
Teacher BIBLE STUDY

Why did Jesus have to die? Why couldn't God just say, "You are forgiven"? God is just and requires due payment for sin. To simply forgive sin without requiring a payment would be unjust. According to God's Word, the payment of sin is death. (Rom. 6:23) But not only is God just, He is also loving. That is why Jesus was willing to die in our place. He loved us.

God's law for the people was plain. Read Deuteronomy 6:5. But God's people, and all people, have broken the law. We have loved other things more than we love God. That is sin.

Jesus' purpose for coming to earth was to save us from our sin. (Matt. 1:21) Jesus came to die to show God's love to us (Rom. 5:7-8) so that whoever believes in Him might not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16) Jesus came to die so that we would be forgiven. (Eph. 1:7) Jesus came to die to bring us to God. (1 Pet. 3:18)

Jesus died on the cross to satisfy the wrath of God toward sin. Jesus' resurrection proved that God was satisfied with Jesus' sacrifice. If Jesus had died but not been raised up, He would have been like other military leaders who died without a throne. (Acts 5:33-37) But Jesus conquered death, just as He said He would. (John 2:19-21)

Jesus' resurrection gives us hope for our resurrection. (Rom. 6:5) And Romans 8:11 says that the same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead will raise our bodies to life.

Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection are not the end of the story, but the climax. Everything that was written about Jesus in the Old Testament and spoken by the prophets was coming true. As you teach kids this Bible story, emphasize the gospel: the good news of who Jesus is and what He has done.

Kids WORSHIP OVERVIEW

Session Title: Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection

Bible Passage: Matthew 26:36–28:10

Big Picture Question: What did Jesus do for sinners? Jesus' death and resurrection paid the penalty for sins and provided the promise of new life.

Key Passage: Luke 24:46-47

Unit Christ Connection: God's plan for redemption is fulfilled through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Kids Worship

Countdown

Introduce the session (2 minutes)

Sing and offering (3–12 minutes)

Timeline map (1 minute)

Big picture question (1 minute)

Key passage (5 minutes)

Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me (optional)

Review (4 minutes)

Group demonstration (5 minutes)

Missions (6 minutes)

Group game (10 minutes)

Announcements (2 minutes)

Prayer (2 minutes)

Additional idea

The BIBLE STORY

Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection

Matthew 26:36–28:10

Jesus came with His disciples to a place called Gethsemane (geth SEM uh nih). He said to them, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” Jesus took Peter, James, and John with Him, and He became very sad and troubled. He said to them, “I am overcome with sadness; I feel as if I am dying. Wait here and stay awake with Me.”

Jesus went a little farther. He fell facedown and prayed to God, “Father! If it is possible, take this suffering away from Me. But only if it is part of Your plan.” Jesus came back and found the disciples asleep. He asked Peter, “Couldn’t you stay awake with Me for one hour?”

Again, Jesus went away and prayed to God. Then He found His disciples sleeping. He said to them, “Are you still asleep? Get up, for it is almost time. Someone is going to betray Me.”

Suddenly Judas arrived. A large crowd carrying swords and clubs was with him. Judas kissed Jesus so the crowd would know who Jesus was. The men grabbed Jesus and arrested Him. Jesus asked, “Am I a criminal? All of these things that are happening are fulfilling what the prophets wrote.” Then all of Jesus’ followers ran away.

The men who arrested Jesus led Him to the house of Caiaphas, the high priest. The priests and high council were trying to find a reason to kill Jesus, but they could not. The high priest asked, “Are you the Messiah, the Son of God?”

Jesus replied, “Yes, that’s right.” The high priest said, “Ah ha! He has spoken against God.” Caiaphas and the council did not want to believe Jesus was God’s Son. They said Jesus was lying, but Jesus cannot lie! The crowd answered, “He deserves to die!” They spit in Jesus’ face and beat Him.

The next morning, the chief priests and elders led Jesus to Pilate, the governor. “Are you the King of the Jews?” Pilate asked.

“Yes, that’s right,” Jesus replied. The men accused Jesus of various crimes, but Jesus said nothing.

“What should I do with Jesus the Messiah?” Pilate asked the crowd.

