

The Nail *(hold up a nail for all to see)*

The Story of the Nail: A Symbol of Redemption and Grace – In the vast tapestry of Christian symbolism, certain objects hold profound significance. Among them, the simple nail stands as a powerful reminder of the sacrificial love of Jesus Christ. While it may seem unremarkable at first glance, the story of the nail is interwoven with the narrative of salvation, redemption, and the boundless grace of our Saviour. Let us explore the deeper meaning behind this humble yet profound symbol.

The Nail as a Tool of Crucifixion: *(hand each one 1 nail)*

The story of the nail finds its roots in the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. Nails were used to fasten Jesus to the wooden cross, securing His body in an act of immense suffering and sacrifice. It was through this excruciating death that Jesus bore the weight of our sins, offering the ultimate gift of redemption to humanity.

The Nail as a Sign of Our Brokenness: *(hand each one their 2nd nail)*

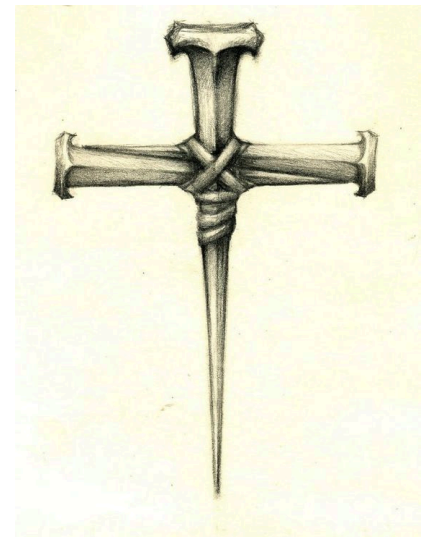
The nail also serves as a poignant reminder of our fallen nature and the brokenness of humanity. Just as the hammer struck the nail, our sins pierced the heart of Jesus. Each blow reverberated with the weight of our transgressions, underscoring the desperate need for forgiveness and restoration. Through the nail, we confront the truth of our own brokenness and find solace in the hope of redemption.

The Nail as a Symbol of Redemption: *(hand each one their 3rd nail)*

While the nail represents the instrument of Jesus' suffering, it also embodies the triumph of His redemptive work. By willingly enduring the cross, Jesus embraced the pain and shame of our sins, transforming the nail from a tool of destruction into a symbol of reconciliation. Through His death and resurrection, Jesus offered us the opportunity to be redeemed, forgiven, and restored to a right relationship with God.

The Wire as a Manifestation of God's

Grace: *(hand everyone a piece of wire. Following the reading, have them assemble the cross – see picture. Make sure that create a hoop for the leather strap)*



The story of the nails ultimately reveals the boundless grace of our loving Heavenly Father. Despite our unworthiness, God extended His mercy and grace through Jesus' sacrifice. Just as the nails held Jesus to the cross, God's grace (the wire) holds us in His loving embrace. It is by His grace that we are forgiven, cleansed, and empowered to live a life that reflects His love to the world. The wire that we use to fasten the nails together reminds us of our need for His redemption through His Grace.

The Leather Rope of Unending love *(give each one a piece of leather rope, make sure it is long enough. Following the reading have them fasten it to the cross)*

The love of God is immeasurable, unmistakable, and unending. It is without beginning and without end. Nothing we can ever do, or will ever do, can stop Him from loving us. His love for us is unending, unfailing, and unconditional. It was the love of God that sent Jesus Christ to the cross, and no matter what sin we have committed, God loves us. Just as this leather rope is circular - no beginning or end when tied to the cross, so is God's love for You!

The blessing of the Crucifixion *(You, as leader, place around their neck)*

The cross was a cruel form of torture, a brutal way to die but it became a symbol of life for you and for me. It is only through the cross that we are 100% forgiven for our sin and made right with God through the horrific death of Jesus. There is no other way but through the blood of the cross. As I place this necklace around your neck today, know the power of the cross for your life, know the unending love that God has for you. So receive these words and believe them to be true for you...

"(Teens Name) God loves you! He sent his son, Jesus, for the complete forgiveness of your sins"