



## LESSON 2 ALL AGE TALK

# THE CROSS: "IT IS FINISHED"

JOHN 18:11, 19:17-18, 28-30



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The aim of this talk is for the audience to hear that Jesus died on the cross to take the full punishment for the sin of all who believe in him. We can be thankful for his great love for us and free, as we're now certain that there is no punishment left for us to take.

This short all age service will explore the events of the cross as described by John in three sections and will focus on what Jesus says to explain what the cross achieves.

We will be using three boxes as we go through the events - more details about the contents of the boxes are in the corresponding parts of the service.

**Box 1 - In the wrong place** - spot what doesn't belong, Jesus is in a place he does not deserve to be.

**Box 2 - It is finished** - unpack the items from the box and work out what task is being completed.

**Box 3 - Drinking the cup** - Jesus takes God's anger at sin for us, now there is none left for us to take.

## Welcome and song

### Song suggestions:

- Man of Sorrows (Oh that Rugged Cross) – Hillsong
- Jerusalem - City Alight
- Oh to See the Dawn (The Power of the Cross) - Stuart Townend

A song that your congregation is familiar with that focuses on the work of Jesus at the cross.

## Part 1 – In the wrong place

Box 1 contains a number of items to play "spot the odd one out". Items are in groups of three, two of which are the same and one that looks similar, but is different e.g. two easter eggs and a rugby ball, two school shoes and a trainer, two bottles of coke and a bottle of water. Ask the audience to spot "which one doesn't belong?"



## Notes



Each time you set out the items – set the one that “doesn’t belong” in the middle.

I’m going to set out three items that look a bit the same from the outside, but one of them does not belong – can you spot which one doesn’t belong – is it the one on the left, on the right, or in the middle?

- Set out Easter egg, rugby ball wrapped in tin foil, Easter egg – ask them to call out the answer, “In the middle.”
- Set out a bottle of coke, a coke bottle with water in it, a bottle of coke – get them to call out the answer, “In the middle.”
- Set out the school shoe, the trainer, the school shoe – get them to call out the answer, “In the middle.”

## Application moment

You spotted that the one in the middle did not belong. It looked like the others from the outside, but when you looked more closely it was different. Today we are thinking about the time when Jesus was nailed to the cross in the middle. Listen to this reading from John’s gospel.

## READING: John 19:17-18

### Show a picture of the three crosses

In those days when the Romans were in charge, this was the punishment that they gave to the worst of criminals. They were nailed to wooden crosses outside the city so that people walking by would know that they had got what they deserved and would think “I don’t want to end up like that, I’d better stay out of trouble.

Jesus was nailed to a cross with the worst of criminals. On the outside Jesus looked just like the other two men - arrested, tried and nailed to a cross. But one of these men did not belong because he had done nothing wrong - Jesus, the one “in the middle”.

Jesus who had the power to step down from the cross, who could have called the angels of heaven to come and help him, stayed where he did not belong - for us! This is the work he came to do, this is the plan - Jesus is in the place he does not belong for us. Jesus chose to be in the middle of what is hard and bad so that you and I don’t have to be. We’re going to understand more about that as we carry on looking at John’s gospel together today.

## Song 2

### Song suggestion:

- God Showed us his love – Awesome Cutlery

*A child friendly song that helps us think about the cross*

## Part 2 – It is finished

Box 2 contains an empty plate, cutlery, trainers, a medal, a toilet roll, a large reading book, a graduation picture and a simple wooden cross (just two pieces of wood tied together.)

I’m going to hold up some different items from this box.

If you heard someone call out “Finished!” using these items, what would they have





finished doing?

- Empty plate and cutlery = finished eating their dinner
- Trainers and medal = finished running a race
- Toilet roll = finished on the toilet
- Book = finished reading a book
- Graduation picture = finished university

### Application moment

*Pull out the cross from the box and say...* John heard Jesus call out the words, "It is finished" from the cross. John was there, he saw it happen, he heard what Jesus said and he wrote it down for us. Let's hear what John wrote...

### READING: John 19: 28-30

On the cross Jesus **finished** the work that the Father had sent him to do, the cross is the moment where it all comes together. Just as the medal shows you finished the race, or the empty plate shows that you have finished your dinner, the cross is the moment when Jesus **completed** the task and **finished** the work of saving us.

Jesus chose to be in the place he didn't belong - on the cross in the middle for us.

Jesus has finished the work of saving us - what has he saved us from? We've got one more box to unpack to help us work it out after this next song.

### Song 3

**Song suggestions:**

- When I Survey the Wondrous Cross - Isaac Watts
- Jesus Strong and kind - City Alight & Colin Buchannan
- A song to Respond to the cross.

## Part 3 – Drinking the cup

Box 3 contains a jug of juice - red or dark coloured, and a cup.

Jesus was in a place he did not belong, finishing the work of saving us. Before he went to the cross, Jesus talked about "drinking a cup" so that we could understand what he came to do. When the soldiers came to arrest Jesus, he could have stopped them and escaped - that would have been easy for all-powerful Jesus. But he didn't do that because he was choosing to stay to drink the cup his Father had given him. What did Jesus mean by this cup? What cup?

Imagine...

God is perfectly good and loving. He created a perfect world and gave it to us. But people are not perfect. We all do wrong things - the Bible calls this sin. Sin makes God angry because it is against him and it messes up our lives, our relationships and our world. God would not be perfect, holy and good if he ignored this mess and hurt.

- This jug of juice is like God's anger - God's perfect and good anger.
- Whenever we do wrong - wrong against God, wrong against other people, or wrong to the world - some of God's anger gets poured into the cup. *Pour some juice in.*
- Someone needs to sort out this mess, to take away the anger God is right

to feel about the mess we've made of ourselves, our relationships and our world. We all deserve to drink the cup, but drinking the cup would be horrible.

