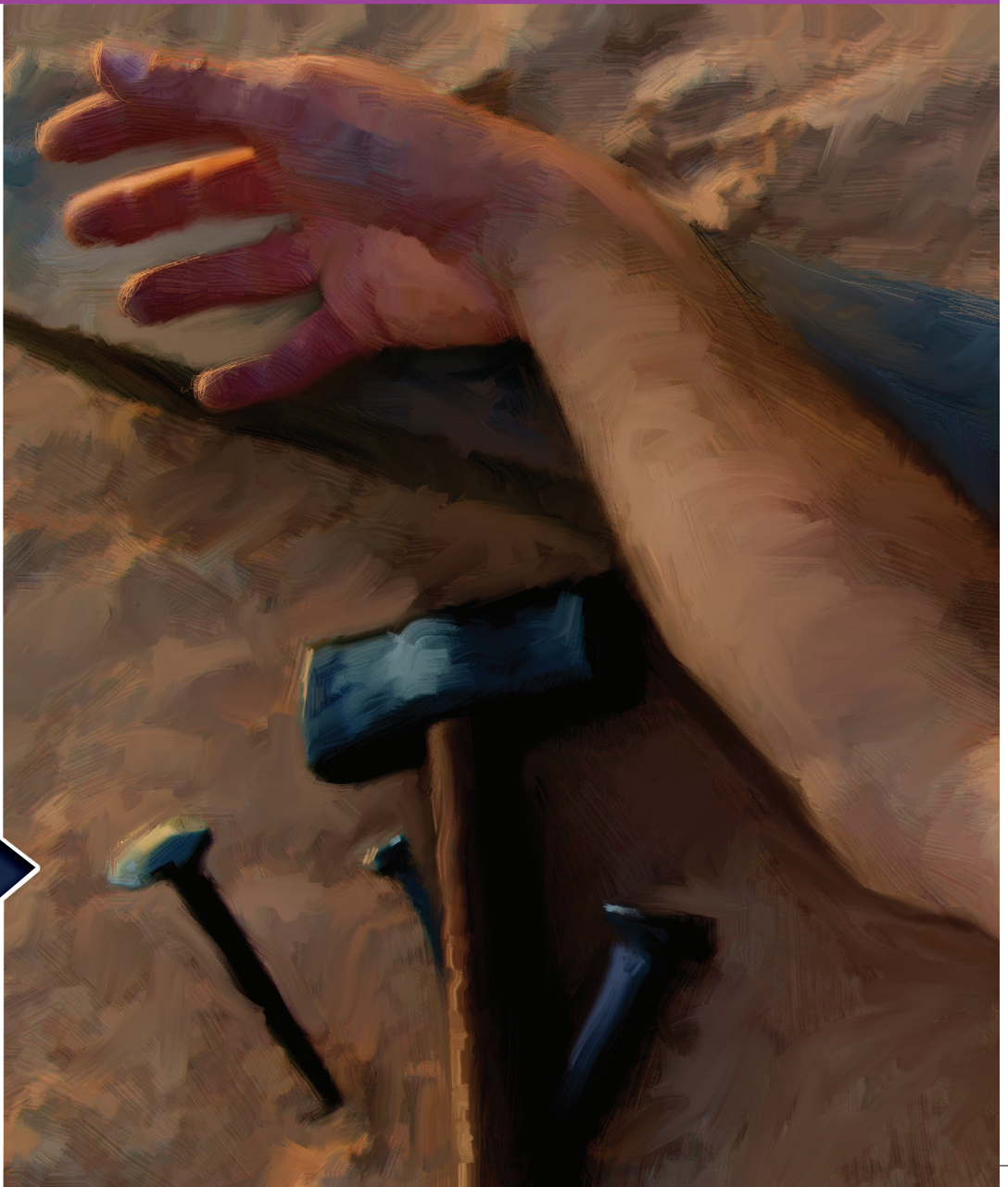


# 12

## Love on a Tree

Key References: Matthew 27:27-66; Luke 23:26-49; *The Desire of Ages*, chap. 78, pp. 741-757; chap. 79, pp. 758-764; *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 9, pp. 105-117; *Our Beliefs* nos. 10, 9, 4



## powertext

"When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, 'Surely he was the Son of God!'" (Matthew 27:54).

*Have you ever been in pain? You just wanted to be left alone, didn't you? What would it take for you to be able to reach out to someone else while you are in pain?*

Jesus' followers wanted to forget the horror of Pilate's court. Jesus had been beaten, and the soldiers had mocked and insulted Him. People had even spit in Jesus' face. Now He was going to die on a cross. The people following Jesus, many of whom He had healed, couldn't believe what He had gone through. And yet He had not shown any resistance.

