

Jesus Is Tried and Crucified

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

As you teach children about Jesus' crucifixion, emphasize that God had a special plan for Jesus. Explain that Jesus came to earth to die so that we could someday live in heaven with God. Then be sure to tell children that God also planned for Jesus to come to life again. Repeat the fact that Jesus is alive today so children can understand that Jesus' death did not separate us from him forever.



► Bible Point

Jesus died for us.

Key Verse

"Christ died for us"
(Romans 5:8).

Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will thank Jesus for dying on the cross.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started <i>about 10 min.</i>	Welcome and Celebrate Welcome each other, and praise God through music.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD, whistle	
2 Key Verse Activity <i>about 5 min.</i>	For Me! Learn how the cross makes them closer to God.	Bible, masking tape	
3 Bible Exploration <i>about 20 min.</i>	Puppy Pointers Hear what the cross reminds Theo of.	CD player, Theo puppet, tape Teacher Pack: CD, glow-in-the-dark cross	Tape the glow-in-the-dark cross to Theo's paw.
	Bible Time: Joy and Sadness Listen to the Bible story on the CD and do actions to the story.	Bible, CD player, 1 palm branch per child Teacher Pack: CD	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p style="text-align: center;">4 Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> (Choose 2 centers.)</p>	<p>Center 1: A Cross to God Create a path to show how the cross brings us close to God.</p>	My Bible Hugs, glue sticks, 8 inches of ribbon per child, scissors	Remove the Lesson 4 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children's names on them. Cut enough 4-inch pieces of ribbon for each child to have two. Set out glue sticks.
	<p>Center 2: Crunchy Crosses Make crosses to remind them of Jesus' sacrifice.</p>	cookie sticks, frosting, craft sticks, napkins	
	<p>Center 3: Praise Jesus! Use a doll and palm branches to re-enact the Bible story.</p>	1 palm branch per child, doll	
	<p>Center 4: Palm Parade Make palm branches to wave.</p>	1 cardboard tube per child, 4 feet of green crepe paper per child, scissors, tape	
<p style="text-align: center;">5 Lasting Impressions <i>about 5 min.</i></p>	<p>Daily Challenges Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	My Bible Hugs, crayons	
	<p>Action Prayer Tell Jesus "thank you."</p>	Teacher Pack: glow-in-the-dark cross	
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



Welcome and Celebrate Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Ain't It Great to Be at Church" (track 5), "Say and Believe" (track 7)

whistle

1 GETTING STARTED

Welcome and Celebrate



Tip Consistently use the same signal to announce a transition to the next activity. You could flip the lights off and on, use a train whistle, have a puppet rustling inside a bag, or sing cleanup songs. Keep it simple, consistent, and fun.

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

As the children arrive, greet each one with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your whistle to gather the children together in a circle on the floor.

Lead children in singing "Ain't It Great to Be at Church" (track 5 on the CD) to the tune of "Boom, Boom! Ain't It Great to Be Crazy?" Encourage children to follow the motions in parentheses.

 **Boom, boom! Ain't it great to be here at church?** (*Stomp feet.*)
Boom, boom! Ain't it great to be here at church? (*Nod head.*)
We've come to worship Jesus Christ. (*Clap hands.*)
Boom, boom! Ain't it great to be at church? (*Stomp feet.*)
(Repeat 2x.)

Say: **Today we'll learn that ► JESUS DIED FOR US. And when we believe in Jesus we can be part of his family. Let's sing about believing in Jesus now.**

Lead children in singing "Say and Believe" (track 7 on the CD) to the tune of "Angels Watching Over Me." Encourage children to follow the motions in parentheses.

 **Say and believe.** (*Touch mouth and then head.*)
Say and believe. (*Touch mouth and then head.*)
Say and believe that Jesus is Lord. (*Touch mouth and then head; then point up.*)
Say and believe. (*Touch mouth and then head.*)
Say and believe. (*Touch mouth and then head.*)
Believe that Jesus is Lord. (*Touch head, and then point up.*)
(Repeat 2x.)





2 KEY VERSE ACTIVITY

For Me!

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have the children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to Romans 5:8, and show the children the words.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible says, "Christ died for us." Let's say it together.** Lead the children in repeating the Key Verse with you: **"Christ died for us."** Explain that Christ is another name for Jesus.

