
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.

Younger Kids BIBLE STUDY 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.

Small Group Opening

Welcome time

Activity page (5 minutes)

Session starter (10 minutes)

Large Group Leader

Countdown

Introduce the session (1 minute)

Timeline map (1 minute)

Big picture question (1 minute)

Sing (5 minutes)

Key passage (4 minutes)

Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

Discussion starter video (3 minutes)

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

Prayer (5 minutes)

Small Group Leader

Key passage activity (5 minutes)

Bible story review (10 minutes)

Activity choice (10 minutes)

Journal and prayer (5 minutes)

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)

Small Group OPENING

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.

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- paper
- tape

Welcome time

Arriving Activity: Roll the stone

As kids enter, provide each one with a paper wad. Explain that the paper wad is a “stone.” The goal is to roll the stone away as far as possible without hitting the wall. Tape a starting point, and designate a wall for the kids to roll their stones toward. Let each kid roll and see who can get closest to the wall.

Say • Today, we will see why Christians celebrate a day a stone rolled away to reveal an empty tomb. We call that day Easter.

- “He’s Alive” activity page, 1 per kid
- pencils

Activity page (5 minutes)

Guide boys and girls to complete the activity page.

Say • Today, we will talk about why Jesus had to die and how He is alive today.



- stickers or tape

Session starter (10 minutes)

Option 1: In the crowd

Choose a volunteer to try to find someone in the crowd. Ask the volunteer to face away from the rest of the kids. Choose one kid to place a sticker or piece of tape on his arm or leg.

Challenge the volunteer to find that person in the crowd. Encourage the crowd to move around to keep the volunteer from finding the right person.

Say • A week ago, a crowd was cheering for Jesus as King. Just days later, that same crowd cheered for something else. We'll talk more about that in a few minutes.

- painter's tape
- heavyweight paper
- chalk

Tip: If you don't have chalk, just let the kids color around the tape with markers or crayons.

Option 2: Cross glow

Give each child a piece of heavyweight paper in any color. Form small groups. Provide a roll of painter's tape for each group. Each kid needs two strips of tape, one slightly longer than the other. The longer piece should be no longer than the length of the paper. Demonstrate how to lay the longer piece of tape on the paper lengthwise and the shorter piece on top of it widthwise, forming a cross. Encourage the kids to trace heavily around the cross with different colors of chalk. Once traced, invite the kids to smudge the chalk by putting a finger on the chalk and pushing away from the tape. This creates a glow effect. Remove the tape to reveal the cross.

Say • The cross is an important reminder of one of the biggest events in the Bible. We will find out what that was in just a few minutes.

Transition to large group

Large Group LEADER

Session Title: Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection

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• countdown video

Countdown

Show the countdown video as your kids arrive, and set it to end as large group time begins.

• cross, any type,
small or large

Introduce the session (1 minute)

[Large Group Leader enters carrying a cross.]

Leader • Who can tell me what this is? What do you think of when you see a cross? For Christians, the cross is a reminder of Jesus and how He came and died for our sins. However, there's much more to the story. Jesus did die, but He is not dead now. He is alive today. That's the reason we celebrate Easter.

• Timeline Map

Timeline map (1 minute)

Leader • Last week we left our walk through the Bible in the order that it happened so we could take a closer look at why we celebrate Easter. We saw how the people in Jerusalem were there to celebrate Passover when Jesus came into town. They celebrated Jesus' entrance on a donkey, calling Him King and praising Him as the One promised in the Old Testament as Savior of the world. In today's Bible story, we will see how Jesus proved He was

the promised King and Savior, but in a very different way than those celebrating Passover expected.

Big picture question (1 minute)

Leader • Today's Bible story is the most important story in the Bible. The Old Testament points us to this moment, and the rest of the Bible looks back on it as the key moment in all of history. Speaking of the Bible, who has their Bible today? That's great!

It's also time to see our big picture question. ***What did Jesus do for sinners?***

- "Jesus Saves" song

Sing (5 minutes)

Leader • After seeing the people cheer for Jesus' coming to town, it's hard to believe that less than a week later everything changed. Not even the disciples stood by Jesus.

Jesus could have said, "It's not worth it," but He didn't. He loved you so much that He went alone to the cross. Today, we know He is the King the people cheered for. We also know He saved us from sin.

Sing together "Jesus Saves."

- "Luke 24:46-47" song
- Key Passage Slide or Poster

Key passage (4 minutes)

Leader • After Jesus rose from the grave, He showed the disciples everything that had happened was written in God's Word. Here's what Jesus said to them.

Show the slide or poster of Luke 24:46-47. Lead the boys and girls to read the verse together.

Leader • Jesus had to die and rise again so sin could be forgiven. Let's sing the message He gave to the disciples. Sing together "Luke 24:46-47."

- “Jesus’ Crucifixion and Resurrection” video
- Bibles, 1 per kid
- Bible Story Picture Slide or Poster

Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

Leader • If you don’t know what Easter is about, get ready.

Let’s also answer our big picture question. ***What did Jesus do for sinners?*** Open your Bible to Matthew 26.

Choose to tell the Bible story in your own words using the script provided, or show the “Jesus’ Crucifixion and Resurrection” video.

Leader • Romans 3:23 says we are all sinners. That means we all are separated from God because God can’t be around sin. We must pay for our sin, but we can’t. Jesus could. He took our punishment for us.