Finally, the group reached the top of Golgotha, the Place of the Skull. The surprised followers saw a large crowd gathered on the hill. Many people who had followed Jesus had come to see Him one last time. They were wailing in grief. But others were mocking Him. Two other prisoners, convicted thieves, already lay on crosses on the ground.

The soldiers roughly took Jesus' cross and threw it on the ground. They stripped Jesus of His cloak and pushed Him onto the cross. As Jesus' weakened frame lay on the rough wood of the cross, the crown of thorns sank deeper into His head. Fresh blood flowed onto His already bruised, battered, and bloody face. Yet Jesus was still, waiting for the Roman soldiers to finish their cruel work.



Like Jesus, we can share God's love with anyone, anywhere.

Sabbath

**DO** Do the activity on page 89.

# 12

## Sunday

**READ** Read Luke 23:26–34 and this week’s lesson, “Love on a Tree.”

**THINK** Think of how crucifying Jesus may have impacted the soldiers who nailed Him to the cross.

**REVIEW** Review the power text, Matthew 27:54.

**PRAY** Pray that you may share the story of the cross.

## Monday

**READ** Read Luke 23:35–49.

**THINK** How would you have felt if you were watching Jesus die on the cross?

**WRITE** Write your answer in your Bible study journal.

**REVIEW** Review the power text.

**PRAY** Thank Jesus for His sacrificial death on the cross, which offers you salvation.

## Tuesday

**READ** Read Matthew 27:33–44.

**THINK** Think about the crucifixion of Jesus and about the great pain He endured to offer you eternal life.

**SHARE** Talk about Jesus’ matchless love and infinite sacrifice for our salvation.

**REVIEW** Review the power text.

**PRAY** Pray that you may share God’s love with anyone.

Two of the soldiers knelt on either side of Jesus’ arms. Each held a thick metal spike in his hand. The soldiers positioned the spikes over Jesus’ wrists. Together they raised their hammers into the air and then brought them down to make contact with the spikes. Jesus’ followers turned away, but they couldn’t escape the sound. *Clang. Clang. Clang.* As the hammers beat against the spikes, the sound reverberated across the hilltop. The soldiers moved to Jesus’ feet, placing one on top of the other. One soldier held a spike as the other raised the hammer. Again Jesus’ followers looked away. Again the sound penetrated to their core. *Clang. Clang. Clang.* The followers marveled that Jesus never said a word as the soldiers drove the thick spikes into His flesh. When the echo of the hammers and spikes had subsided, those close to the scene heard Jesus speak.

“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing” (Luke 23:34). His followers drew in their breath, and tears sprang to their eyes as they witnessed Jesus’ words of forgiveness.

As the soldiers roughly lifted the crosses with their human burdens upright, one could see Jesus’ back. It was all torn from the whips the soldiers had used on Him. His raw flesh ached profoundly as it came in contact with the rough wood of the cross. Still He said nothing.



# 12

## Wednesday

**READ** Read Mark 15:22-32.

**RECORD** In your Bible study journal, describe the scene taking place at Jesus' crucifixion, referring to the soldiers, priests, common people, disciples, and Jesus' mother.