They all answered, “Crucify Him!” Pilate did not think Jesus had done anything wrong, but he handed Jesus over to them and said, “Do whatever you want.”

The governor’s soldiers took off Jesus’ clothes and put a scarlet robe on Him. They made a crown out of thorns and put it on His head. Then they mocked Him, “Here is the King of the Jews!” Then they beat Him and led Him away to be killed.

The soldiers nailed Jesus to a cross. They put a sign above His head that said: THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS. Two criminals were crucified next to Him.

From noon until three in the afternoon, darkness covered the land. Then Jesus cried out, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” Jesus shouted again with a loud voice and then He died. Suddenly, the curtain in the temple sanctuary split in two, from top to bottom, and there was an earthquake. One of the men guarding Jesus’ body said, “This man really was God’s Son!”

That evening, Jesus was buried in a rich man’s tomb cut into a rock. A stone was sealed in front of the tomb so that no one could steal Jesus’ body.

Three days later, on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene (MAG duh leen) and the other Mary went to see the tomb. Suddenly there was an earthquake as an angel of the Lord came to the tomb. He rolled back the stone and was sitting on it. The guards were so afraid that they fainted.

The angel spoke to the women, “Don’t be afraid! I know you are looking for Jesus, but He is not here. He has been resurrected, just like He said He would. In fact, He is going ahead of you into Galilee.”

The women left the tomb quickly and with great joy. They ran to tell the disciples the news. Just then Jesus met them. “Good morning!” He said. The women worshiped Him. “Don’t be afraid,” Jesus told them. “Go tell My disciples to meet Me in Galilee. They will see Me there.”

Christ Connection: The crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus is the center of the gospel. We deserve to die because of our sin, but Jesus died in our place. He was the blood sacrifice made once and for all for the forgiveness of sin. God was pleased with Jesus’ sacrifice and raised Jesus from the dead to reign as King over all creation. We are forgiven only through Jesus. (Acts 4:12)

Kids Worship LEADER

Session Title: Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection

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• countdown video

Countdown

Show the countdown video as your kids arrive. Set it to end as worship time begins.

- assortment of artificial flowers (lilies), baskets, and vases
- apron
- crown of thorns
- spools of red, purple, gold, and white ribbon or scarves

Introduce the session (2 minutes)

[Before class, arrange the vases and baskets from last week near the stage. Place the crown of thorns in one of the baskets where the kids cannot see it. The leader enters wearing an apron over regular clothes, carrying spools of red, purple, gold, and white ribbons or scarves. Leader sets them aside with a smile when she sees the kids.]

Leader • Welcome back to Springs in the Desert Flower Shop. I'm Lily [*Oliver for male leader.*] Happy Easter! Did you know in the early days after Jesus' resurrection, when people greeted each other, one person would say, "Christ is risen!" The other person would say, "He is risen indeed!" Let's practice that together. Everyone find a partner. When I count to three, one of you will face your partner and say, "Christ is risen!" The other will say, "He is risen indeed!" Say it really loud and joyfully because that is the best news we can ever share with one another. OK, are you ready? One, two, three! [*Pause while*

kids greet each other.] Great job! Jesus is alive! That's what Easter is all about. As you can imagine, Easter is a busy season for florists. I don't mind the busyness, though. I love to arrange flowers for baskets and church services, especially lilies. Easter lilies are pure white as a symbol of Jesus' holiness. They also symbolize Jesus' resurrection. Bulbs, or lily seeds, are planted in the fall. All winter, the bulbs grow under the cold, dark ground—much like Jesus' body rested in the tomb. With the right care, Easter lilies will burst forth with blossoms in the spring—like when Jesus stepped out of the tomb! Isn't that amazing? It makes me want to sing!

- "Jesus Saves" song and other songs of your choice
- offering basket (optional)

Sing and offering (3–12 minutes)

Leader • Last week, we learned that the people welcomed Jesus to Jerusalem as King. Today, we celebrate that Jesus rose from the dead to be the eternal King and Prince of Peace. Let's sing to Him!

Sing "Jesus Saves" and "Happy Day." Choose two or three other songs to sing at this time. Emphasize the joy of the season. You may also collect the offering at this time.