The cross was a punishment for the worst criminals. It was a terrible way to be punished, and Jesus had done nothing to deserve it. He simply told everybody who He was. He was God’s Son, sent to save sinners.

Jesus was still human, too. He didn’t want to suffer but He knew it had to be done. That was His prayer before He was arrested. Jesus wanted to follow God’s plan even if He had to suffer.

After His arrest, the people who celebrated Jesus as King asked for Him to be crucified—for Him to die on a cross. They were led by the religious leaders, the priests, who didn’t like Jesus. The people could accept Jesus as a king but not as God’s Son or the Messiah.

Jesus was mistreated in the worst possible way, and He still went to the cross and died so you and I could be forgiven. ***What did Jesus do for sinners? Jesus’ death and resurrection paid the penalty for sins and provided the promise of new life. Resurrection means to rise from the dead.***

The resurrection is the best news of all. Jesus didn’t stay dead. God accepted His payment for our sin. He was dead for only three days. Jesus is alive!

Ask the following review questions:

1. Why did Jesus go to Gethsemane? (*to pray, Matt. 26:36*)
2. Who came to betray Jesus? (*Judas, Matt. 26:47-48*)
3. What did the people use to kill Jesus? (*a cross, Matt. 27:22-23*)
4. What did the women who first visited Jesus' tomb find? (*an angel or an empty tomb, Matt. 28:5-6*)
5. What did Jesus' death and resurrection save us from? (*sin*)

• "Unit 7 Session 2"
discussion starter
video

Discussion starter video (3 minutes)

Leader • If I asked you now why you celebrate Easter, you would probably give me the right answer. However, lots of people think we celebrate Easter for other reasons. Show discussion starter video.

Leader • What would you say if someone asked you what Easter is about? I hope you would say, "Easter is about Jesus dying for my sin and rising again as my King and Savior." *What did Jesus do for sinners? Jesus' death and resurrection paid the penalty for sins and provided the promise of new life.*

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

Use Scripture and the guide provided with this session to explain to boys and girls how to become a Christian. Assign individuals to meet with kids who have more questions. If this is not possible, encourage boys and girls to ask their parents, small group leaders, or other Christian adults any questions they may have about becoming a Christian.

Prayer (5 minutes)

Leader •What a great reminder about the main message of the Bible! Now, let's see if we remember our big picture question and answer.

Show the big picture question slide or poster.

Leader •*What did Jesus do for sinners? Jesus' death and resurrection paid the penalty for sins and provided the promise of new life.*

Form three groups of kids. Assign each group a different section of the big picture question and answer. Ask the question and then point to the appropriate group when it's time for them to say their part of the answer. Speed up each time you try it.

Before transitioning to small group, make any necessary announcements. Lead the kids in prayer. Pray that your kids will understand and respond to the gospel.

Dismiss to small groups

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.

Small Group LEADER

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- Key Passage Slide or Poster
- dry erase board and markers (optional)
- gray construction paper, 1 piece
- scissors

Key passage activity (5 minutes)

Make sure the key passage, Luke 24:46-47, is visible for each child, either as the printed poster or written on a dry erase board. Read the verse together.

Say • Jesus died and rose again for all sinners. *What did Jesus do for sinners? Jesus' death and resurrection paid the penalty for sins and provided the promise of new life.* Jesus wanted the message of His forgiveness to reach all nations.

Before the session, cut the shape of a round rock out of a piece of construction paper. As you recite the key passage as a class, "roll" the rock over key words. Challenge kids to recite the words from memory. Repeat as time allows.

- Bibles, 1 per kid
- Small Group Visual Pack
- Big Picture Question Slide or Poster

Bible story review (10 minutes)

Encourage the kids to find Matthew 26 in their Bibles. Help them as needed.

Say • Is the Book of Matthew in the New Testament or Old Testament? (*New Testament*) Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are part of four books called what? (*the Gospels*) Whose life do the Gospels tell us about? (*Jesus'*)

Use the small group visual pack to show kids where today's Bible story is on the timeline.

Review the Bible story provided or summarize the story in your own words. Encourage the kids to listen to the following statements. Invite them to decide whether the following events happened before or after Jesus' death.

- Jesus prayed for God's will over His own. (*before, Matt. 26:39*)
- The disciples left Jesus. (*before, Matt. 26:56*)
- The curtain in the temple sanctuary split in two. (*after, Matt. 27:51*)
- Judas betrayed Jesus. (*before, Matt. 26:48-49*)
- The tomb was empty. (*after, Matt. 28:6*)
- An angel spoke to Mary and Mary Magdalene. (*after, Matt. 28:1,5*)
- Jesus told the high priest that He is the Son of God. (*before, Matt. 26:63-64*)

Show the big picture question slide or poster.

Say • Jesus' death on the cross and all the events before and after were part of God's plan to save 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.*** Jesus gave His own life so we could have a better life, free from the punishment of sin. We have the promise of being with God forever when we put our trust in Jesus.



Activity choice (10 minutes)

Option 1: Share it

Invite the kids to play a game where they will share a message with a friend. Give them something to share. Here are some ideas: something or someone to pray for, the big picture question and answer, what Easter means, the key

passage, and so forth. Once you provide a message to share, give kids instructions about which friend to share it with. Here are some examples: Share it with someone taller than you; share it with someone wearing a different color than you; or share it with someone who has the same eye color as you. Feel free to make up other instructions. Play as time allows.