**SHARE** Like Jesus, you can share God's love with anyone, anywhere.

**REVIEW** Review the power text.

**PRAY** Praise God for the call to tell others about His love.

## Thursday

**READ** Read John 19:17-24.

**WRITE** Using your Bible study journal, write a paragraph or two about your experience with God.

**TESTIFY** Memorize it so you can testify of—that is, share—your experience with Jesus with other people.

**REVIEW** Review the power text.

**PRAY** Ask Jesus to help you share your testimony with someone who has not yet experienced Jesus' great love.

## Friday

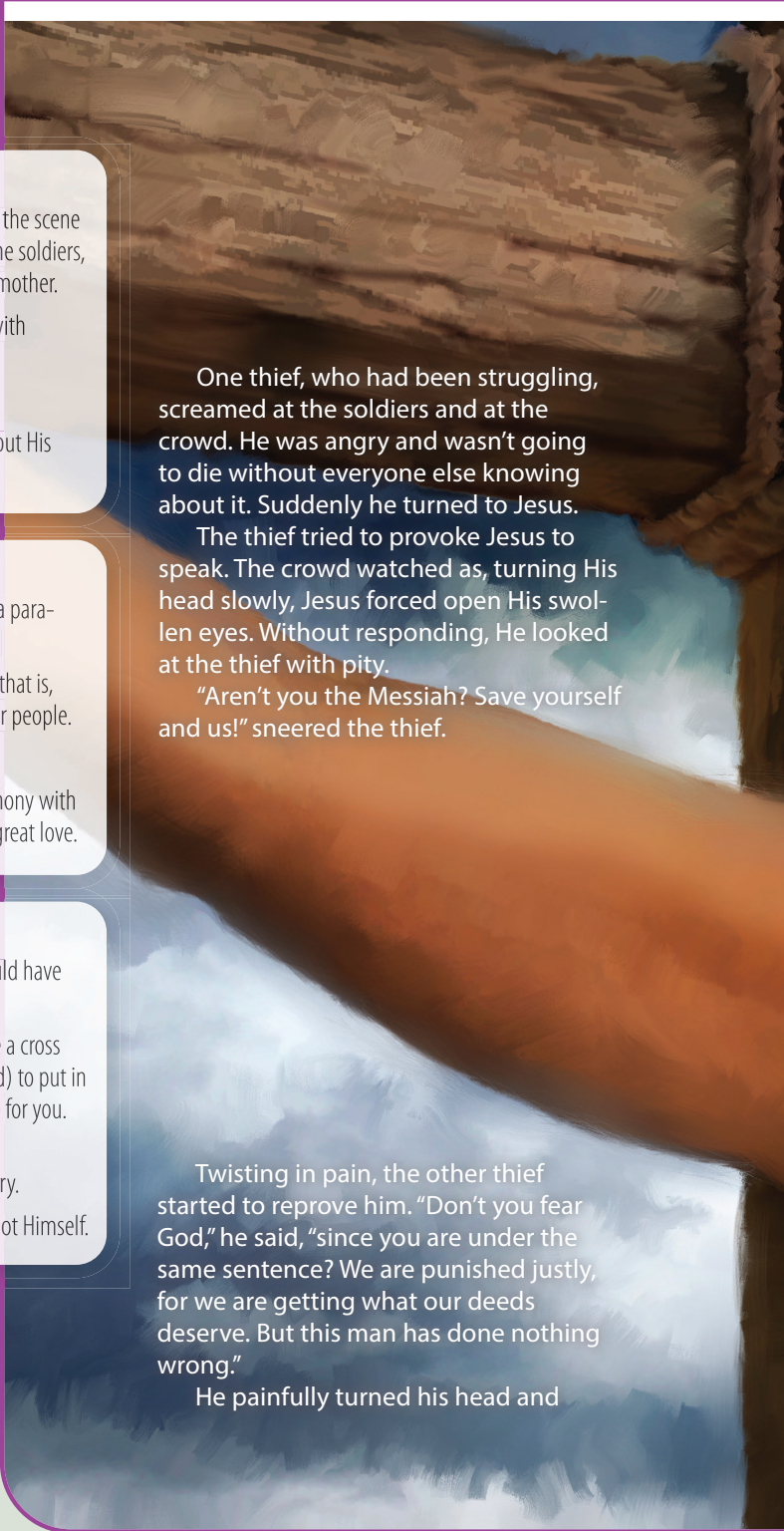
**READ** Read John 3:16, 17.

**THINK** How would our future be if Jesus would have decided not to die for us on the cross?

**CREATE** Using materials in your home, create a cross (or find a nail and glue it to wood or cardboard) to put in a special place to remind you of Jesus' sacrifice for you. Share your creation at family worship.