Song suggestions:

- "Jesus Saves" (unit theme song)
- "The Power of the Cross"
- "The Wonderful Cross"
- "Happy Day"
- "Make Him Known"

- Timeline Map

Timeline map (1 minute)

Leader • Remember in last week's Bible story, the people were so happy to see Jesus that they placed their coats and palm branches on the road before Him. They shouted "Hosanna! He who comes in the name of the Lord is the

blessed One!” They worshiped Jesus as the Messiah.

I mentioned last week that the people who were so happy to see Jesus would crucify Him one week later. Let’s look at the timeline map. Here is our Bible story for today, “Jesus’ Crucifixion and Resurrection.” It’s unbelievably sad, but true. The people accused Jesus of a crime and killed Him like a criminal, but He didn’t do anything wrong. Why would they do such a thing? Maybe our big picture question will help us figure it out.

Big picture question (1 minute)

Leader • I just don’t understand why people would want to crucify Jesus. Weren’t these people the ones who followed Him and watched Him heal people? Jesus also lived a perfectly sinless life. Jesus is God’s Son. He is the only person who ever lived who never disobeyed God—not even once. Jesus did not do anything to deserve death, but He did do something for all of us. Our big picture question is, ***What did Jesus do for sinners?*** If you have an idea about the answer, hold onto that thought. We are going to practice our key passage.

- “Luke 24:46–47” song
- Key Passage Slide or Poster
- crown of thorns

Key passage (5 minutes)

[Take the crown of thorns from the basket and hold it up where kids can see it.]

Leader • Here’s a plant that I don’t really like to talk about, but it is very important to the Easter story. Do you know what this is? You’re right. It’s a crown of thorns. As a florist, I have to wear gloves to work with thorny flowers like roses. Thorns are meant to protect the flowers from bugs, birds, and other animals that might eat the plants. In a way, the crown of thorns that Jesus wore protected us from the punishment for our sin that we deserved. Our

key passage for this unit shows Jesus was fully prepared to take the punishment for us. Let's practice saying our key passage together.

Lead the kids to read the key passage together from the slide or poster. Ask a volunteer if he or she can say the key passage from memory. Help the volunteer as needed. Sing "Luke 24:46-47" together.

Leader • Great singing, everybody! Our key passage song says that it was written the Messiah would suffer to save us from our sins. Let's look at our Bible story.

- Bibles, 1 per kid
- "Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection" video (optional)
- Big Picture Question Slide or Poster
- Bible Story Picture Slide or Poster

Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Matthew 26 and tell the Bible story in your own words using the script provided, or show the Bible story video "Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection."

Leader • Jesus knew that the time had come for Him to die.

He went to the garden called Gethsemane to pray. Why do you think Jesus prayed facedown on the ground? Yes! Jesus showed that He humbled Himself to God's plan. Jesus prayed for God to take away the suffering He would face—but only if it was God's plan. Jesus was obedient even to the point of death.

When the crowd arrested Jesus and took Him to the high priest's house, Caiaphas asked Jesus if He was God's Son. Jesus said He was. Jesus *is* God's Son, but Caiaphas didn't believe Jesus. Caiaphas accused Jesus of blaspheming, or lying about God. The punishment for blasphemy was death. Caiaphas handed Jesus over to the governor, Pilate, who could carry out the death sentence. Pilate didn't think Jesus should die, but he was afraid the Jews would start a riot if he didn't give them what they wanted. What did the crowd want Pilate to do? You're right. They wanted to crucify Jesus.

Jesus was born on earth as a man, but He was still completely God. Jesus was always with God. On the cross, though, Jesus took all the sins of the world on Himself. When that happened, Jesus—who never sinned—faced the ultimate punishment for our sin.

It is heartbreaking, but the story is still good news. When Jesus died, the curtain in the temple tore from top to bottom. The curtain or veil separated the holy place and the most holy place. Once a year, the high priest would pass through the veil to the most holy place to atone for the sins of the Israelites. What did it mean when the veil tore? You're right! No one has to offer sacrifices to pay for sin anymore. God ripped the veil to show that Jesus' death is enough to save us. We have only to trust in Him.