Say • We should share the story of Easter with others, regardless of whether or not they are like us. God wants everyone to be saved. (1 Tim. 2:3-4) ***What did Jesus do for sinners? Jesus' death and resurrection paid the penalty for sins and provided the promise of new life.***

- "Empty Tomb" printable, 1 per kid
- white heavyweight paper
- scissors, 1 per kid
- crayons or markers
- glue

Option 2: Empty tomb

Print the "Empty Tomb" printable on white heavyweight paper. Instruct the kids to cut the page in half along the line. Kids should cut out the rock and strip of paper along each dotted line.

Invite the kids to color the half-page scene and the rock. Once decorated, help each kid glue the end of the strip of paper on the back of the rock, near the edge. A leader should use a sharp pencil or knife to cut a small slit on the dotted line on the tomb opening.

Direct the kids to thread the strip of paper attached to the rock through the hole. Flatten the strip of paper against the back, and kids should be able to "roll" the stone from the tomb entrance.

Say • Jesus died for our sins, but He is alive today. ***What did Jesus do for sinners? Jesus' death and resurrection paid the penalty for sins and provided the promise of new life.*** We can worship and serve Him as Savior and Lord.

- journals, 1 per kid
- Journal Page, 1 per kid
- markers or crayons
- Bible Story Coloring Page

Journal and prayer (5 minutes)

Distribute each child's journal and the journal page provided with this session. Instruct the kids to draw a cross or an empty tomb. Writers can share what Easter now means to them.

Say • Does anyone remember the answer 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.*

Make sure each child puts this week's page in the journal and then collect them. Keep the journals in the classroom so they will be available every week or as often as you wish to use them.

If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the coloring page provided with this session. End the session with prayer, thanking God for loving us enough to send Jesus. Pray for each child by name, asking God to help each one share the message of Easter.

Easter

Key Passage: Luke 23:46-47

Session 1: Jesus' Triumphal Entry

*Matthew 21:1-17; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-44;
John 12:12-19*

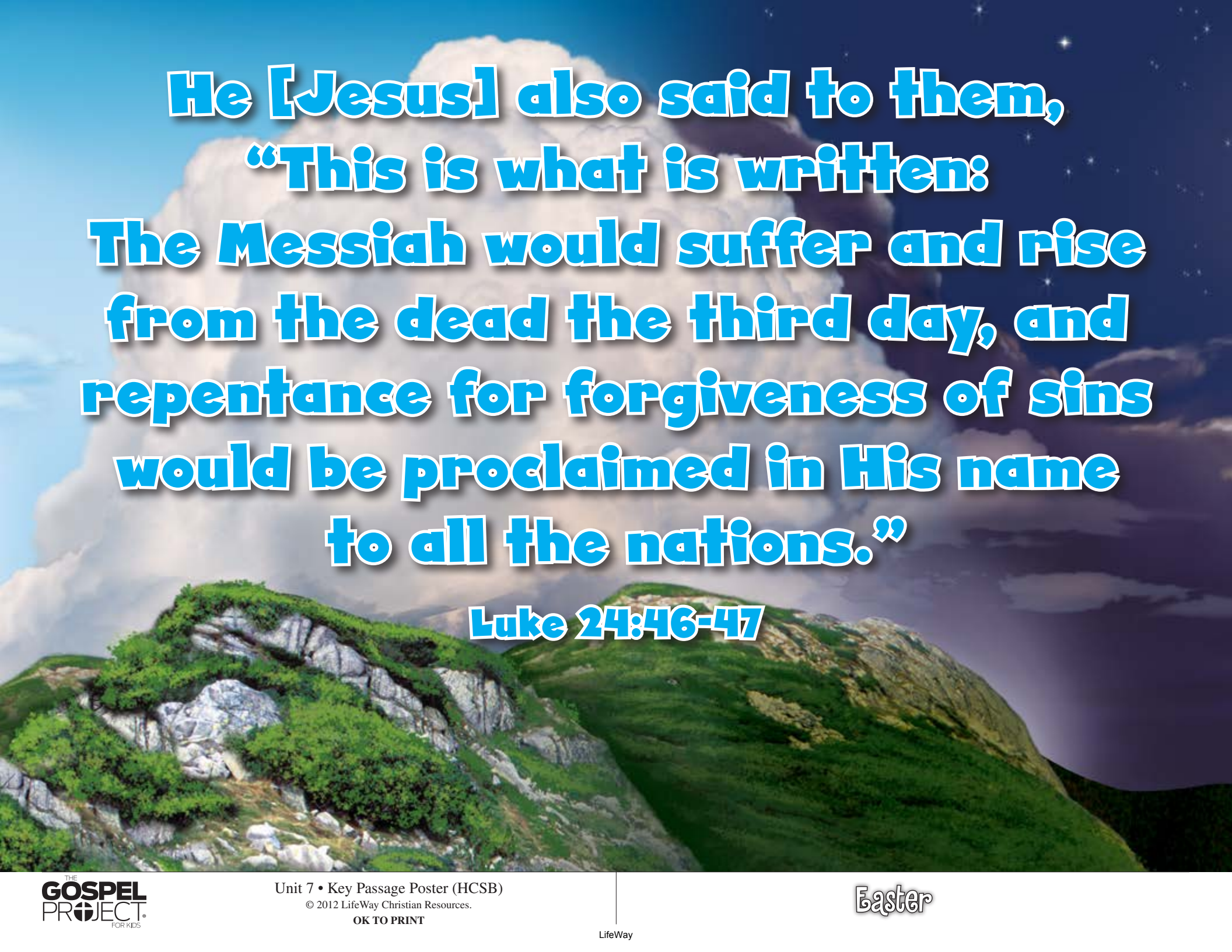
Session 2: Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection

Matthew 26:36-28:10

Session 3: Jesus Appeared to Many
People

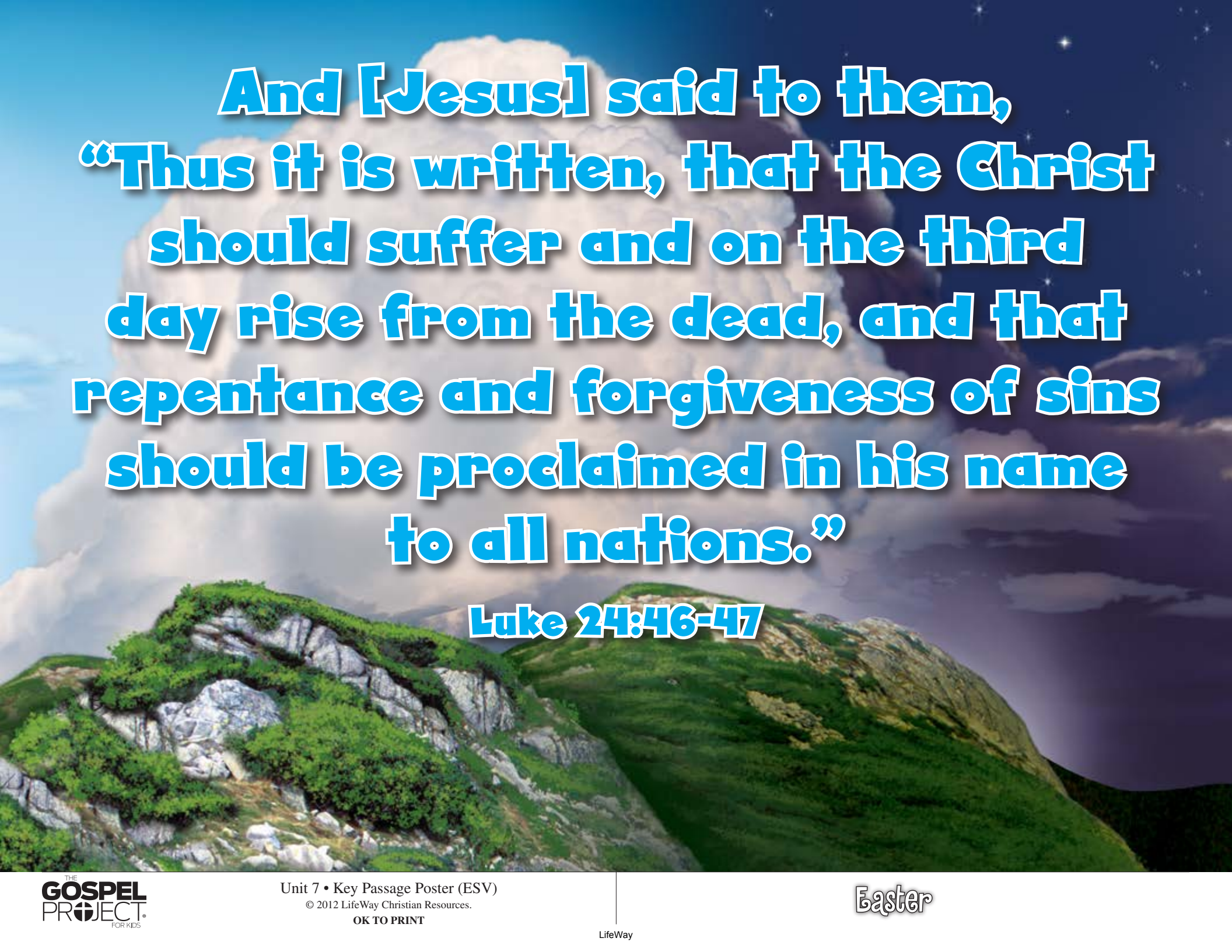
*Luke 24:36-49; John 20:19-29;
Acts 1:3,9-11*





