

# The Garden, the Curtain and the Cross

Family Discussion Guide

*“Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; And having an high priest over the house of God; Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.” Hebrews 10:19-22*

Though we are not able to gather as a school community for an Easter program, we still seek to reflect on the death and resurrection of Christ. We invite each family to gather this week and walk through this program, 'The Garden, the Curtain, and the Cross.' This story fits well with our school storyline, "From the garden to the city." In it, we take a journey from God's perfect creation where, in the Garden of Eden, we discover that "it is wonderful to live with Him". Then, because of the fall, we are separated from God: "because of your sin, you can't come in". This will be further stated in the curtain that hung in the temple. Finally, we find hope in Jesus' death and resurrection who made a way to live with Him forever. The tearing of the curtain at Jesus' death assures us that He "died on the cross to take your sin so all [His] friends now come in!" It is with joy that we may enter "into the holiest by the blood of Jesus."

### **The Garden, the Curtain and the Cross**

Listen to the audio version of the book or watch the [video with pictures](#). <sup>1</sup>

### **Bible Readings**

*Listen to these passages together:*

**Genesis 3:21-24**

**Exodus 26:31-35**

**Matthew 27:45-54**

**Hebrews 10:19-25**

*Additional passages:*

**Leviticus 16:2, 12, 15 (or v. 11-28)**

**Ezekiel 42:20, 44:23**

**Mark 15:33-41**

**Luke 23:44-49**

*For older students, discuss the excerpts below:*

"This singular artefact is now irreparably damaged — it can no longer perform the function for which it was intended. This means that there is no longer a physical barrier to God, suggesting that the theological necessity of it is thereby removed. The angelic guardians are disarmed, and reentry into the Edenic presence of God is again permitted for the first time since the fall. The crucial element here is this: all this is accomplished by the death of Jesus, a ransom for many"

"The veil was a physical, visible barrier indicating that access to God was strictly prohibited because of his holiness. It is imperative to remember that the holiness of God remains unchanged from all eternity — even after the veil is torn. What has changed, then, is that the atoning death of Jesus on the cross has provided the appropriate wrath-bearing sacrifice, one which the bulls and goats of the old covenant could not provide (Hebrews 10:4). The author of Hebrews expounds on this very clearly: "we have confidence to enter the holy places" (Hebrews 10:19), and this is accomplished by the blood of Jesus."

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/the-veil-was-torn-in-two>

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<sup>1</sup> Audio and video file will be released Thursday, April 9th at noon

## Discussion Questions

Select some or all of the questions below. Discuss them as a family.

### The Garden

- What was it like for Adam and Eve living in the garden?
- What was the best thing about being in the garden?
- What would it be like to be able to walk and talk with God?

### The Fall

- What terrible thing did Adam and Eve do? Why did they do it?
- What does God call it when we decide we don't want Him to be in charge?
- What happened to Adam and Eve after they sinned?
- What was life like for people outside of God's garden?

### The Temple

- What's wonderful about the temple?
- What is behind the curtain?
- Why is the curtain there?

### Jesus

- Did Jesus ever sin?
- Why did God's son, Jesus, plan to die on the cross?
- When Jesus took our sin from us on the cross, what happened to the curtain?
- What was significant about the curtain tearing from top to bottom?
- After Jesus died, what happened to him?

### Our Hope

- Where does Jesus live now?
- Who has Jesus called to come and live with him in God's wonderful place?
- How are we to respond to His call?
- How has God's 'Keep Out' sign been taken away? What does this mean for us?
- When may we come to God in prayer?