We can trust that God accepted Jesus' blood as the payment for our sin because God raised Jesus from the dead. Christians who put their trust in Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection can know that they are saved because Jesus is still alive to this day! That brings us to our big picture question. ***What did Jesus do for sinners? Jesus' death and resurrection paid the penalty for sins and provided the promise of new life.***

• Bibles, 1 per kid

Tip: Anytime you share how to become a Christian in a large group environment, try to have counselors available to meet one-on-one with kids. Make sure kids know who they can talk to and when they can talk.

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me (optional)

Leader • While Jesus was on the cross, the crowd told Jesus to save Himself. Why do you think Jesus didn't? We deserved death. Jesus died, so that we could be forgiven and receive eternal life.

Use your Bible and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Encourage kids to ask their parents or other adults any questions they have about becoming a Christian.

Review (4 minutes)

Leader • Our Bible story today has lots of interesting facts.

Let's see how well you can answer the review questions.

Guide kids to answer the following questions:

1. Where did Jesus go to pray with His disciples?
(*Gethsemane, Matt. 26:36*)
2. What did Judas do to show which person was Jesus? (*He kissed Jesus, Matt. 26:48-50*)
3. What did Jesus do when the people accused Him of various crimes? (*He didn't say anything; Matt. 26:63; 27:12*)
4. What did they accuse Jesus of doing? (*lying about or blaspheming God, Matt. 26:65*)
5. What did the soldiers do to Jesus? (*They mocked and beat Jesus. They crucified Him; Matt. 27:30-31,35*)
6. What did Jesus say before He died? (*"My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"*; *Matt. 27:46*)
7. What did the man guarding Jesus' cross say when the earth quaked? (*"This man really was God's Son," Matt. 27:54*)
8. What did the angel tell the women when they came to the rich man's tomb? (*Do not be afraid. Jesus is not here. He is risen! You will see Him in Galilee; Matt. 28:5-7*)
9. ***What did Jesus do for sinners? Jesus' death and resurrection paid the penalty for sins and provided the promise of new life.***
10. What sacrifice was God pleased with? (*God was pleased with Jesus' sacrifice and raised Jesus from the dead to reign as King over all creation.*)

- white washcloths, handkerchiefs, or T-shirts, 3
- permanent marker
- spray bottles with water, 2
- scrub brushes, 2
- dish soap, 2 bottles
- gloves, 4 pairs
- paint smocks (optional)

Group demonstration (5 minutes)

Invite four kids to come help you. Form two teams. Ask kids to call out various sins people commit. Using the permanent marker, write them on two of the white cloths. Provide each team with gloves, a spray bottle, dish soap, and a scrub brush. Challenge the kids to wash the cloth clean. Encourage other kids to cheer on each team. After 90 seconds, show the progress.

Leader •How well did they do? They tried but couldn't remove the stain. We can't remove our sin. It is a stain. Nothing we try will work.

Ask kids to name any sins Jesus committed. (*He didn't commit any.*) Show the clean cloth, which represents Jesus. Compare the clean cloth to the cloth with the marker stains.

Leader •Only Jesus could save us from sin. When we receive the gift of forgiveness, God no longer sees our sin. He sees Jesus' sacrifice for us. God sees that Jesus paid the penalty for our sin. God sees Jesus' perfectly sinless life. He sees Jesus' righteousness, not the stains of all our sin. *What did Jesus do for sinners? Jesus' death and resurrection paid the penalty for sins and provided the promise of new life.*

- "Back to Pontiac" video

Missions (6 minutes)

Leader •It's hard for us to understand how God could love us so much that He would send His own Son to die in our place. God loves us and is willing to forgive anyone who trusts in Jesus' sacrifice for sins. He doesn't just forgive us, though, God changes our hearts and gives us new life. Let's watch a video that will show what a life that has been changed by Jesus looks like.

Show the video "Back to Pontiac" about John Smith, Jr.

Leader •In that video, John said his father forgave him for

everything. Because Jesus rose from the dead, we know that God forgives us from all our sins—past, present, and future. Christians still make wrong decisions. We can ask Jesus to forgive us and He will. Jesus will also help us live new lives of obedience. ***What did Jesus do for sinners? Jesus’ death and resurrection paid the penalty for sins and provided the promise of new life.***

• tape

Tip: Adapt the game according to your group’s size. If you have a large group of kids, for safety you may limit how many kids may try to free the prisoner by crossing over the line at one time.