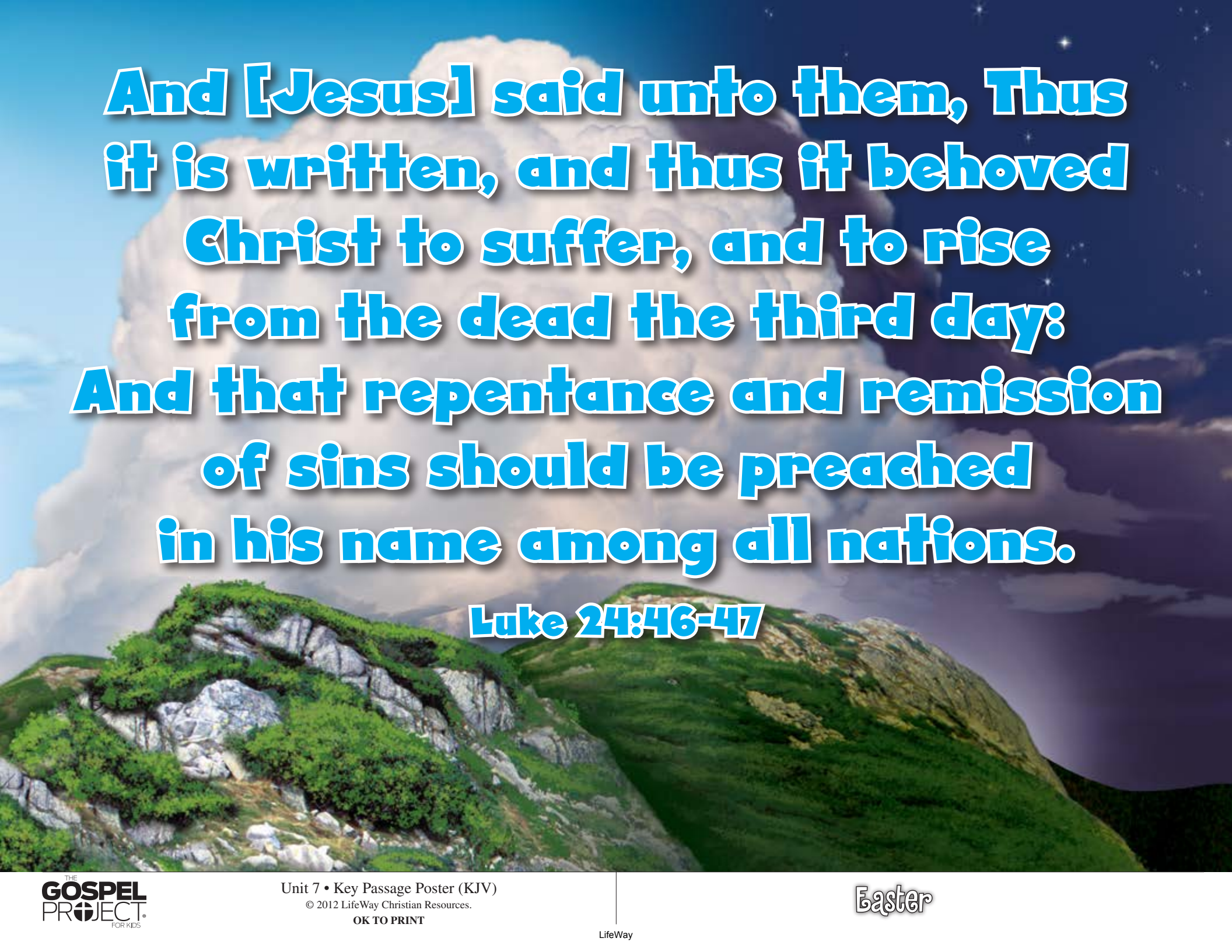
**He [Jesus] also said to them,
“This is what is written:
The Messiah would suffer and rise
from the dead the third day, and
repentance for forgiveness of sins
would be proclaimed in His name
to all the nations.”**

Luke 24:46-47



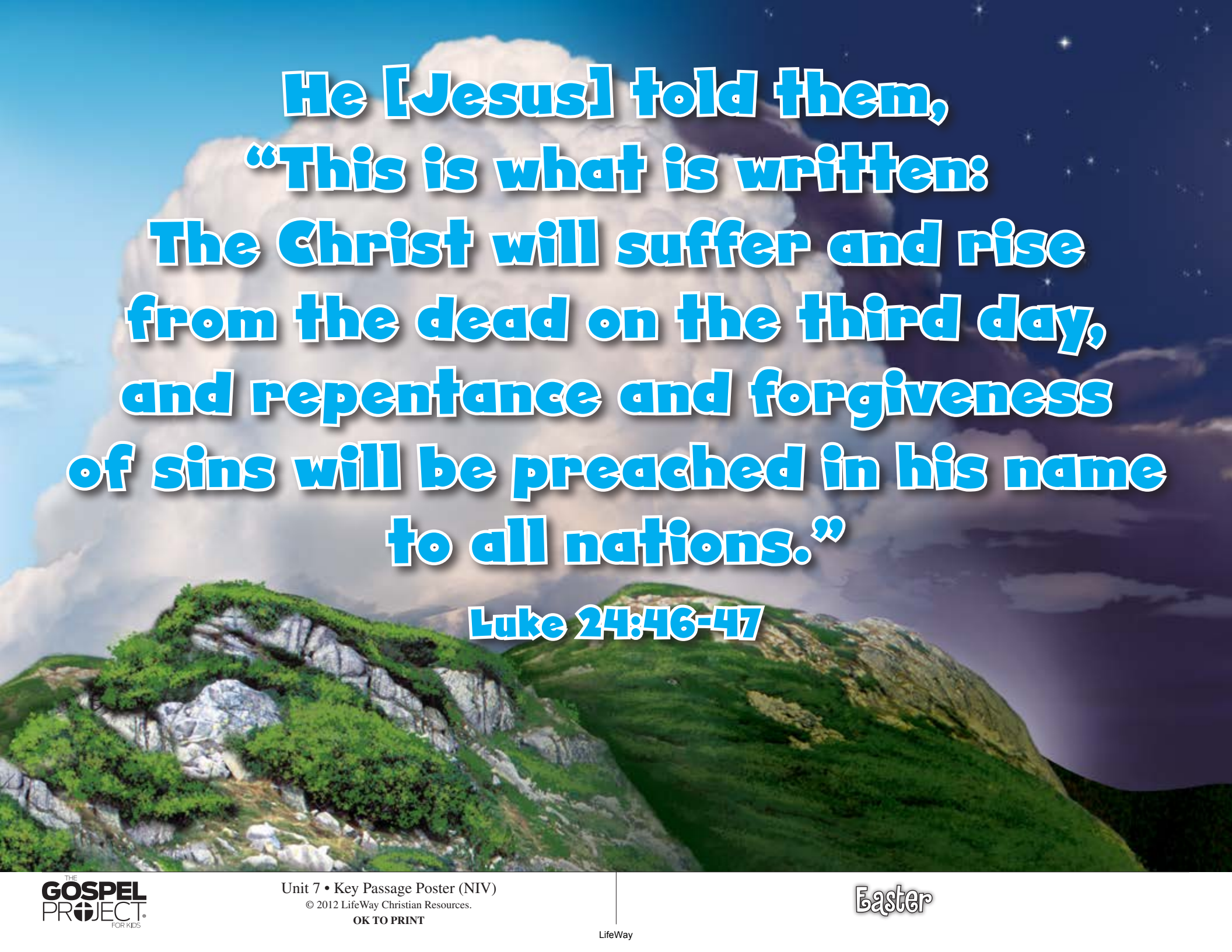
**And [Jesus] said to them,
“Thus it is written, that the Christ
should suffer and on the third
day rise from the dead, and that
repentance and forgiveness of sins
should be proclaimed in his name
to all nations.”**

