Jesus was arrested.

Only people who have done really bad things are supposed to be arrested

And Jesus had never ever done anything bad.

But there were people who hated Jesus

They hated him because they didn’t like the people he had helped

And they hated him because he said he was God.

So these people had Jesus arrested.

Pilate was the man in charge

“This man hasn’t done anything wrong” he said about Jesus

“We shouldn’t kill a man who hasn’t done anything bad. Let me set him free”

But the men who hated Jesus started shouting:

“Kill Jesus! Kill him!”

And everybody joined in

“Kill Jesus! Kill him!”

So Pilate set Barabbas free instead.

Barabbas had done bad things

He had killed someone

But he went free

And Jesus who hadn’t done anything wrong

Was sent to be killed.

They nailed Jesus to a cross

On each side of him they put a thief

Both of them had done bad things

They had taken stuff that belonged to someone else

Jesus was with them and he’d never done anything bad.

It was the middle of the day

And the sky went dark

Darker than night

Darker than a storm

God, Jesus’ Father, was angry.

But he wasn’t angry with Jesus, he was angry with all the bad things people had done

And even though he’d never done anything bad

God the Father was punishing his son Jesus for all the bad things other people had done

Jesus was being punished

so that people who had done bad things

wouldn’t have to be punished.

When Jesus had finished being punished

He died.

And God tore the curtain in the temple in two

Because all of the bad things had been punished

And God was shouting to the world “come in.”

Just like Jesus had been punished and Barabbas had gone free

God had punished Jesus so that anyone could go free

Jesus had **rescued** the world from the consequences of the bad things they did.

Some people, like the soldier, who saw what happened when Jesus died

Realised that Jesus was God and had died for them.

Other people choose to ignore what Jesus had done

They didn’t want to be **rescued**

So they would be punished for their bad things

When Jesus died all those years ago

It wasn’t the end of the story

And we still have to choose

Will we ask Jesus to **rescue** us?

Or will we be punished by God for the bad things we do?