

Jesus Is Tried and Crucified

Luke 19:28-40; 23:1-49

Third- and fourth-graders want things to be fair. By this age they've developed an inner sense of fairness and a personal system of checks and balances. As you teach your class about Jesus' trial and crucifixion, help kids understand that although Jesus' trial was unfair by judicial standards, it was a gift to us from God, and through Jesus' death and resurrection we can receive life.



► Bible Point

Jesus died to take the punishment for our sins.

Key Verse

"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

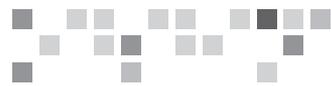
Weaving Faith Into Life

Kids will thank Jesus for taking the punishment for their sins.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	WDJD? (What Did Jesus Do?) <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Learn why Jesus had to die on the cross for us.	newsprint, index cards, pens, tape	Draw a cross on a large sheet of newsprint, and hang it on a wall.
2 Bible Exploration	Jesus' Trial <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Act out the trial of Jesus.	Bibles, construction paper, markers, scissors	
	Jesus' Crucifixion and Death <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Discuss the way Jesus died and why.	Bible, items from the "WDJD?" activity	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Love From Above <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Learn the Key Verse, and create reminders of how God sees us when we believe in Jesus.	Bible, Bible Truth Sleuth, newspaper, crayons, India ink, paintbrushes, water dishes, pens, paper clips, construction paper coats from the “Jesus’ Trial” activity Teacher Pack: crosses	Tear out the Lesson 4 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God’s Word.	Bible Truth Sleuth	
	Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





WDJD? (What Did Jesus Do?) Supplies

newsprint
index cards
pens
tape

WDJD? (What Did Jesus Do?) Easy Prep

Draw a cross on a large sheet of newsprint, and hang it on a wall.

1 GETTING STARTED

WDJD? (What Did Jesus Do?)

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went. Have kids form groups of three. Give pens and a stack of index cards to each group.

Say: **In your groups, discuss sins that people commit every day. Then write one sin on each of your index cards. Write every sin you can think of.**

When kids have finished writing, have them place their stacks of cards in front of them.

Ask:

- **What are some of the sins written on your cards?**
- **How would you feel if you had to carry them around with you all the time?**

Say: **Let's pretend these cards are the sins in our lives and we have to carry them around with us as we do things.**

Have kids crumple each of their cards and walk in a circle around the room while holding on to the crumpled cards. As kids walk, have them do things such as drink cups of water, write their names on the board, shake hands with each other, and pick up books or magazines. Tell them that they cannot put down their sins.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **How was walking around trying to carry your crumpled cards with sins on them like trying to walk through life carrying around real sins?**
- **How do you think you could get rid of real sins?**

Say: **Unlike these cards, we can't just crumple up and throw away our sins. Someone has to take them away for us.**

Have kids uncrumple their index cards and tape them to the cross.

Ask:

- **How did it feel to get rid of your sin cards?**
- **How would it feel to get rid of your real sins? Why?**

Say: **Today we'll find out how we can get rid of our sins and learn that ► JESUS DIED TO TAKE THE PUNISHMENT FOR OUR SINS.**





2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Jesus' Trial

What You'll Do

Give a sheet of construction paper to each child. Have each of them design a simple coat and cut it out, using as much of the paper as possible.

Open your Bible, and read aloud Luke 19:28-40. Have kids throw their construction paper coats on the floor, and then have them repeat Luke 19:38 with you.

Say: **"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"**

Our Bible story today starts with Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Shortly after this event, Jesus was arrested, tried, and crucified. Today we'll go to Jesus' trial to help us understand why Jesus was crucified.

Have kids pick up their coats and set them aside. Then ask for one volunteer to play Herod and one volunteer to play Pilate. The rest of the class will be the crowd. Have "Herod" go to one side of the room, and have "Pilate" go to the opposite side of the room.

Direct the crowd to stand in front of Pilate. Have Pilate read aloud Luke 23:1-7.

Say: **Okay, let's go hear what Herod has to say.**

Lead the crowd to the other side of the room to stand before Herod. Have Herod read aloud Luke 23:8-12.

Say: **Looks like we need to go back to Pilate!**

Lead the crowd back to the other side of the room to stand in front of Pilate. Have Pilate read aloud Luke 23:13-16.

Then have a volunteer from the crowd read Luke 23:18-19.

Say: **The crowd created quite a ruckus, saying that they wanted Barabbas released.**

Have the crowd stand in front of Pilate and babble for a minute or two.

Have Pilate read Luke 23:20-21.

Say: **Pilate pleaded with them, but the crowd continued to shout. They didn't want Jesus released. They wanted to free Barabbas and to crucify Jesus.**



Jesus' Trial Supplies

-
- Bibles
 - construction paper
 - markers
 - scissors





Jesus' Crucifixion and Death Supplies

Bible
items from the
"WDJD?" activity

Have kids babble again for a minute, pretending to try to persuade Pilate. Let kids know they can really ham it up if they want to.

Have the Pilate volunteer read Luke 23:22.

Say: **Pilate said he couldn't find any reason for Jesus to die, but he did what the crowd wanted and released Barabbas instead of Jesus.**

Read aloud Luke 23:23-25.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Have kids form pairs and discuss these questions.

Ask:

- **Do you think Jesus' trial was fair? Why or why not?**
- **How would you feel if you were accused of something you didn't do?**
- **How do you think Jesus felt when people lied about him?**
- **Have you ever let somebody else take the blame for something you did wrong?**

Ask volunteers to share their answers with the class.

Say: **Let's read the rest of our Bible story to hear what Jesus did next.**

Jesus' Crucifixion and Death

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Read Luke 23:26-43.