Luke 24:46-47



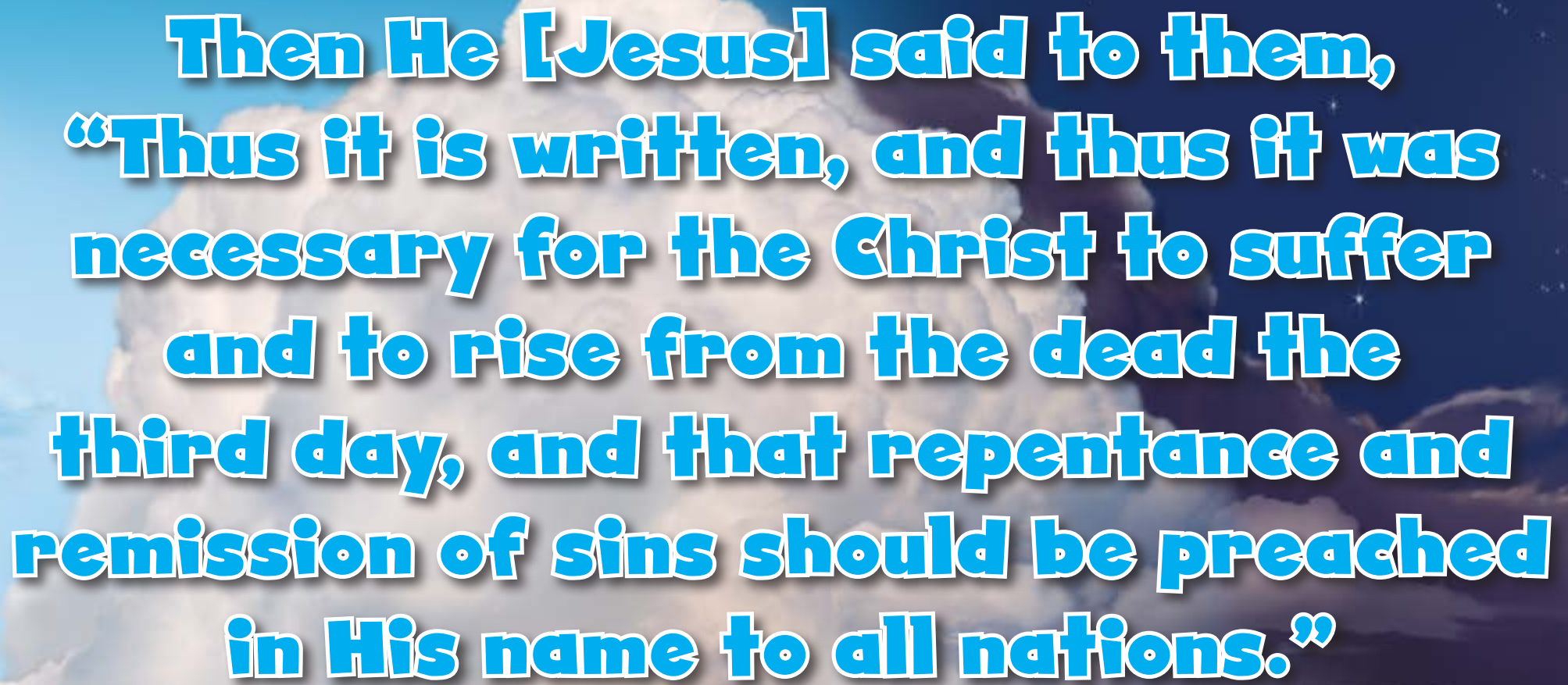
**And [Jesus] said unto them, Thus
it is written, and thus it behoved
Christ to suffer, and to rise
from the dead the third day:
And that repentance and remission
of sins should be preached
in his name among all nations.**

