
Lesson 17: Jesus Forgives a Dying Criminal

BIG IDEA

By promising a guilty criminal a place in his kingdom, Jesus showed that his death alone achieves salvation for anyone who believes in Him.

 **Luke 23:32-33, 39-43**
(paraphrase)

Two criminals were nailed to crosses on either side of Jesus. One of the criminals mocked Jesus. He shouted, 'You say you are the Messiah? Then save your own life and our lives too.'

The other criminal said to the first criminal, 'Don't you fear God? We have done terrible things and deserve to die. This man has done nothing wrong.'

He turned to Jesus and said, 'Remember me when you rule in your kingdom.'

Jesus replied, 'I promise you, today you will be with me in heaven.'

 **Teacher Preparation****Read Scripture**

- Luke 23:32-33, 39-43 in your Bible
- Luke 23:32-33, 39-43 paraphrase (on page 2)

Read *Meet Jesus* Book

- Chapter 17 – Jesus Forgives a Dying Criminal

Print Resources

- APPENDIX 17.1 – Print enough for each student. There are 4 per page.
- APPENDIX 17.2 – Print 1 for each student.
- APPENDIX 1.5 - Reuse print from lesson one.

Other Equipment

- Whiteboard / table
- Whiteboard markers

Activate Prior Knowledge

Write, *criminal* on the board.

Say, 'Who do you think of when I say "criminal"?'
Write responses on the board.

Write *guilty* and *innocent* on the board.

Invite students to:

- a. discuss the meaning of the words
- b. put each word into a sentence using the following sentence tags:

The guilty man had.....;
The innocent man had not.....

Predict the Content

Say, 'In this text Jesus is on the cross. He speaks with two criminals.'

Ask, 'What do you think the conversation will be about?'

Read and Comprehend

Depending on the level of your students you might:

- Read the passage of scripture to them;
- Direct them to read the passage of scripture in English;
- Direct them to read the passage of scripture in their heart language; or
- Read the passage of scripture later in the lesson.

OWN HEART LANGUAGE

Depending on the level of your students, you might like to invite them to read the passage in their heart language.

Visit bible.com or biblegateway.com to find a number of international translations.

Activities

Activity 1: Unpacking the text

APPENDIX 17.1 – Print enough for each student.
There are 4 per page.

Give out text. Students follow along as a teacher/helper reads it aloud.

Write the words *criminal*, *messiah*, *terrible*, *deserve to*, *kingdom*, *promise* on the board.

Invite students to find and underline them in the text.

Clarify meanings as a class.

Activity 2: Find-a-word

APPENDIX 17.2 – Print 1 for each student.

Students complete alone or in pairs.

Correct and discuss the worksheet as a class.

Invite a confident student to read the text again aloud or read around the circle.

Invite Curiosity

APPENDIX 1.5 - Reuse print from lesson one.

Place the ? on the table and ask:

- Are there any new words?'
- What questions might someone have about this text?
- What comments might someone have about the text?

An Important Question

Ask, 'What does second the criminal say about himself and about Jesus?'

Concluding Statement

Jesus promised a criminal a place in His kingdom.

Anyone who believes in Him will be welcome in His kingdom.

Luke 23:32-33, 39-43

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Find following words:

- criminal
- messiah
- terrible

- deserve to
- kingdom
- promise

T M O P R D H I U A E C O Y E
 F E O X V W L U S S L G J B T
 Q J R D T Y L G Q Y V F U M T
 X R I R G G A N K M I D E H V
 N C Y U I N D U O Z Q S O T Z
 C Y O A B B I D Y J S P Q S O
 M R W R W M L K J I I A T S I
 U N F V J P P E A A E R G V P
 I T O C Y S M H D R S A H M D
 Z W S Q A H C A M E I D W R C
 W L F U D T D X P J M I P R Y
 J O C X C B W X H V O S Q P P
 C R I M I N A L E V R E S E D
 C O A C Q B L G D W P I A V E
 M G E J P I B N U B D Q S W I

Write each word you have found next to its meaning in the text:

To say that something will happen _____

The place where God rules _____

The king God promised _____

should _____

A person who has done something wrong _____

Very bad or serious _____