



Date: _____

Series: Jesus Died and Rose for Me
Winter Year 2, Lesson 47

Jesus Dies and Is Buried

Bible Event: Matthew 27:45-61

Take Home Point: *JESUS DIED FOR ME – *I will live for Jesus!*

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson. The leader will say the first part of the phrase (CAPS). The children respond with the second part of the phrase (*italics*).

Jesus Link: Jesus died on the cross so we can be forgiven and live for him.

What kids will learn about God in this worship experience:

- Jesus died on the cross to take all our punishment that God had against us. Because of Jesus' death on the cross, we are forgiven. Jesus knew he came to forgive our sins but he still felt lonely on the cross until it was finished. Kids will take home the point: ***JESUS DIED FOR ME – *I will live for Jesus!***
- Children will respond to God's love as they pray to him, thanking him for loving them and giving them Jesus. They will offer him their songs of worship, their offerings, and their actions of love as they actively learn God's word.



Welcome Zone: (15-20 minutes)

Purpose: While kids arrive, give them a simple learning readiness activity that requires minimal supervision. This might include a video, games, blocks, or puzzles.

Video Suggestion: Choose a video and list it here.

Activity Suggestion: Blocks, toys, puzzles, paper and crayons.



Opening Worship: (10-15 minutes)

Children can bring forward the cross, candles, Bible, offering plate, and treasure box. The treasure box contains the props used to tell or dramatize the Bible event. Open with a simple prayer, having the children repeat after you. Collect offering and talk about how God will use it.

Praise Songs:

Choose two or three songs and list them here.

Bible Event: Create a special worship service similar to a Tenebrae Service. Service of Shadows will be done in the dark to represent a dark time when Jesus carried our sins.

Set up:

- seven purple candles
- one larger white candle
- cross
- palm branches (optional)

The candles and cross will be set up on the altar with the cross in the middle, the white candle near the cross and the rest of the candles on each side of the cross and white candle. Make a line or path up to the altar with the palm branches. Light the candles and dim the lights. The verses below are from the King James Version.

Then say:

Last week you learned that Jesus was arrested and some religious people wanted him to die on a cross. The religious people got their way and this is how it happened.

Many people were saying mean things to Jesus. They shouted for Jesus be put on the cross to die. Jesus said, **“Father forgive them; for they know not what they do.”** Put out one purple candle.

Jesus saw his mother standing with one of his disciples named John. Jesus wanted his mother to be taken care of when he died. Jesus said to his mother, Mary, **“Woman behold your son.”** And he said to his disciple, **“Behold, your mother.”** From then on John treated Mary like a mother and Mary treated John like a son. Put out one purple candle.

A man who was guilty of breaking the law was on a cross next to Jesus. He knew Jesus had done nothing wrong or broken any rules. The criminal was sorry for his mistakes and asked Jesus to remember him when Jesus went to heaven. Jesus said to him, **“Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”** Put out another purple candle.

Jesus felt all alone and wanted to feel close to his Heavenly Father again so he cried, **“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me.”** Put out another purple candle.

Jesus knew that it was now finished and said, **“I thirst.”** The soldiers lifted a sponge soaked in vinegar to his lips. Put out another purple candle.

Now Jesus was truly finished doing all his Father had asked so our sins would be forgiven. Jesus said, **“It is finished.”** Put out another purple candle.

“Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit.” After he said this, he breathed his last breath. Put out another purple candle. Carry out the big white candle to another room or hallway.

Now we are reminded that Jesus was placed in a tomb with a big stone rolled over the front as a door that made it completely dark inside. Make a sound for the stone rolling away like a book slamming.

BUT God had other plans. Jesus was the winner over death! The big stone was rolled back and the tomb was opened! Bring white candle back in.

Did Jesus stay dead? NO! I can’t wait to tell you the rest of the story next week. Remember ***JESUS DIED FOR ME – I will live for Jesus!**



Action Zones: (20-30 minutes)

Purpose: Children move at their leisure to the activities according to their interest. Adults are assigned to oversee each of the zones, watching for safety, assisting any activity, and helping the children connect to the lesson of the day. All zones are introduced at the beginning of Zone Time. Some suggested zones are included below. It is usually best to have all children go to the Snack Zone first. Sing a blessing song or say a snack prayer together before dismissing to the zones.

During the Zone Time, children may arrive from mid-service dismissal. If this is an option at your church, be prepared to welcome the children and invite them to choose a zone.

Snack Zone: Provide graham crackers or brownies. Place on paper or pan for easy clean up. Frost approximately 6-9 brownies or graham crackers. Put the frosted pieces in the shape of a cross. Fill in around the cross with unfrosted brownies or crackers until the entire piece is the shape of a rectangle. Sprinkle the frosted pieces with sprinkles or graham cracker crumbs. This will allow the cross to visually stick out or be a little raised. We can trust Jesus. He died on the cross to take away our sins and now lives in my heart. He can live in yours if you place your trust in him.

Drama Zone: Provide costumes and let the children reenact the scene.

Video Zone: Show “He is Risen” by Nest Entertainment Order from www.nestfamily.com or “Miracle Maker” by Word Entertainment, Inc. Order from www.christiancinema.com or www.amazon.com.

Puppet Zone: Let the children use puppets to reenact the last seven phrases.

