In the beginning God created the universe. He made the Earth and everything in it. He made the Sun, moon and starts to shine on it. He populated it with plants and animals. But all of this wasn’t enough. To crown His creation God made a man in His own image from the dust of the ground. He made a helper for the man, a woman, and everything was good. He did all this in six days.

Then the man sinned. Sin meant that the man couldn’t be with God without fear. For the first time, weeds grew and animals hunted each other. Man had spoiled God’s creation with sin. God’s punishment for sin was clear; the penalty was death.

God had known this would happen, and He had a plan. His Son, Jesus, would come to Earth as a baby, and live a perfect human life. Then He would take the punishment for sin, once and for all. And what a punishment it was.

He was arrested and falsely accused, then beaten and whipped until the flesh was torn from His back. His beard was pulled out. He was dressed in a robe, and a crown of thorns was pressed into His head. Then He was mocked by His captors and spat on. Between beatings He was tried three times and found innocent, yet still He was sent for execution. He was forced to carry the cross on which He would die until He collapsed, then made to walk alongside it to the top of the hill. There He was nailed to the cross and hung up to die a criminal’s death. Worst of all, His Father turned His back on Him as He bore our sin.

At no time did He defend Himself or call on His Father to save Him. He suffered for each of us, knowing that many would reject His sacrifice and refuse the forgiveness He bought with His own blood.

This is love.