thought that displeased God has already been forgiven on the cross? Every sin has been taken off of you and me and placed on Jesus. This is why we love Him so much. This is why He is worthy to receive our praise, our worship, our thanks, and our devotion.

In Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus speaks no more. We will have to turn to the Gospels of Luke and John to see the final wonderful words of Jesus from the cross.

## Questions for Young Children:

Who did Jesus cry out to? Who did the crowd think He was calling for?

Was Jesus separated from the Father for His own sins, or for ours?

How many of our sins did Jesus forgive on the cross?

## Questions for Teens and Pre-teens:

Why do you think Jesus said, “Why have You forsaken Me?”

Read Psalm 22. How many prophecies about Jesus’ death on the cross can you find? (Keep in mind, Psalm 22 was written 1000 years before Christ’s death.)

What did the tearing of the veil symbolize?