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.”**

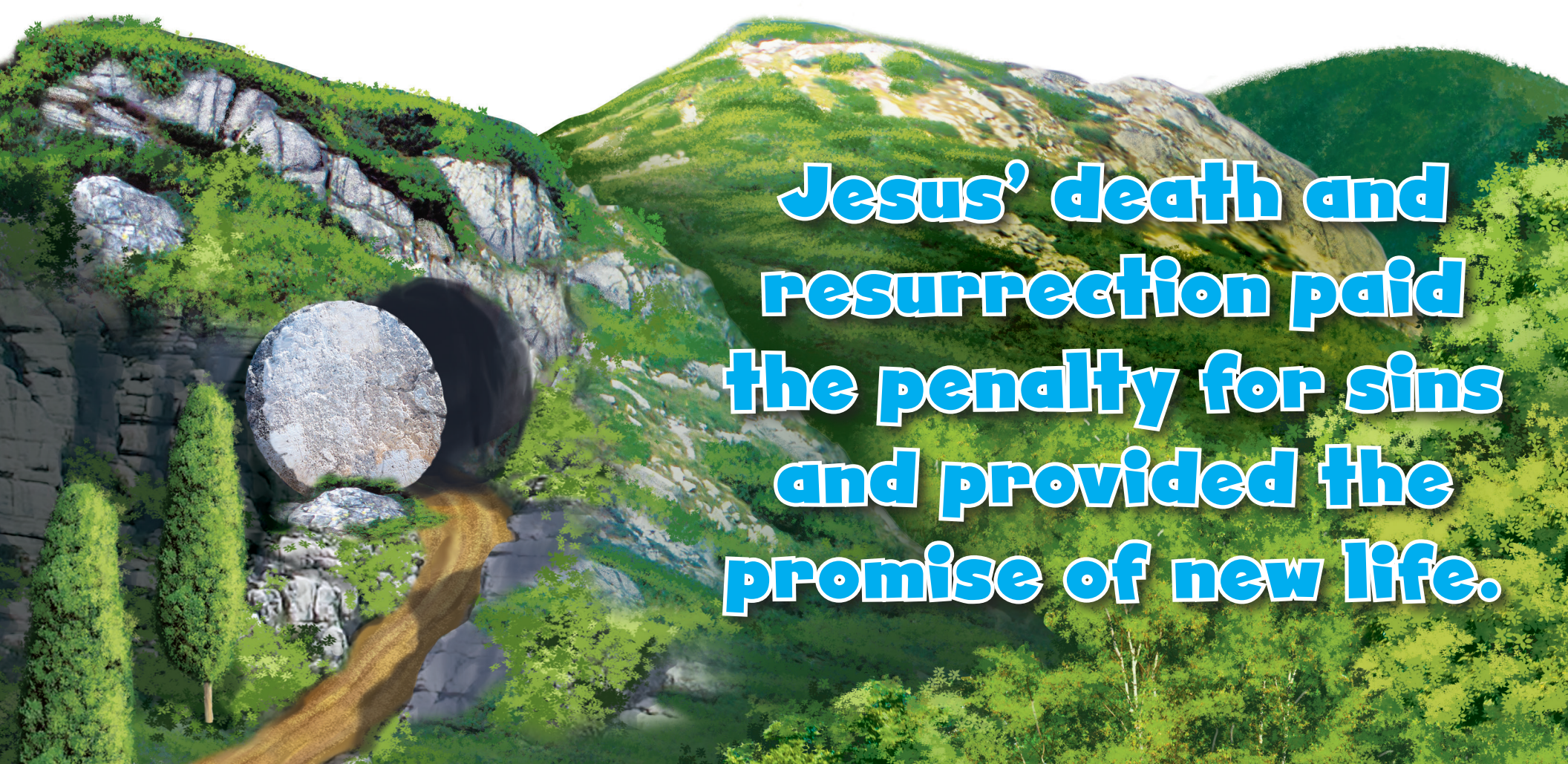
Luke 24:46-47



**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
and provided the
promise of new life.

He's Alive!

