



Date: _____

Series: Meet the Amazing Jesus
Winter Year 3, Lesson 47

It's God's Plan - Jesus Died for You!

Primary Scripture: Matthew 26:2b, "...the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified."

Key Verse: 1 Peter 1:20, "He is the lamb who was known long ago before the world existed, but for your good he became publicly known in the last period of time."

How does this address a need in our kids' lives?

Today we will emphasize the fact that it was God's plan that Jesus was crucified. It was no accident that Jesus went to the cross. Instead, Jesus knew that it was the only way that our sins might be paid for and that we might receive forgiveness. Most children are aware that this was not fair at all. It was not fair because Jesus was perfect and suffered for *our* sins. On the other hand, God was in control. Jesus' death was part of God's plan. Even when the events of his death seemed out of control, God's plan was carried out perfectly. God's plan is a blessing to all people who trust in him and receive his love.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Jesus was very intentional when he went to the cross. He did it voluntarily and no one forced him.

Jesus in us: Jesus gives us resurrection power, even when forces assail us and life seems out of control. His presence gives us the calm assurance that God's good will always overcomes.

Jesus through us: The powerful message of the Gospel and Jesus' intentional love for us can be given to others as we witness about Jesus during the Easter season.

Stamp of Excellence:

Kids Church Year 3 - Lesson 47 - 1

Remind the kids what excellent worship looks like. We are in God's presence to honor him. Put on your best manners. This might include wearing your name tag, participating eagerly at all times, listening when the leader is talking, raising your hand to speak, not distracting others, playing the learning game with cooperation, singing enthusiastically, and praying reverently. Offer rewards or positive reinforcement to those who worship with excellence.



Worship

Invocation:

Let kids bring forward the worship symbols such as the cross, candles, Bible, and offering plate. Invite God's presence and call by name Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Attention Grabber:

Capture the children's attention and help them focus on the worship theme for the day.

Supplies needed: a sign that reads "Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest," and a sign that reads "Crucify him!" (see appendix)

Talk about Jesus' triumphant ride into Jerusalem the week before his crucifixion. Explain how surprising it was that crowds welcomed him into Jerusalem by shouting "Hosanna!" on Sunday and, within a week, people ended up shouting, "Crucify him!"

Do you think Jesus would have gone to Jerusalem if he knew that by the end of the week he would be nailed to the cross?

After soliciting answers from the kids, reassure them:

Jesus' death on the cross was God's plan. The main reason Jesus came into this world was to give his life for us. Jesus' death was no accident.

The crowds did not understand that Jesus came as part of God's plan. They welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem by singing "Hosanna!" They expected Jesus to be the great Messiah who would overthrow the Romans and set up a mighty kingdom on earth. Instead, Jesus wanted to set up a kingdom in our hearts by giving his life for us. His kingdom lasts forever!

By the end of the week, the crowds had turned against Jesus and shouted, "Crucify him!" We don't know if the same people who

shouted, “Hosanna” on Sunday shouted, “Crucify him!” five days later. Maybe some people who welcomed Jesus with hosannas on Sunday were so offended by his overturning the tables in the Temple on Monday that they now wanted him dead. Maybe others had been against Jesus all along and had been looking for a way to get rid of Jesus for some time.

Have two signs ready. One should read “Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!” The other should read, “Crucify him!” Coach the kids to respond louder the higher the signs are held. This is a good way to show the kids what it was like during the week before Jesus’ death.

As you describe Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem, hold the “Hosanna!” sign high above your head. Have kids scream and shout “Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!” As the sign is slowly lowered, the children’s voices will get softer. When the “Hosanna!” sign is to the floor, pick up the “Crucify him!” sign and hold it close to the floor. The children should now begin to whisper “Crucify him!” As this sign is slowly raised, the children’s voices will get louder.

Songs of Worship:

Choose two or three songs. Briefly introduce songs so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God!

Your choice of songs.

The Power of the Cross:

Jesus has given his life for us that we might have forgiveness and power to live for him.

Supplies needed: a box with a cross marked on its side, wrapping paper and tape (enough to gift-wrap the box), a bow, altar cross

While you lead kids in the following, take a box with a cross on the side and gift wrap it.

What do you see on the side of this box? (A cross.)

This box represents Jesus’ death. I’m going to do something that may seem a little surprising with this box. While I do that, I have a question for you.

How did it feel to yell, “Crucify him!” before?

Let kids respond.

How do you think it made Jesus feel to hear the crowd yelling, “Crucify him!” when, just a few days earlier he had heard the crowds shouting “Hosanna?”

Again let kids respond.

The people probably thought that it was their shouting that caused Jesus to be crucified. Was it? *(No.)*

Who really controlled those events that day? *(God.)*

Our sins cry out, “Guilty as charged! There must be payment!” And God says, “Yes, there must be payment. But you don’t have to pay the price for your sins. I’ll take care of that for you.” And he gave Jesus to make that payment for us. His life wasn’t *taken* from him. He gave it freely.

Finish gift-wrapping the box and place it on the altar. Then place the altar cross on it as a reminder that Jesus’ death was no accident, nor was it controlled by the Pharisees or the crowds. Rather, his death is a gift from God to us.