## Songs

*Each of these songs makes mention of the tearing of the veil. We encourage you to listen to the songs and read the lyrics. If you know the song, sing along as a family. Take time to further discuss the significance of the tearing of the veil.*

### **Emmanuel (God with Us Forever)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vUU4dMR9Qn8>

Before you set the age of time/ Foundations of the earth and sky  
You saw it all/ You said that it was good

The joy was set before your eyes/ You knew that you would give your life  
You saw it all/ You said that it was good

Behold behold the one/ Our love is come  
Behold behold the one/ Our king is come

**Then heavens wore/ The earth stood still**  
**His final breath/ He tore the veil**  
**The angels sang/ holy is his name**

Emmanuel/ God with us forever  
Emmanuel/ Savior of the world  
Emmanuel Emmanuel

### **Jesus Messiah**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tdxSC1tHJn0>

He became sin, who knew no sin/ That we might become His righteousness  
He humbled himself and carried the cross/ Love so amazing, love so amazing

Jesus Messiah, name above all names/ Blessed redeemer, Emmanuel  
The rescue for sinners, the ransom from Heaven/ Jesus Messiah, Lord of all

**His body the bread, his blood the wine/ Broken and poured out all for love**  
**The whole earth trembled, and the veil was torn/ Love so amazing, love so amazing,**

All our hope is in You, all our hope is in You  
All the glory to You, God, the light of the world

## **Glory Be to God**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aqsWUxNUSAs>

To You we bring our hymn of praise; glory be to God.  
Hearts and hands together raised; glory be to God.

**Who spoke before the dawn of time; glory be to God.**

**Veil of darkness torn by light; glory be to God.**

And with unceasing voice all heaven sings; glory be to God  
The anthem of the Lord's redeemed; glory be to God  
You purchased captives for Your saints; glory be to God  
And opened wide the kingdom gates; glory be to God

You overcame the sting of death; glory be to God  
And clothed us in Christ's righteousness; glory be to God  
And all Your children cry with loud acclaim; glory be to God  
Sing O Church your sweet refrain; glory be to God

Glory, glory, glory, glory forever and ever.  
Glory, glory, glory, glory forever and ever.  
Father, Spirit, risen Son; glory be to God.  
Who was and is and is to come; glory be to God.

## **I Will Boast**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=07VrhAe-oz4>

I will boast only in the cross/ Where my Savior died for me  
Nothing else, no other love,/ Goes so far and runs so deep

I will boast only in the cross/ See His head, His hands, and feet  
Scars of grace, scars that heal/ He broke the curse and set me free

**Only One took the nails**

**Only One tore the veil**

**Only One spotless Lamb**

**I will boast only in the cross/ I will boast only in the cross**

The Father's love at Calvary/ My sin erased, my debt He paid  
This is my hope, the song I sing/ This is my hope, the song I sing

## The Power of the Cross

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nPFv-ywTY-c>

Oh, to see the dawn/ Of the darkest day:  
Christ on the road to Calvary.  
Tried by sinful men,/Torn and beaten, then  
Nailed to a cross of wood.

This, the pow'r of the cross:/ Christ became sin for us;  
Took the blame, bore the wrath—/ We stand forgiven at the cross.

Oh, to see the pain/ Written on Your face,  
Bearing the awesome weight of sin.  
Ev'ry bitter thought,/Ev'ry evil deed  
Crowning Your bloodstained brow.

**Now the daylight flees;/Now the ground beneath  
Quakes as its Maker bows His head.  
Curtain torn in two,/ Dead are raised to life;  
"Finished!" the vict'ry cry.**

Oh, to see my name/ Written in the wounds,  
For through Your suffering I am free.  
Death is crushed to death;/ Life is mine to live,  
Won through Your selfless love.

This, the pow'r of the cross:/ Son of God—slain for us.  
What a love! What a cost!/ We stand forgiven at the cross.

## Other song options

*These will work well to sing as a family. They are instrumental with lyrics on the screen.*

**There is a Redeemer** - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T1KPkkKUR4o>

**When I Survey the Wondrous Cross** - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=szQze2UJCeo>

**Alas, and Did My Saviour Bleed** - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r85tiEHvHpM>

**And Can It Be** - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8mi4GBdnHS4>

**Just As I Am** - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T1KPkkKUR4o>

**In Christ Alone** - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5LuVA7mMqVk>

**On Christ the Solid Rock I Stand** - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5LuVA7mMqVk>

**Rock of Ages** - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7FR2A6xBdNM>