

IT'S NOT OVER

Bring it on,

MONDAY

Be ...

Groovy, it's

TUESDAY

thankful

So, here's the story ...

Two men, both criminals, were executed the same time as Jesus. (The three men were nailed to crosses to die.) When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified Jesus there, along with the criminals — one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots. The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, "He saved others; let Him save Himself if He is God's Messiah, the Chosen One." The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar and said, "If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself."

There was a written notice above him, which read: "This is the King of the Jews."

One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at Jesus: "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!"

But the other criminal rebuked 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." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

**Read the story for yourself in
Luke 23:32-43**

Take it to God

Spend some extra time thanking Jesus for voluntarily going through His battles on earth — eventually to die on a cross — for your sins, and mine. There is no greater love. He deserves your all.

Halfway there

WEDNESDAY

A.M.

Noon

P.M.

Eve

You wanna be ...

trusting

believing; unquestioning; confiding; hopeful; keeping the faith; sure

or

doubtful

unsettled; uncertain; insecure; unstable; uneasy; problematic

'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.'

Matthew 5:4

Throw your hands up

THURSDAY

A.M.

Noon

P.M.

Eve

Make a difference ...

Step up:

Have you ever shared the story of Jesus with someone? Could someone you know be comforted by what you know about Him? Everyone is able to share their own experiences with God and have a conversation about Him. Try it sometime.

Take it up a notch:

The more you get to know God and learn how to listen for His voice when He talks to you, the better you will get at following His lead. With time (as you continue to seek Him), you will get more in-tune with His instructions and be more alert about doing what He puts on your heart in particular situations. He uses His children all the time to help others.

Poll your friends ...

Do you believe Jesus is the Son of God and died (and rose again) to save you from your sins?

Yes

No

Jesus did lots of miracles while He was on the earth. Read about one of them here:

Luke 24:5-6

FRIDAY

Finale

Death is not the end of life; it's a transition



WEEKEND

WoodHoo!

A.M.

When Jesus conquered death and hell, He made a way for us to spend eternity in Heaven, instead of hell.

Eternity.

That's forever.

If you think a lifetime — or even a decade, or just a year — is a really long time, then you ain't seen nothing yet.

Now imagine being trapped in the most horrible, tormenting place ever for the rest of all time.

Jesus died and rose again to save us from that fate.

Hell was created for the devil. God did not design it to be the final home to humans. But, the simple fact of the matter is that those who choose to reject Jesus are going to wind up there.

End of story.

There is only one way to the Father, remember?

Through His Son, Jesus. He paid the price in full, and now it is up to us to take Him up on His

extremely generous offer of Saving Grace.

To be fair, though Jesus paid the ultimate cost, we will have to pay a price too, when we accept Him as our Lord and Savior.

But it is a much easier load to carry than He had. And the benefits are too amazing to fathom.

We will be agreeing to make Him the boss over our lives, no longer serving our selfish motives.

Some people don't want to give that up.

But, in Matthew 16: 24:-26, Jesus said, "If anyone wants to come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever wants to save his life (of selfishness) will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

What will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?" Choose carefully.

NOON

P.M.

EVE

Sat

SUN.

Did you know?

Did you know Jesus was in His early thirties when He was crucified? His ministry lasted about three years. While many believed when the Messiah came He would deliver the Israelites from the oppressive rule of the Romans. What He actually did was secure the possibility of eternity in Heaven for all humanity.

So, let's wrap it up



Vicky's
VIEW

Have you ever been to a funeral? If you have, was it someone dear to you, like a family member or a close friend? People cope with death in a lot of different ways. Grief can be a difficult and lengthy process. Have you ever been around a person who doesn't seem to be as upset as you might expect? For many Christians, though they are certainly going through moments of great sadness (and they will for a long while) at the loss of their loved one, they find hope and comfort in the belief that the person they are now missing very much isn't gone forever — that they will see them again someday when they get to Heaven.

It can make all the difference in how someone reacts to or approaches the issue of death.

Some people choose to host celebration of life parties in

place of a traditional funeral, because they want to focus on the good memories left behind when a loved one dies.

Others may think it makes no sense whatsoever to seem happy about losing someone — even finding the thought terribly mean. In our story this week, you hear straight from Jesus, saying to the repentant criminal, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

One man sentenced to death that day mocked God's Son, but the other man was the first human ever to cash in on salvation from Jesus: one spending eternity in hell; one spending eternity in Heaven. By this time, countless others have joined the ranks in both places, and until the Day of the Lord, when Jesus makes His triumphant return and the final judgment comes, everyone

who dies will continue to work their way to one of those ends.

Which will it be for you?

In this book, the goal has been to help you understand the bigger picture better, so you can seek the truth, educate yourself and make wise decisions regarding your future. Because the future truly does last an eternity.

Yes, it is believed that Jesus is coming back, and, yes, people have been waiting now for that day for more than 2,000 years.

