

Crucifixion of Jesus

1. **What** is the crucifixion of Jesus?
2. **How** does the crucifixion of Jesus work?
3. **Why** is the crucifixion of Jesus important?

1. **What** is the crucifixion of Jesus?

The crucifixion is the event at which Jesus was executed. Needless to say, this was more than a method of execution, it was an appalling form of punishment designed to torture the victim, publicly humiliate them and subsequently deter others from committing similar crimes. Typically, crucifixion was reserved for people who had committed crimes against the Roman Empire (e.g. attempted revolutionaries). Write a definition for "crucifixion".

Crucifixion

The crucifixion and the events that triggered it took place over two days: Thursday and Friday. Jesus had his last meal with the disciples after sunset on Thursday and was betrayed by Judas before being arrested shortly after that. Then, after sunrise, Jesus was tried by the Roman prefect, Pontius Pilate, sentenced to death and crucified. Make a note about what happened on the Thursday before Jesus's crucifixion and the Friday of his crucifixion.

Timeline of the Crucifixion of Jesus	
Thursday	Friday

2. **How** does the crucifixion of Jesus work?

What do Christians believe happened at the crucifixion of Jesus beyond his physical death, and what purpose did his execution serve? In other words, what was accomplished by Jesus's death? To answer these questions, it is essential to consider the events immediately before the crucifixion as well as the crucifixion itself. Chief among these is the Last Supper, Jesus's final meal with his disciples before his arrest, trial and execution. Make a note about how the Last Supper and crucifixion reveal important things about Jesus's identity for Christians.

How the Crucifixion of Jesus Works

Last Supper

Crucifixion

3. **Why** is the crucifixion of Jesus important?

Why is Jesus's death so significant to Christians? First, it is the moment Christians believe Jesus sacrificed himself so that God's relationship with humanity could be restored. As such, it is the focus of Christian worship at Easter and Holy Communion. Christians believe that Jesus gave his body and blood so they would not have to pay the price of eternal death for their sins; instead, thanks to Jesus's sacrifice, they will be resurrected at the Last Judgement and ascend into heaven. Make a note about why the crucifixion is important.

Why the Crucifixion of Jesus Is Important