When Jesus said- "IT IS FINISHED!" he was saying "I have drunk the cup. I have finished saving them".

Perfect Jesus had done nothing wrong, every moment of his life he lived delighting God.

Jesus was in the place he didn't deserve to be, sorting out the problem that he didn't make. Fixing the mess, drinking the cup we deserved to drink, so that we don't have to.

When Jesus calls out - "It is finished" - he is saying - it's gone...

*Drink the juice*

- It's finished - All gone - None left! - *tip it upside down over your head - don't let them miss it!*
- The cup of God's righteous anger and sin's punishment - EMPTY!
- The guilt for the mess we've made - GONE!
- God's anger against us - NONE LEFT!"

I think an animated, crop dusting plane called Dusty can help us with this. "Planes: Fire & Rescue"- tells his story; a young plane longs to be a hero, but he has a broken gearbox. He won't ever be able to fly at full throttle again. There is no spare gearbox available, no way to fix his old one, so only disappointment ahead.

Show [Planes: Fire and Rescue - Dusty feeling all better](#) this video from 1.34-2.45.

A Licence may be needed from [www.uk.ccli.com](http://www.uk.ccli.com)

Wonderfully, Dusty is fixed - he has a new gearbox. Better than new! That is now our story. We're fixed. When Jesus cried, "It is finished", he was saying we're better than new.

Jesus took sin's punishment for us. The regret for what we have done. The sadness for the damage we have caused. Gone! We are free to live for God, forgiven, loved and saved. That sounds like a good day to me - no wonder it's called good Friday. That sounds like something worth celebrating!

## Close

### Song 4

**Song suggestion:**

- Jesus when you died (thank you Jesus thank you) - Awesome Cutlery

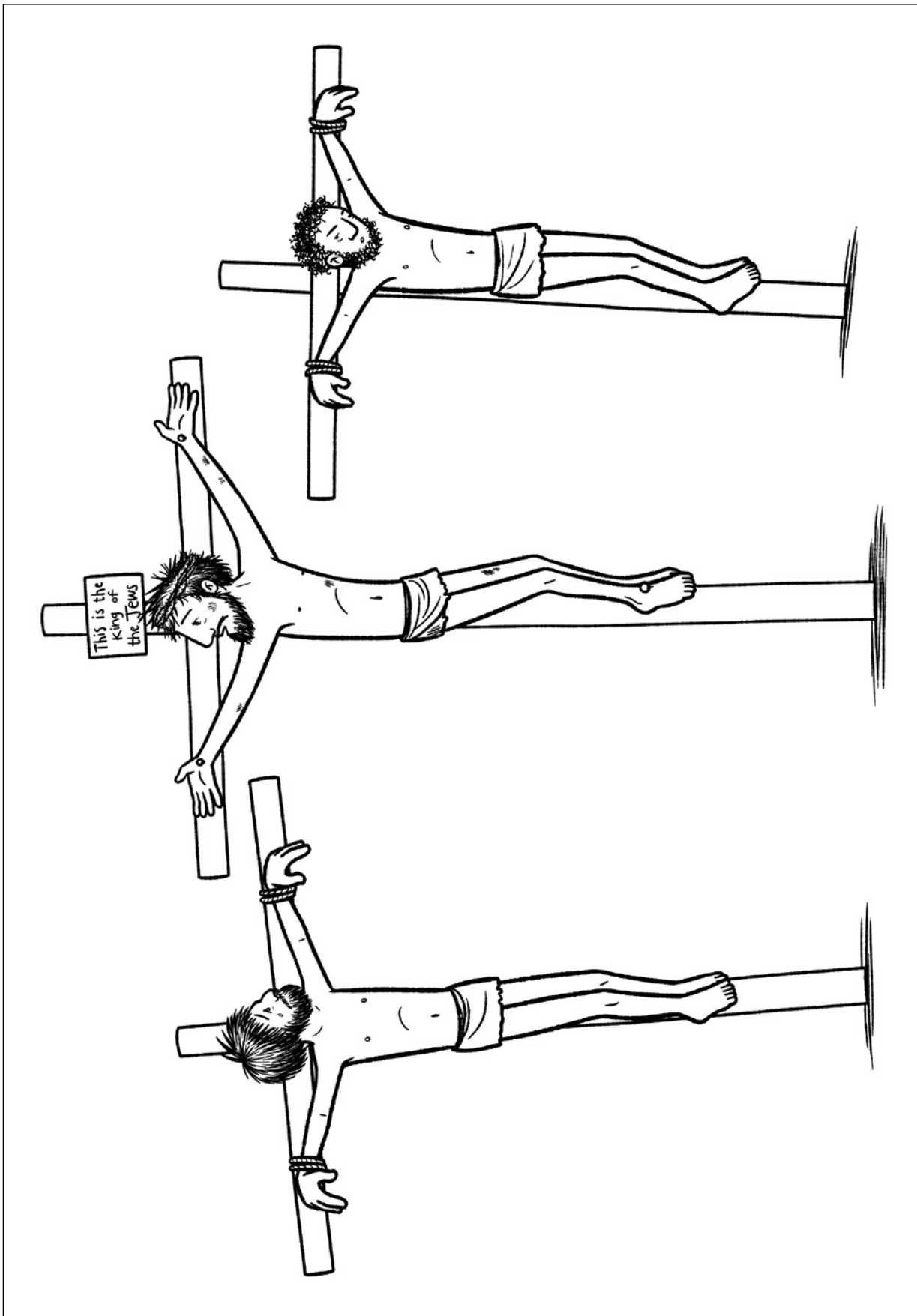
### Pray to finish



## Notes

If you are unable to show a video, skip this short section and rejoin at "Jesus took..."







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