Have the children help you make a very large cross on the floor with masking tape. Have one child stand at each of the four points on the cross. Point out how far away they are from each other. Then have the children begin walking on the tape cross toward each other. As they walk, have the entire class say the Key Verse. When they reach the middle of the cross, have kids place their arms on each other's shoulders, and point out how close together they are. Tell the children that because Jesus died for us on the cross, we can be close to God just as they are close to each other. Choose four different children, and repeat the process. Continue until all children have had a chance to walk on the tape cross.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **When have you been far away from someone you love?**
- **How do you feel knowing that you can always be close to God?**
- **What can you tell a friend about the cross?**

Say: **Because ► JESUS DIED FOR US, we can always be close to God.** Have kids join together to give a big group hug to each other.

3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Puppy Pointers

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Listen, everyone, Theo's coming! He has something to show us. Let's find out what it is.** Play "Here, Theo" (track 2 on the CD), and bring out Theophilus the FaithRetriever.



For Me! Supplies

Bible
masking tape

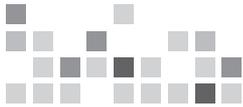
Puppy Pointers Supplies

CD player
Theo puppet
tape
Teacher Pack
CD: "Here, Theo"
(track 2)
glow-in-the-dark cross

Puppy Pointers Easy Prep

Tape the glow-in-the-dark cross to Theo's paw.





Theo: Hi, everybody!

Teacher: Hi, Theo! It's nice to see you at church today. What do you have there?

Theo: It's a cross.

Teacher: It's beautiful.

Theo: My mom and dad gave it to me as a reminder.

Teacher: A reminder of what?

Theo: Each time I look at this cross it reminds me that Christ died for us.

Teacher: That is something important to remember, Theo.

Theo: Do you think our friends would like to hear the story of how Jesus gave his life for us?

Teacher: I think they would. We'll see you later, Theo.

Encourage kids to wave or say goodbye to Theo. Then put Theo away in a safe place for next week's use.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What reminds you of Jesus?
- When you think of Jesus, what do you think about?

Say: **Crosses help us remember that ► JESUS DIED FOR US. Let's find out from the Bible why Jesus did this special thing for us.**

Bible Time: Joy and Sadness

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Cue the CD to the "Joy and Sadness" segment (track 8). Then open your Bible to Luke 19:28-40; 23:1-49, and show the children the words.

Say: **Last week we learned to help each other. Today's Bible story tells us that ► JESUS DIED FOR US.**

Provide each child with a palm branch, and ask children to hold the branches in their laps. Explain that children should listen carefully to the story on the CD and watch you to follow the actions. Play the "Joy and Sadness" segment of the CD. Follow the script below, and lead children in the actions.

Into Jerusalem Jesus came,

Riding a donkey who had no name. *(Pretend to ride a donkey.)*

The people were happy and started to sing *(Wave palm branches.)*

Hosanna and praises to Jesus, their king. *(Bend at the waist to bow.)*

They waved their palm branches *(Wave palm branches.)*

and then laid them down

Bible Time: Joy and Sadness Supplies

Bible
CD player
1 palm branch per child
Teacher Pack
CD: "Joy and Sadness"
(track 8)



So the donkey with Jesus would not touch the ground. *(Set the palm branches on the ground.)*
But then one week later the crowd became mad. *(Make an angry face.)*
They didn't love Jesus, which made Jesus sad. *(Make a sad face.)*
They wanted to hurt him and hang him on a cross. *(Make a cross with two index fingers.)*
Jesus' family and friends were sad at their loss. *(Rub your eyes as if crying.)*
But Jesus knew this was part of God's plan *(Point up to God.)*
So God could be close to each child, woman, and man. *(Hug yourself.)*
Jesus died for you and for me, *(Point to a friend and then to yourself.)*
And friends with God we now can be. *(Hug yourself.)*



Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What makes you sad about this story? What makes you happy about this story?**
- **How do you think Jesus felt when the people wanted to hurt him?**
- **How do you know that Jesus is your friend?**
- **How can we tell Jesus "thank you" for loving us so much?**

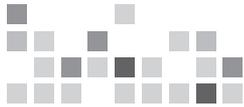
Say: **Let's wave our palm branches again to thank Jesus for loving us so much.** Have the children pick up their palm branches again, and then lead them in waving the palm branches and saying "Praise Jesus!" and "Thank you, Jesus!" and "I love you, Jesus!" Afterward, have children place their palm branches in a pile, and set aside the pile.

Say: ► **JESUS DIED FOR US so that we could be close to God. Because of what Jesus did, we can live with God in heaven someday!**

4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Choose at least two of the learning centers to help reinforce today's Bible lesson. Gather the needed materials, and put the supplies in an out-of-sight area until you're ready for them. Allow the children to choose which center they'd like to explore first. Then circulate among the children as they create and explore. Encourage them to make connections between their activities and the Bible by asking them the questions included with each center's description.