But God wants everyone to know the delay has been because of His desire for everyone to have a chance to repent and receive Jesus' gift of redeeming love. In 2 Peter 3:9, it says, "The Lord does not delay (as though He were unable to act) and is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is (extraordinarily) patient toward

you, not wishing for any to perish, but for all to come to repentance."

But there is coming a day when it will be too late to decide.

"But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with His promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells." (2 Peter 3:10-13)

Ponder this:

Have you ever had to deal with the death of someone you cared a lot about?

Time to take charge of your life:

(Fill in the blank ...)

has been bugging me lately, bringing me down. What can I do to change that? Do I need help from someone else? Who?

Something good that

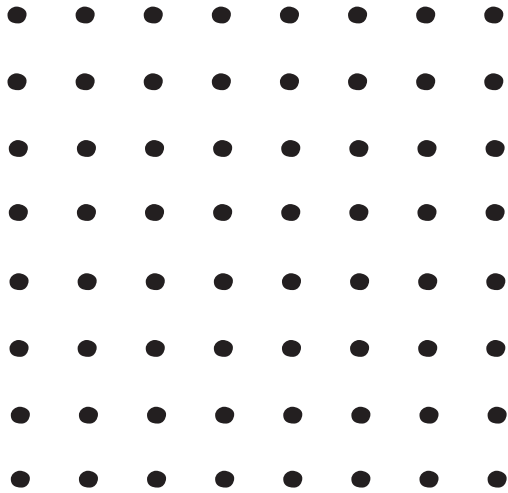
happened this week was:

Let's read:

Luke 23

Claiming the promised land

To play, connect two adjacent (next to each other) dots. Take turns with your opponent. If you complete a square, you get another turn. The one with the most squares at the end of the game wins.



Matthew 7:7

answer on page 318

N	O	I	T	A	N	M	E	D	N	O	C
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W	E	S	B	D	R	A	W	E	R	U	M
S	V	Y	A	N	R	O	T	B	O	S	I
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- | | | |
|-----------|--------------|----------|
| JESUS | REBUKED | HOUR |
| KING | CONDEMNATION | DARKNESS |
| JEWS | REWARD | VEIL |
| CRIMINALS | WRONG | TEMPLE |
| CRUCIFIED | PARADISE | TORN |
| SAVE | SIXTH | NINTH |

You are ...

boundless

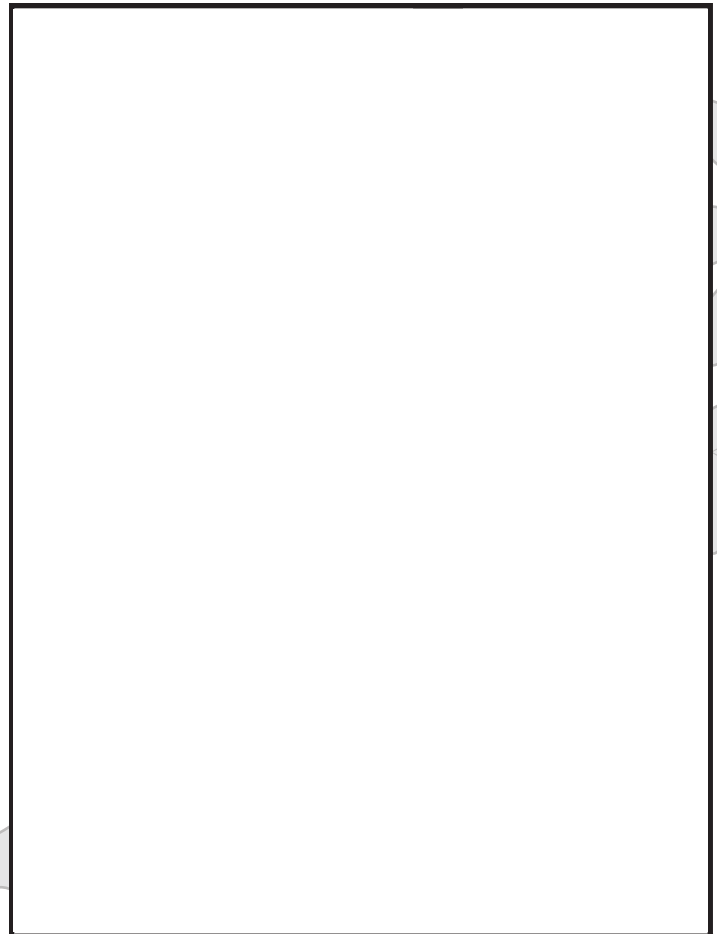
Wandering the wilderness

Make your way along the words to make a sentence. Your journey will form one single path. You can only go north, south, east, or west and the path must never cross over itself. Start at the northwest corner and finish at the southeast corner.

		J	E	S	U	T	O
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W	E	O	T	S	G	E	E
		N	W	A	O	V	A
		L	Y	Y	T	E	N

answer on page 334

Doodle Box



Discover

answer on page 326

