

Jesus died one day and He took my sins away! Part Three

Introduction: Gifts are wonderful things. The sweet anticipation of opening colorful boxes and bows once candles are blown out and cake is served is enough to enliven any celebration! Watching a beloved child excitedly tear into his birthday presents is one of the true delights of parenthood. This joy is also experienced by our Father God when His children receive the amazing Gift He has prepared! During this last installment in a series of three Awesome Journey Devotions, we will fully discover the Father's Gift and realize why it is incredibly important for each one of us to accept.

Activity: Family Court!

Materials needed: A Bible, a bathrobe, and a list of broken rules committed by the family during the previous week-both large and small. (Example: not doing chores, arguing, slamming doors, etc)

Prep time: Moderate

Key point: Jesus took the punishment we deserve.

The goal of this three-part series is for each family member to understand the effects of sin, to understand the need for a personal Savior, and ultimately to accept God's gift of forgiveness. This week's Awesome Journey activity is a vivid lesson in personally experiencing someone else receiving a punishment that we ourselves deserve. It's highly advisable that parents intentionally minimize distractions during this activity and discussion. Preparation should include much prayer and reviewing Pastor Steve's teaching: [Leading Your Child to Receive and Believe in Jesus](#)

- Throughout this week's activity, the role of the parent will be as family judge, with suggested dialogue expressed in *italics*.
- Gather the family together. *As we have previously learned about sin and punishments, today I am going to be the judge and determine the punishments you all deserve. Right now we're going to set up the living room (or den or kitchen) as a court room. While we are doing this I suggest you all think about what you have done wrong recently and prepare your defense!*
- Place chairs in a row with a table in front and chair for the judge behind the table. Put on the bath robe as your court attire, make it real and distinguished, and pull out the list of broken rules.
- Call the court room to order, announce that the court is in session. Ask everyone to be seated and call each family member up one at a time. Read the appropriate wrong-doings and ask each person: *How do you plead...guilty or not guilty?*
- Allow individuals to try to explain their defense and use family members as witnesses, etc. When all cases have been heard, announce which parties are guilty and which (if any, hopefully no one) are innocent. Then pass judgment on each individual.
- *You all knew what you were doing was wrong but you did it anyway. This means you deserve to be punished!* Name the punishment each family member will receive, and this may be time out, a fine to be paid, loss of privileges, extra chores and so on.
- **Tell family members these fines must be paid immediately.**

- As family members are about to begin their punishment or as they are complaining, stand up, take off your robe and tell your family: ***because I love you all I am going to take your punishment for you!***
- At this time you must take on the consequence previously decided and you must actually do it not just wave it off. This is important: you must do the chore, task, or time out while your family watches; prearrange the punishments for yourself and make it reasonable and doable!

Discussion Questions and Potential Responses:

1. **How did you feel about our family court?**
2. **What were you thinking and feeling as your wrong actions were discussed?**
3. **Did you think the punishment the judge ordered was fair? Why or why not?**
4. **How did you feel about the judge taking on your punishment?**

Say: *We know that we deserve to die for our sins but someone else took our punishment so we do not have to die for them.*

Read aloud:

- **Romans 6:23** *For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.*
- **John 3:16-17** *For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God did not send his Son into the world to condemn it, but to save it.*
- **Romans 5:8-9** *But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. And since we have been made right in God's sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God's judgment.*

5. **What do these verses tell us about our punishment?** *We deserve to die but God made a way to save us.*
6. **Do you think it is fair that Jesus took your punishment?**
7. **What do these scriptures tell us about God's love for us?** *He loves us enough to make a life giving sacrifice.*
8. **Jesus did this for us as a gift. What does that mean to you?**
9. **What do we need to do to get this gift?** *We need to accept and receive it.*
10. **How does this make you feel about Jesus?**

Say: *God loves us so much that even though we deserve to be punished by death, He sent Jesus to take the punishment for us. Even though we will die someday we will be able to go to heaven and be with the Lord forever. We will not be punished for all the sins we have done. Jesus took the punishment we deserve!*

11. **Pray together; if needed, review the above link on leading your child to Christ.**