Center 1: A Cross to God Supplies

My Bible Hugs
glue sticks
8 inches of ribbon per
child
scissors

Center 1: A Cross to God Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 4 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children's names on them. Cut enough 4-inch pieces of ribbon for each child to have two. Set out glue sticks.

Center 2: Crunchy Crosses Supplies

cookie sticks
frosting
craft sticks
napkins

**! ALLERGY
ALERT**

CENTER 1:

A Cross to God

What You'll Do

Distribute the My Bible Hugs pages. Point out how far the children are from heaven and from God. Remind children that because ► **JESUS DIED FOR US** on the cross, we can be close to God. Help children make a line of glue from the children to the cross and from the cross to heaven. Then help them press a strip of ribbon over each line of glue.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- How do you feel when you're far away from someone you love? How do you feel when you're close to someone you love?
- How does our picture remind you of what Jesus did for us?
- Who can we thank for helping us get close to God?

Say: **In our picture, the children got close to God through the cross. Because ► JESUS DIED FOR US on the cross, we can be close to God. I'm so happy that we can be close to God!**

CENTER 2:

Crunchy Crosses

What You'll Do

Have the children wash their hands and then sit down to prepare their snack. Give each child a napkin and two cookie sticks. Show children how to use the craft stick to dab a little frosting on one cookie stick. Then children can stick the cookies together to form a cross. Allow each child to make several crosses to eat.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Have you ever done something for someone else that was hard? What was it?
- How does it make you feel when you think about Jesus dying for you?

Say: **Jesus died on the cross so that we could be close to God. Let's thank God that ► JESUS DIED FOR US and for providing our snack. Invite one child to pray for the snack.**



CENTER 3:

Praise Jesus!

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Set out palm branches, and encourage children to set them down as a "road" from one end of the room to the other. Then have children form two lines as if lining up on opposite sides of a road. Give each child an opportunity to walk a doll along the road while the rest of the children call out, "We love Jesus!"

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What do you like about Jesus?
- What good things has Jesus done?

Say: **Because ► JESUS DIED FOR US on the cross, we can live forever someday with God in heaven. Jesus loves us so much!**

CENTER 4:

Palm Parade

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Give each child a paper towel tube and several 1-foot lengths of green crepe paper. Show children how to tape the crepe paper to the end of the tube to make a palm branch. Let kids wave these in the air.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- How do you think Jesus felt when people were waving branches and cheering for him?
- How do you think Jesus felt when people became angry and wanted Jesus to die?

Say: **It's sad that Jesus had to die on the cross, but because ► JESUS DIED FOR US, we can be close to God!**



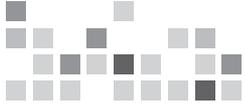
Center 3: Praise Jesus! Supplies

.....
1 palm branch per child doll

Center 4: Palm Parade Supplies

.....
1 cardboard tube per child
4 feet of green crepe paper per child
scissors
tape





Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Hugs
crayons

Action Prayer Supplies

glow-in-the-dark cross

5 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

After the children have cleaned up their centers, bring everyone back to a circle area on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they remember about what they learned from the Bible today.

Also use this time to challenge kids in their faith. Encourage them to choose a Daily Challenge for applying today's lesson to their lives this week. Use this challenge for encouraging your children's growing relationships with Jesus.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **Today we learned that ► JESUS DIED FOR US. I would like each of you to choose a way to remember Jesus this week.**

Give kids these two challenges to choose from:

- **Draw a picture of Jesus on the cross. Thank Jesus for dying for you.**
- ■ **Tell a friend about Jesus. Be sure to tell your friend that Jesus loves him or her and died for us all.**

Say: **If you want to draw a picture, circle the choice with one dot. If you want to talk to a friend, circle the choice with two dots.** Check that each child circled a choice on his or her My Bible Hugs page. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!

Action Prayer

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children sit in a circle. Turn off the lights so the cross glows. Have children pass around the cross and tell Jesus "thank you" for dying on the cross.

Help children by beginning with a prayer such as, "Dear Jesus, thank you for dying on the cross so we can be close to God." When each child who wants to pray has done so, end the prayer. Pray: **In Jesus' name, amen.**





Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their My Bible Hugs pages whether they worked on them or not. Have the children tell their parents the challenge they committed to in the “Daily Challenges” activity. Encourage the parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment during the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

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