Lead kids in thanking Jesus for the gift of his suffering and death in our place.

Song of Response:

Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or, you may want to help them celebrate what God has done by singing a song of praise.

Offering:

Teach the importance of giving and talk about the mission activities they are supporting.

Supplies: a bed of palm branches for the children to lay their offerings on

Have the children bring their offerings forward and lay them on a bed of palm branches.

Talk about the current mission project and how these offerings will help others enter the Kingdom of God.



The Word

Learning Game:

Some churches dismiss children from the adult service at this time to join Kids Church. The learning game provides a fun kinesthetic activity to help kids connect with each other. The learning point will help reinforce the theme of the day.

Show the children how to make crosses out of palm leaves.

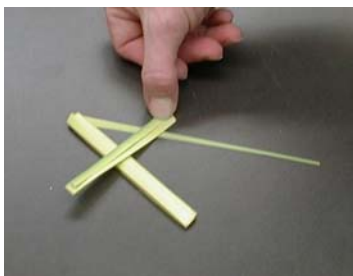
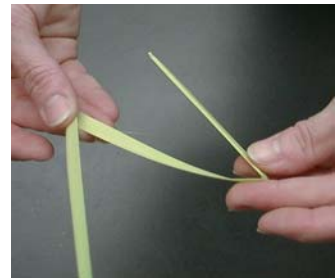
Folding the Palm Branch

1. Tear the palm branch in half.



beam of the cross. Leave approximately three inches of the branch unfolded. This will be used to connect the beams together.

2. Fold one of the halves into thirds. This will make the vertical



3. Fold the other half of the palm branch into fourths. This will make the horizontal beam of the cross.

4. Lay the horizontal beam on top of the vertical beam.

5. Wrap the excess palm branch around the center of the cross to connect the two beams together.



After demonstrating, give kids palm branches to make a cross. Discuss the following while they make their crosses.

Note how it takes special attention and careful planning to make these.

So it was with Jesus when he went to the cross. He was waiting for just the right time to die for us. He waited for Passover, a special Jewish celebration in which a sacrificial lamb was killed for the sins of the people. Jesus was that sacrificial lamb for us. It was God's plan woven together that sent Jesus for us.

Bible Presentation:

Help children pay attention by giving them a word or concept to listen for as you read. Consider letting a child read who could do so with excellence.

Supplies needed: a bandaged finger and a hammer, a bandaged knee and a skateboard, or a broken dish could be shown, the Visual Bible video: Matthew. Produced by Visual Bible International. Show Matthew 26:1—27:66.

Introduce today's Bible reading by showing a bandaged finger and a hammer. Talk about how it is an accident when someone hits his finger with a hammer. *(A bandaged knee and a skateboard or a broken dish could be shown.)*

Was it an accident that Jesus was caught up by evil men, tried, and unjustly put to death? No, it wasn't. It was God's plan.

Read 1 Peter 1:20:

“He is the lamb who was known long ago before the world existed, but for your good he became publicly known in the last period of time.”

Show the video portion covering Matthew 26:1-27:66. As you introduce the video, invite the children to look for ways that Jesus knew he was going to give his life for us.

Application:

After viewing the video, ask kids what things they saw that indicated Jesus knew he was going to give his life for us.



Witness

Witness and Tell:

Give children opportunities to share how God is working in their lives. It is best to use a microphone to ask children interview questions around the theme for the day.

Prayer:

Let the kids pray out loud. If you are using a microphone, invite children to form a prayer line and speak their thanksgivings or requests. If you have portable microphones, you can roam the audience. Kids can also go to prayer stations set up for specific types of prayer.

If you have never really realized before that Jesus gave his life for YOU, as a gift to YOU, place your trust in Jesus today.

Invite the kids to repeat the following prayer.

Dear Lord Jesus // I thank you // that you came into this world // to give your life for me. // Thank you for loving me that much. // I need the forgiveness // that you paid for by going to the cross. // Even if I were the only person // in the whole world who needed forgiveness, // you loved me enough // to die just for me. // Thank you for doing it. // Now live in me //and help me always to live for you. Amen.

Blessing:

Speak a blessing prayer over the children. Personalize this to your setting. Use a special scripture verse or blessing around the theme of the day.

Song of Sending:

Choose one song. Briefly introduce song so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God.

Supplies

Attention Grabber:

- a sign that reads “Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!”
- a sign that reads “Crucify him!”

Power of the Cross:

- a box with a cross marked on its side
- wrapping paper and tape (enough to gift-wrap the box)
- a bow
- altar cross

Offering:

- a bed of palm branches for the children to lay their offerings on

Bible Presentation:

- a bandaged finger and a hammer, a bandaged knee and a skateboard, or a broken dish could be shown
- the *Visual Bible: Matthew* video, produced by Visual Bible International. May be ordered from:
http://www.christianbook.com/Christian/Books/product?item_no=10015X&netp_id=248432&event=ESRCN&item_code=WW . Show Matthew 26:1—27:66.

Safety and Security: Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.

Hosanna!

Hosanna

in the

highest!

**Crucify
Him**