

Family Talk – Symbols of Relief

READ TOGETHER

John 19:28–30

1. What was Jesus' mission?
2. Why did Jesus have to die on the cross?
3. When Jesus said, "*It is finished!*" then bowed His head, do you read that as a cry of relief or a cry of victory?

LIVE IT

Jesus had to die. When reading the gospels, it can be tempting to look at many of the circumstances that led to Jesus' death and think *if only*.

If only Judas hadn't betrayed Jesus.

If only Pilate had let Jesus go free.

If only God had saved Him and shown everyone that Jesus was Lord.

But Jesus had to die. Taking the weight of humanity's sin on the cross was His mission, and everything happened according to God's plan.

Jesus knew His death and burial were coming well before they happened. Jesus told His disciples on several occasions that all of this was part of the plan (Matthew 16:21-23, Mark 9:30-32, John 12:7-8). He had to die to take on the weight of our sin and to suffer God's wrath in our place. Although Jesus wasn't looking forward to it (Matthew 26:36-46), He willingly died so we could be saved. He completed the mission He set out to do, and the most beautiful part of all is that the story doesn't end in death. A resurrection takes place three days later.

LEAN ON GOD

Dear God,

Thank You for sending Jesus to die on the cross for our sins. We couldn't restore our relationship with You, so You sent Your Son to do it for us. Help us remember this and live as people bought with a price. Your love, grace and mercy are amazing!

Amen.