Say: **Crucifixion is a terribly cruel way to die. First, Jesus was beaten until blood ran down his back. Then the soldiers continued to make fun of Jesus, placing a crown of thorns on his head. And these weren't the little thorns you see on rosebushes. These were long, sharp thorns that the soldiers shoved down on Jesus' forehead. Then with his back ripped and bleeding from being beaten and blood dripping from his head because of the crown of thorns, the soldiers nailed his hands and feet to the cross. Jesus hung on the cross like this for hours. Yet during that time, Jesus answered a criminal's plea to be remembered and forgave those who had done all these things to him.**

Ask:

- **What sins was Jesus crucified for?**

Read aloud Luke 23:44-49.

Say: **Jesus died on the cross after hanging in agony for many hours. When he died, the Bible tells us the sun stopped shining. It also tells us the curtain of the Temple that separates people from God was torn open.**





Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- Why do you think Jesus was willing to die on the cross?
- Who did Jesus die for?

Say: Here are just a few of the sins Jesus was willing to die for.

Look at the index cards, and read the sins written there.

Ask:

- What did Jesus do for us?

Say: On our own, we can do absolutely nothing to be good enough to get to heaven. The sins we wrote earlier are proof of that! ► JESUS DIED TO TAKE THE PUNISHMENT FOR OUR SINS. Let's take a look at our Key Verse to learn more about what Jesus did for us.

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Love From Above

What You'll Do

Open your Bible to Romans 5:8, and read the verse aloud: **“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8).** Have kids repeat the verse with you several times.

Ask:

- What are some ways people demonstrate love?
- How have you demonstrated love to others?

Distribute the Bible Truth Sleuth pages, and have kids turn to the “Thank You, Jesus” activity. Ask your students to think of some of the personal sins in their lives and write them in the space provided.

Say: Now let's look at what happens to us when we confess our sins and Jesus forgives us.

Cover the table kids will be working on with newspaper or a protective plastic tablecloth. Pull out the crosses from your Teacher Pack, and hand one to each child. Have crayons, dishes of India ink, paintbrushes, and water dishes accessible to children.



Love From Above Supplies

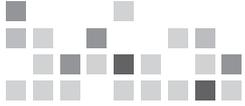
- Bible
- Bible Truth Sleuth
- newspaper
- crayons
- India ink
- paintbrushes
- water dishes
- pens
- paper clips
- construction paper
- coats from the “Jesus’ Trial” activity

Teacher Pack crosses

Love From Above Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 4 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.





Say: **In the beginning of our Bible story, we learned that when Jesus entered Jerusalem, people were excited and happy to see him. They threw their coats on the road to welcome and honor him. It must have been a beautiful sight to see all those colorful coats laid out for Jesus on the road! Let's color our crosses to show the beauty of praising Jesus and honoring him. Use the crayons to color heavily on your cross in all sorts of colors, filling the entire area of your cross and leaving no white space!**

Give kids crayons, and have them color their crosses.

Say: **Although crowds cheered Jesus as he entered Jerusalem, crowds later cried out to have him crucified. And Jesus was crucified. He was crucified for the sins of the people in the crowd and for our sins.**

When children have finished, ask them to paint over their crosses with the India ink and give them a few minutes to dry.

Say: **Our sins are like this black ink. When sin takes over, it keeps us from praising and honoring Jesus. Sin can destroy what could be a beautiful relationship with Jesus. But because Jesus was willing to pay the price for our sins and be crucified on the cross, we can each have a relationship with him.**

Give each child a paper clip. Have kids open the paper clips and use the ends to write their names on the crosses by scratching away the ink so the colors show through. If consistent with your church's theology, this would be an excellent chance to provide children with the opportunity to make a faith decision.

Say: **Let's repeat our Key Verse for today, Romans 5:8: "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."**

Look at your cross. When you see your name written there, with the beautiful colors showing through, let it remind you that Jesus died for you. He loved you so much that he was willing to pay the price for your sins.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What does sin do to our lives?**
- **What can we do to get rid of sin?**
- **What did Jesus do for us?**

Make sure each child has the coat he or she made during the "Jesus' Trial" activity.

Say: **Attach your cross to the back of the coat you made at the beginning of our Bible story. Pause. Jesus died for all of our sins. He took our sins on his back, much like the coats you made earlier are on your crosses. Even though we are sinners, God loves us and wants us to be with him forever. That's why he sent Jesus! Let's remember ► JESUS DIED TO TAKE THE PUNISHMENT FOR OUR SINS.**



4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

Say: **Let's each choose a Daily Challenge for the week to help us remember that**
▶ **JESUS DIED TO TAKE THE PUNISHMENT FOR OUR SINS.**

Have kids find this week's Daily Challenges on the Bible Truth Sleuth pages and choose one to do this week. They can choose one or more of these three options:

- **Carry a cross in your pocket and each time you reach into your pocket, thank Jesus for taking the punishment for your sins.**
- **Read Luke 19:28-40 and 23:1-49 with a parent. Then discuss how Jesus dying on the cross has changed your life.**
- **Tell a friend about Jesus, explaining that only Jesus can save us from our sins!**

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell the kids what you chose. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What's a practical way you're going to do your Daily Challenge? Include a time, a place, and other ideas.**

Say: ▶ **JESUS DIED TO TAKE THE PUNISHMENT FOR OUR SINS. Let's remember that by following through on our Daily Challenges this week.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about Jesus' death. Kids can also do the activities in the "HomeConnect" section of their Bible Truth Sleuth pages with their families.

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at group.com/digital.

Close with a blessing. Have kids again repeat the Key Verse: "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Walk up to each child individually, and say: [Child's name], **God loves you so much that he sent Jesus to die for your sins.**



Daily Challenges Supplies

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Bible Truth Sleuth



