

# Jesus:

**The Rescue We All  
Needed**





In a time when the world was ruled by the powerful Romans, a group of people suffered greatly under their rule. The Romans conquered this group of people. They took their land from them and placed Roman rulers in charge, even giving them an evil king. This group of people, called Israelites, waited for God to send a promised rescuer—a King, a Savior, and Messiah. They thought this Savior would overthrow Roman rule. And on a quiet night in a town called Bethlehem, a little baby was born. This baby boy, born in a filthy stable filled with flies and smelly animals, was to be the promised rescuer. He was different. His mother, Mary, was engaged to a man named Joseph. But Joseph was not His father.





Then who was His Father? you may ask. His Father is God. Yes—God! Jesus came from heaven. He is the Son of God. The Holy Spirit placed Jesus in Mary’s womb and formed a real human body around Him. Jesus grew up strong and mighty in the world. He healed the sick and preached the good news to both the rich and the poor. But most importantly, He obeyed His Father—God.

When people saw Jesus’ power and miracles, many thought He would be the one to finally defeat the Romans and take back their land. But when He started talking about dying on a cross, some people didn’t want to hear it. They covered their ears and closed their eyes—even the twelve followers He had chosen to be His students.

On one occasion, Jesus said, “A kernel of wheat is called a seed.”

"Yes, of course, Master, we know that," said the twelve.

"And unless the seed falls to the ground and dies, it remains alone."

"Huh?" said one of the followers, named Peter. "Am I the only one who doesn't get it?" He looked behind him at the other followers.





"Think about the body of the seed," Jesus said, looking each of them in the eye. "When you plant the seed in the ground, the body is destroyed—but what happens to the inside?"

Jesus' eyes widened as He waited for an answer. But when no one responded, He said, "Life bursts from inside the seed—making something new, leaving behind the shell that once contained it. Just like the seed, my body will be bruised and I will die, but I will burst forth into life. And because I will live again, you will too."

"What does He mean by that?" His followers whispered.

Jesus shook His head sadly, because they still didn't understand He had to die.

"The body you have is corruptible—it will eventually die. But one day, you will leave your corruptible bodies and get new ones that will last forever."

"I'm even more confused," said Peter.

"Are we supposed to know what He's talking about?" said another.





They all wanted a powerful Savior, not a suffering one who dies. Then it came time for Jesus to die—for every human who had lived and every one who would be born in the future. It was time for Him to take our punishment. He committed no sin. He never lied or did anything wrong. He was the perfect sacrifice.

On the cross, He had to face two kinds of death: spiritual death and physical death. Spiritual death means separation from God. He felt this spiritual death as He hung on the cross.

Jesus lifted His eyes to heaven and cried loudly, “Father, Father, why have You left me alone?”

He endured the pain of being beaten, spit on, and nailed to the cross like a criminal. He hung there, suffocating, until He gave His final breath.





The broken-hearted followers huddled together in a dark, cramped room, hoping what happened to Jesus wouldn't happen to them. Watching the chief priests work with the ruthless Romans to have Him killed had shaken them to the core. Then came a loud pounding on the door. Their hearts dropped.

"It's me," a voice called. "Mary."

The door flew open and was slammed shut behind her.

"He's alive—I saw Him! He talked to me, right there at the grave," she said, out of breath.

Two of his disciples jetted off, with Mary trailing behind them. When they got to the grave, they saw the empty tomb and the folded linen cloth. They walked back slowly, trying to figure out what it all meant.





Another day, while the followers were still hiding in that same dark, locked room, Jesus suddenly appeared among them.

"Peace be with you," He said gently.

"How did he get in here? The door was locked!" one of them shouted, covering his face.

"It's a ghost!" cried another.

"No—it's me, Jesus. I can prove it. Give me a piece of fish. Ghosts don't eat."

So they handed Him some fish, and Jesus ate it right in front of them. Slowly, they began to calm down. But they were still amazed—Jesus was really standing there with them!

He didn't just appear to the twelve. At one point, more than 500 people saw Him alive at the same time. They believed because they saw Him. They saw the scars and the nail marks in His hands. After that, they were sure—Jesus really was the Son of God. And they finally understood why He had to die.

But Jesus said, "You believe because you see me. But blessed are those who believe even though they've never seen me."

After that, He ascended into heaven and sat down next to God. He's there now, praying for us. And He's waiting for the day when those who believe will live with Him forever—in new, glorious bodies.





# Let's Think About the Story

## Keywords:

- **Jesus:** Jesus: He is God's Son. Before coming to earth, He was known by a different name—the Word. He was named Jesus after he came to earth.
- **Sin:** Disobeying God
- **Crucified:** To put someone to death by nailing them to a cross. This was a punishment used long ago in ancient times.
- **Holy Spirit:** He is God's active power. He gives and creates life.

## Questions:

1. Why did God send His Son to the earth?

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2. Who was Jesus' mother \_\_\_\_\_

3. Was Joseph Jesus' father? Circle yes or no. Yes      No

4. Who was/is Jesus' father? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Did Jesus stay dead? \_\_\_\_\_

## Connection:

Do you remember how God made the first man, Adam?

Genesis 2:7 NIV

- "Then the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being."

**God formed Jesus in Mary's womb and breathed life into Him. Just like in Genesis, the Holy Spirit brings life.**