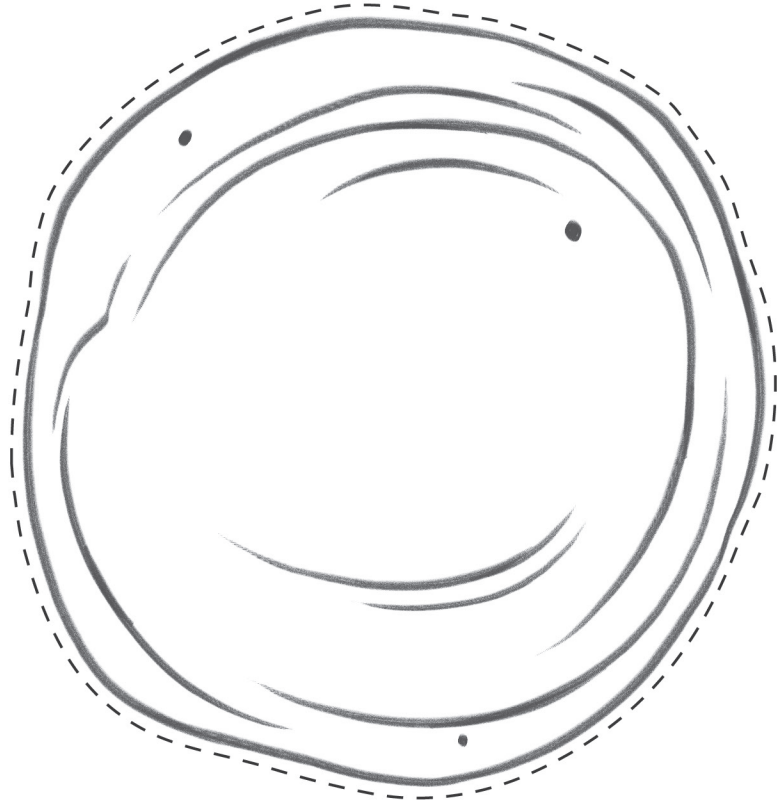
Instructions: Uncover the message the angel gave to those who visited the tomb looking for Jesus.

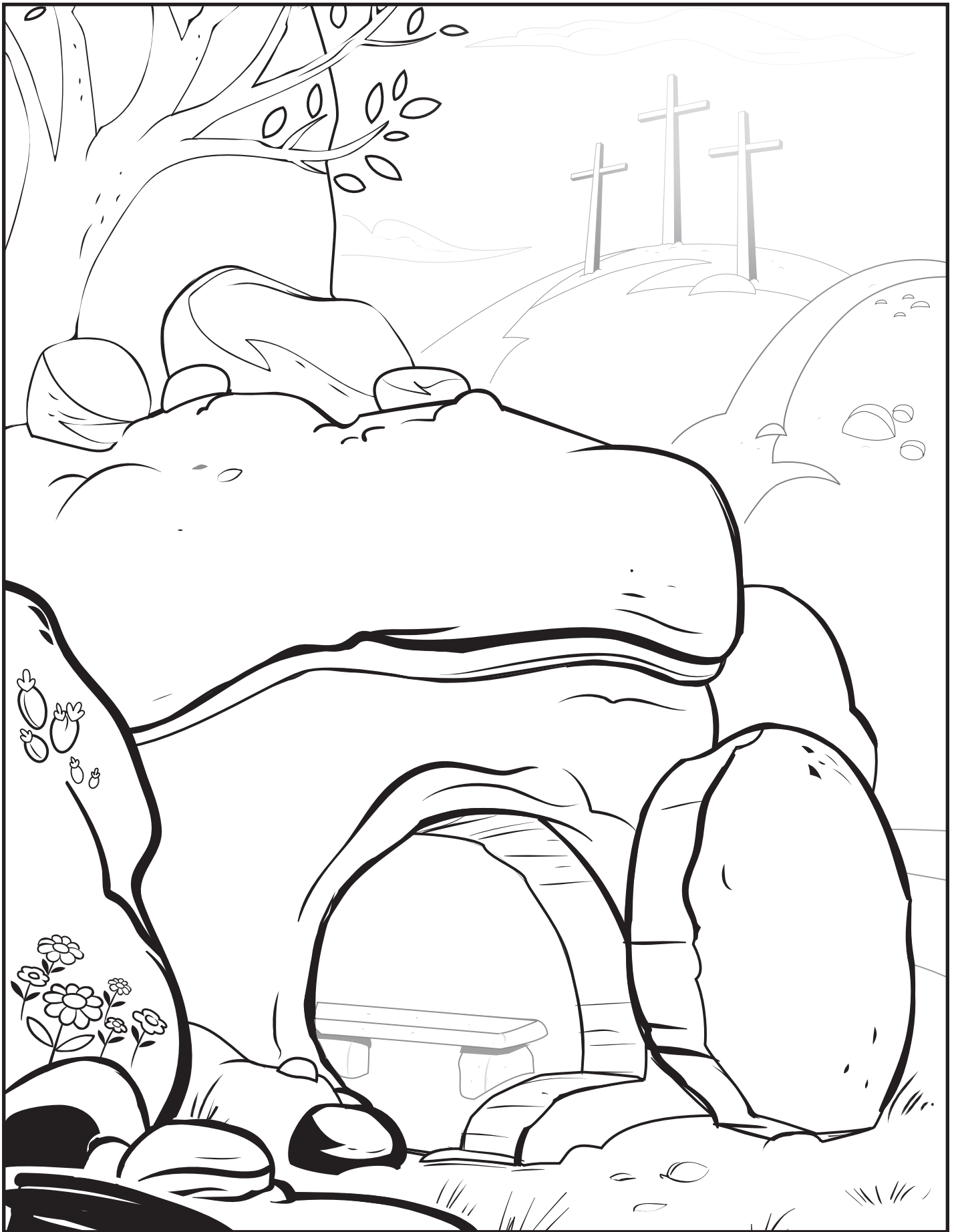
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3	24	12	14	12	2	12
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20	5	2	15	24		



Empty Tomb

Instructions: Copy onto white heavyweight paper. Follow the directions in the Younger Kids Leader Guide.





Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection

Matthew 26:36-28:10

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