Group game (10 minutes)

Release the prisoner

Before class, tape two 2-by-2-foot squares on opposite ends of the classroom. Tape one line dividing the room in half. Number off the kids to form two teams. Tell the kids they have 60 seconds to choose one kid to stand in the other team’s “jail” as a prisoner.

When you say go, kids try to sneak through “enemy territory” to rescue their team’s prisoner without being tagged by the opposing team. To rescue the prisoner, one kid must successfully run or sneak past the opposing team and stand in the taped square. The original prisoner must then run back to her team’s territory without being tagged.

If a kid is tagged trying to free the prisoner, he is out. If the prisoner who was released is tagged before she crosses into her team’s territory, she must return to “jail,” and the kid who freed her is out. When one team has replaced and “released” a prisoner three times, the game is over and that team wins.

Leader • Jesus was arrested, though He had not done anything wrong. Jesus died in our place so He could set us free from sin. Only Jesus could release us from our sin. ***What did Jesus do for sinners? Jesus’ death and resurrection paid the penalty for sins and provided the promise of new life.***

Announcements (2 minutes)

Leader • Looks like we're almost out of time. I still have to finish preparing these Easter lily arrangements. Before we get ready to pray, though, I have a few announcements. Make any announcements from your kid's ministry.

Prayer (2 minutes)

Leader • Let's remember to pray for John Smith, Jr. as he continues to share the gospel with people in Pontiac, Michigan. If you know a friend or family member who does not know Jesus as Savior, let's pray that God will use you to share the gospel with him or her. Close in prayer.

Dismiss

Additional idea

Color scramble

Leader • During Easter, I love decorating flower arrangements and baskets for my customers. I always have to keep plenty of purple and red ribbons or scarves around at Easter. Do you know why? Hey, I've got an idea. Let's use the color of my ribbons to play a game to review our Bible story.

Tape one ribbon or scarf of one color to each of the four walls. Call out a word or phrase that corresponds to each color. The kids must quickly move and touch the wall with that color. Review the colors and possible phrases prior to playing the game. Sample words or phrases are as follows:

- (Red) Jesus' blood, sacrifice, payment for sins
- (Purple) King of kings, royal robe, Jesus' bruises
- (White) holiness, resurrection, forgiveness of sin
- (Gold) heaven, eternal life, promise of new life

- spools of red, purple, gold, and white ribbon or scarves
- tape

Tip: If you do not have ribbons or scarves, you may tape colored scraps of construction paper to the walls. If you meet in a large, open space, choose four kids to hold up the colored ribbons or paper. Make sure kids do not run over the color holders.

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.

God rules. Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.

We sinned. Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)

God provided. Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.

Jesus gives. Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.

We respond. Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus.

**He [Jesus] also said to them,
“This is what is written:
The Messiah would suffer and rise
from the dead the third day, and
repentance for forgiveness of sins
would be proclaimed in His name
to all the nations.”**

Luke 24:46-47

**And [Jesus] said to them,
“Thus it is written, that the Christ
should suffer and on the third
day rise from the dead, and that
repentance and forgiveness of sins
should be proclaimed in his name
to all nations.”**

Luke 24:46-47

**And [Jesus] said unto them, Thus
it is written, and thus it behoved
Christ to suffer, and to rise
from the dead the third day:
And that repentance and remission
of sins should be preached
in his name among all nations.**

Luke 24:46-47

**He [Jesus] told them,
“This is what is written:
The Christ will suffer and rise
from the dead on the third day,
and repentance and forgiveness
of sins will be preached in his name
to all nations.”**

Luke 24:46-47

**Then He [Jesus] said to them,
“Thus it is written, and thus it was
necessary for the Christ to suffer
and to rise from the dead the
third day, and that repentance and
remission of sins should be preached
in His name to all nations.”**

Luke 24:46-47

What did Jesus do for sinners?

Jesus' death and
resurrection paid
the penalty for sins
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promise of new life.