**REPEAT** Say your power text aloud by memory.

**PRAY** Thank Jesus that He chose to save us, not Himself.



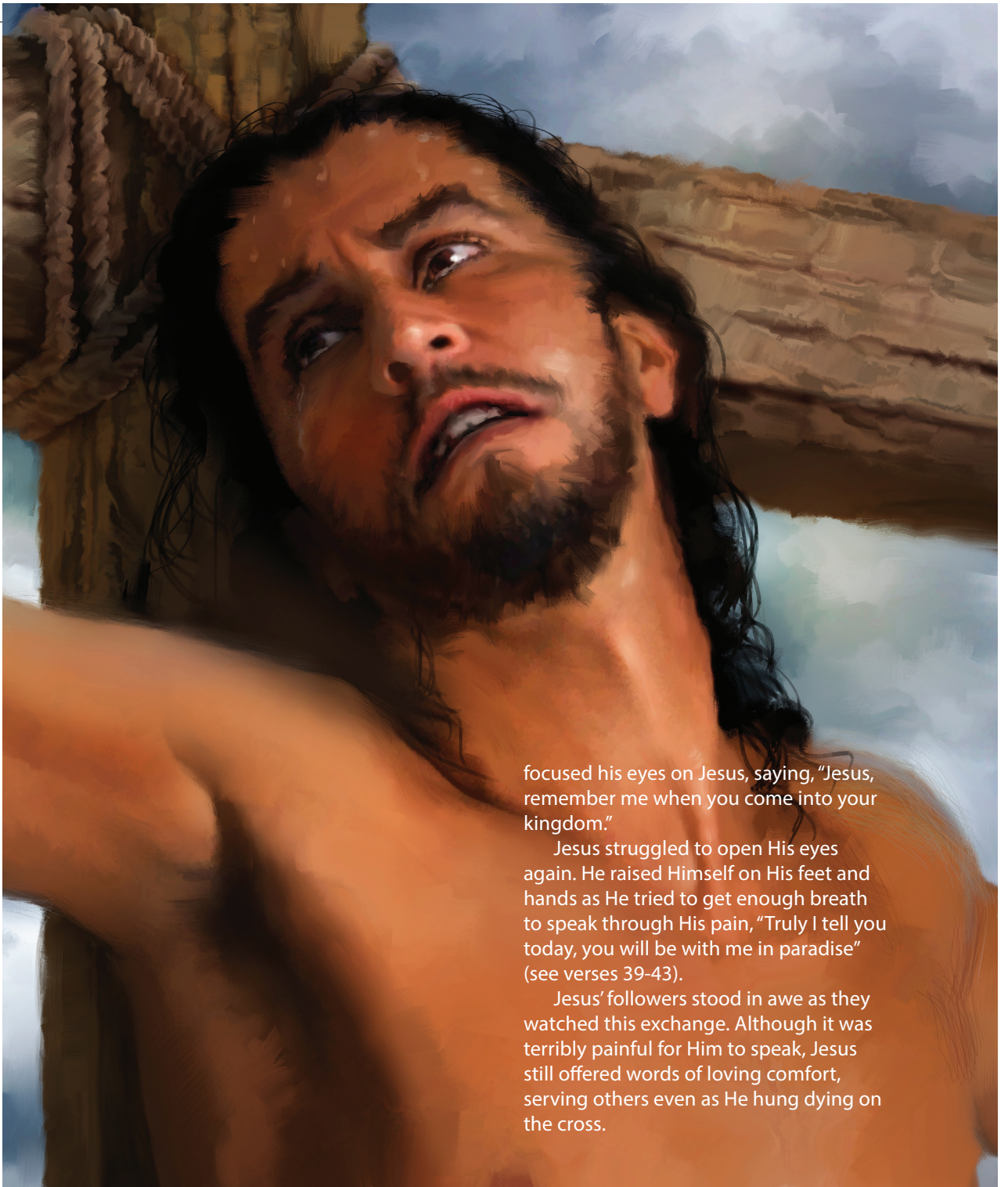
One thief, who had been struggling, screamed at the soldiers and at the crowd. He was angry and wasn't going to die without everyone else knowing about it. Suddenly he turned to Jesus.

The thief tried to provoke Jesus to speak. The crowd watched as, turning His head slowly, Jesus forced open His swollen eyes. Without responding, He looked at the thief with pity.

"Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" sneered the thief.

Twisting in pain, the other thief started to reprove him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong."

He painfully turned his head and



focused his eyes on Jesus, saying, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

Jesus struggled to open His eyes again. He raised Himself on His feet and hands as He tried to get enough breath to speak through His pain, “Truly I tell you today, you will be with me in paradise” (see verses 39-43).

Jesus’ followers stood in awe as they watched this exchange. Although it was terribly painful for Him to speak, Jesus still offered words of loving comfort, serving others even as He hung dying on the cross.

# ACTS OF KINDNESS

**Instructions:** One way we can share God's love with others is by serving them. We can serve others by performing random acts of kindness. Listed below are 12 people who performed acts of kindness. Match each person with their good deed.

1. He let Lot choose land first (Genesis 13:8-11).

\_\_\_\_\_

2. She was always doing good deeds. One way was by making robes and clothing for the widows (Acts 9:36-39).

\_\_\_\_\_

3. She took perfume to wash Jesus' feet and dried them with her hair (John 12:3).

\_\_\_\_\_

4. She showed kindness to her mother-in-law (Ruth 1).

\_\_\_\_\_

5. He dressed the wounds of a man who was robbed, and took care of him (Luke 10:30-35).

\_\_\_\_\_

6. She was a dealer of purple cloth who offered hospitality to Paul (Acts 16:14).

\_\_\_\_\_

7. She was apologetic for her husband's rude behavior and offered David provisions (1 Samuel 25).

\_\_\_\_\_

8. She offered food and water to Elijah (1 Kings 17:7-15).

\_\_\_\_\_

9. They brought Jesus gifts of gold, myrrh, and incense (Matthew 2:11).

\_\_\_\_\_

10. He gave David his robe, his tunic, his sword, his bow, and his belt (1 Samuel 18:4).

\_\_\_\_\_

11. She put two very small copper coins, all she had, into the temple treasury (Luke 21:1-4).

\_\_\_\_\_

12. She hid two spies in her home and let them escape down a rope through her window (Joshua 2).

\_\_\_\_\_

|          |         |       |                    |
|----------|---------|-------|--------------------|
| Abraham  | Abigail | Mary  | Wise Men           |
| Jonathan | Lydia   | Rahab | Good Samaritan     |
| Widow    | Dorcas  | Ruth  | Widow of Zarephath |