Felt Zone: Use felt board materials to show the story of Jesus’ death from today’s Bible event. (For example, use Lesson #151, “The Crucifixion,” from *Betty Lukens Through the Bible in Felt*.)

Craft Zone: Provide precut crosses (card stock). Also, provide torn pieces of brown paper. You can use brown paper bags or brown construction paper that have already been torn ahead of time. Have children glue torn pieces of brown paper bag on the cross. Also, place pre-printed label on cross. Label will have the take home printed on it “Jesus Died for Me – I will live for Jesus.”

Play Zone: Make an obstacle course out of strips of paper bags or palm branches. Tape a cross to the floor to mark the end of the obstacle course. The children try to stay on the obstacle course until they end up at the cross. If they step off the bags or branches, they will go back to the beginning of the course and try again.

Quiet Reading Zone: Basket of books. Include any that feature the story of the crucifixion.

Music Zone: Your choice of music.

Coloring Zone: “Jesus Dies and is Buried”

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.



Closing Worship: (20 minutes)

Purpose: As you empty the zones and clean up, begin the music so the children can start wandering over.

Worship Songs:

Choose one or two songs and list them here.

Bible Application with Puppet Presentation:

Purpose: The puppet demonstrates the need that will be met in today's lesson. The scripts are not written verbatim, but give a story line in which the group leader can interact with the puppet.

Bubba comes onstage looking very sad. The large group presenter wants to know why Bubba is feeling so sad today. Bubba tells him that his friend left and didn't want to play with him anymore. All the other boys and girls left with his friend and Bubba was alone. Bubba even asked if he could go and play with them as they left but they just ignored him. The large group presenter asks Bubba how that made him feel. Bubba said he felt lonely. Bubba tells the large group presenter that he even asked if he did something wrong he didn't know of. The large group presenter tells Bubba he understands how bad loneliness feels. But asks Bubba to remember Jesus will always be his friend and will never leave or forsake him. This reminds him of the time Jesus felt alone. Jesus did nothing wrong either. His friends left him. Peter left him. Jesus felt alone on the cross. He even felt like God had left him. Jesus felt the punishment. God placed all our sin on him. Do you know why he had to die on the cross? So that we can be forgiven, so we can live for him and live with him. Remember: ***JESUS DIED FOR ME – I will live for Jesus!**

Prayer Time:

Purpose: Allow children to contribute their own prayers. This will teach them to turn to God in both good times and in times of trouble. End with the Lord's Prayer.

"Children Pray" Options: (select one from the options below)

_____ **Prayer Train Option:** Children line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone and speak their brief prayers of thanksgiving.

_____ **Prayer Chair:** Children stand in a circle around one child sitting on a chair in the middle. All children in the circle will lay a hand on the child sitting in the chair as they say a prayer together.

_____ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and taps children on the head to stand and speak their prayer.

Lord's Prayer: Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire Prayer along with you.

Blessing:

May God, who is all around you,
pour his love upon you.

(Beginning at the bottom of the circle, slowly make a large circle with your hands. Finish by bringing your hands down and wiggling your fingers to resemble rain.)

And Jesus, his life a sacrifice,
walk right there beside you.

(Slowly make a large sign of the cross. Then move your hands out to the sides.)

And may God's Holy Spirit,
the one who lives inside you,

(Cross hands over the heart.)

keep you strong,
comfort, lead and guide you!

(Move to a "strong man" position. Then cross your arms with the hands on corresponding upper arms to communicate comfort. Bring one hand forward with "lead" and the other with "guide" to complete the blessing.)

Song of Sending:

Choose one song and list it here.



Closing Zones:

Purpose: Children go to an activity zone such as the coloring zone, quiet reading zone, and children's Christian music video zone, as they wait for their parents.

Supplies:

Welcome Zone:

- blocks, toys, puzzles, paper and crayons

Opening Worship:

- cross, candles, Bible, offering plate, and treasure box—the treasure box contains the props used to tell or dramatize the Bible Event
- seven purple candles
- one white candle (*larger than the purple candles*)
- cross
- palm branches or paper sacks
- object to make noise of stone rolling away

Action Zones:

Snack:

- graham crackers or brownies
- frosting
- pastel or light colored sprinkles
- graham cracker crumbs
- butter knife or plastic knives
- paper to cover area
- plates and napkins
- water or Juice
- cups

Drama:

- costumes

Craft:

- card stock (4" x 6") with cross
- *option:* die-cut crosses
- torn pieces of brown paper (*paper sacks or construction paper*)
- glue
- label: "Jesus Died for Me – I will live for Jesus"

Play:

- palm branches or paper sacks
- cross
- tape

Quiet Reading:

- pillows
- basket of books

Video:

- "He is Risen" by Nest Entertainment (order from www.nestfamily.com) or "Miracle Maker" by Word Entertainment, Inc. (order from www.visionvideo.com or www.christiancinema.com)

Music:

- songs of choice

Puppet:

- assorted puppets

Felt:

- “The Crucifixion” materials (example, use Lesson #151, “The Crucifixion,” from *Betty Lukens Through the Bible in Felt*)

Coloring page:

- “Jesus Dies and is Buried”

Closing Worship:

- Bubba, the puppet

Closing Zones:

- colored pencils
- paper
- basket of books

