



Date: _____

Series: Jesus Goes to the Cross
Winter Year 1, Lesson 47

Jesus Died on the Cross

Take Home Point: *Jesus died for us.

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson. Leaders say the phrase and the children repeat it.

Bible Event: Matthew 27:11-56

We will help children know:

- Jesus died for us.
- He paid the price for all the wrong things we've done.
- Everyone needs Jesus because everyone has done something wrong.




We will help children feel:

- Even though Jesus died, we can be happy because he is alive again.
- Secure in knowing that Jesus is always with us.

We will help children do:

- Watch a puppet presentation that introduces the Bible Event.
- Participate in acting out the Bible Event.
- Eat a snack that reminds us of the cross.
- Decorate a cross picture.
- Play a game called *Alive or Not Alive?*
- Take home a copy of *God Talk at Home* to reinforce the learning of today's
Take Home Point: ***Jesus died for us.**

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Warm-Up (10 minutes)	3	Transition Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • your choice of toys
Large Group Opening (5-10 minutes) 	3	Puppet Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Judy puppet • cross necklace
Small Group Application (10 minutes—each activity) 	6 8 9 10	Activity 1: Bible Event Activity 2: Snack Activity 3: Craft Activity 4: Game	<i>Activity 1: Bible Event</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • children's picture Bible <i>Activity 2: Snack</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • straight stick pretzels • large marshmallows • napkins, cups and water <i>Activity 3: Craft</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • copies of Appendix A, one per child • crayons or washable markers • variety of small pieces to glue on craft—colorful paper, ribbons, stickers, pieces of ribbon, etc. <i>Activity 4: Game</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • none
Large Group Wrap-Up (5-10 minutes) 	12	Review the Take Home Point Pray Sing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • your choice of music • craft example from Activity 3

Warm-Up (Prior to class and first 10 minutes of the session.)

Young children this age need a time to get acquainted with the new surroundings as they enter the classroom. Provide a variety of calm activities and toys, such as blocks, play centers and simple puzzles. These activities create an environment that helps young children let go of Mom and Dad. If necessary, Mom and Dad may play with them for a few minutes and then leave.

Large Group Opening (5-10 minutes)



Purpose: The opening puppet presentation will be an attention grabber that helps gather the children. This is not an extensive presentation but a quick overview introducing the Bible Event and the Take Home Point. Early childhood humor is also used. Bubba often says something silly about elephants. Judy says something silly about pink ponies. Let the children enjoy the "joke" but use it to call attention to the Bible Event.

Puppet Presentation:

Judy Learns the Story of the Cross

Supplies: Judy puppet, cross necklace on Judy

Presenter: Boys and girls, let's call for Judy.

Kids call Judy. **Judy... Judy... Judy.** Judy appears wearing a cross.

Judy: Hi, boys and girls. Hey, look what I have around my neck.

Presenter: Oh, I see. It is beautiful.

Judy: Do you know what it is?

Presenter: I think so. Boys and girls, do you know? Pause. Yes, it is a cross.

Judy: Yes, my daddy gave it to me. He told me I could wear it to church today. It is very special to me.

Presenter: Do you know what makes it special?

Judy: Because my daddy gave it to me?

Presenter: That, too. But there is a story about the cross. Let me tell you about it. It begins with Jesus.

Judy: I know about Jesus. He's God's Son.

Presenter: Right, Judy. God sent him to live with us and show us God's love.

Judy: How did he do that?

Presenter: The greatest way is that he died on the cross.

Judy: What do you mean?

Presenter: That little cross you are wearing reminds us of a big cross—bigger than a person. Jesus said that he would die on that cross for all the people of the world.

Judy: Why?

Presenter: Because every person has done something wrong. Jesus took away all the bad things people have ever done when he died on the cross.

Judy: That's sad that he died.

Presenter: It was sad, but people didn't stay sad very long. Guess what happened?

Judy: What?

Presenter: Jesus did not stay dead. He became alive again.

Judy: How?

Presenter: After Jesus died, they put him in a tomb, or cave. Three days later they went back and it was empty. Pause dramatically. He wasn't in the tomb. Jesus was alive... and he's alive still today—even if we don't see him. That is the story of the cross.

Judy: Is that the story of my cross?

Presenter: It sure is. Every time you look at a cross, Judy, you can remember Jesus died for you. But he's not dead—he's alive and with us wherever we go.

Boys and girls, let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you and the children repeat after me. *Jesus died for us. Jesus died for us.

Judy, would you like to help us sing our song?

Judy: Sure, I love to sing.

Song: to the tune of *Farmer in the Dell*

Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

J**E**sus D**I**ED for U**S**.
J**E**sus D**I**ED for U**S**.
J**E**sus D**I**ED but I**S** a**L**IVE.
J**E**sus D**I**ED for U**S**.

Let's fold our hands and say a prayer. Repeat after me.

Dear God, Dear God,
We love you. We love you.
You gave us Jesus. You gave us Jesus.
Jesus died. Jesus died.
Now he's alive. Now he's alive.
Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.
In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.
Amen. Amen.

Small Group Application (30-40 minutes)



Purpose: Young children learn best by repetition. Review the Bible Event and practice the Take Home Point as you rotate through the activities.

The shepherd to child ratio for two-year-olds should be one to five or fewer. Divide into groups of five with one shepherd or have a slightly larger group with two shepherds.

Groups rotate from activity to activity. Another option, especially for larger churches, is to provide a leader at each activity table with a shepherd leading a group of ten. The ratio will be maintained at one to five.

Activity 1: Bible Event

Supplies: Children's picture Bible

Part One: Read the Bible Event

Read about Jesus' death on the cross.

Part Two: Act Out the Bible Event

Supplies: Children's' Picture Bible

Hold up a children's picture Bible.

This is the Bible. It is God's word. Let's act out what it says in the Bible. When you see me do the actions, you do them too.

The enemy soldiers take Jesus away.

- Jesus knew it was time to die. The enemy soldiers were looking for Jesus. He was praying in a garden. Let's fold our hands like we are praying.
- Judas was one of Jesus' followers. The enemy soldiers paid him money to show them where Jesus was praying in the garden. The soldiers came up to Jesus and grabbed him. They said, "We've got you now." Then they lead Jesus away to their church leaders. Let's grab each other's hands and walk around the room.
- The church leaders did not like Jesus at all. They wanted to kill Jesus. Let's show a shocked face by putting our hands on our cheeks.

The soldiers are mean to Jesus.

- The soldiers brought Jesus to their church leaders. The church leaders did not believe that Jesus was the Son of God and were very mean to him. Show me your mean face.

- They decided that Jesus should die since he said that he was God's Son. They said, "Take him away and put him to death." Point to where they are taking Jesus away.
- They hurt Jesus and gave him a very big, heavy cross to carry. He carried the cross through the city streets until they finally came to a hill. Then they put Jesus on the cross and left him there to die. His arms were stretched out like this. Stretch your arms out like Jesus did.
- Many people were watching this. They were very sad. They did not understand how something so terrible could happen to God's Son Jesus. It was a sad time for Jesus' followers. Show me a sad face.

Jesus dies on the cross.

- When Jesus was on the cross, he said, "Father forgive these people for all the mean things they do." Jesus knew he was being punished for all the wrong things anyone did or will do. Then Jesus died. They took him down off the cross and carried his body to a cave. It was where they would bury him.
- After Jesus was put in the cave, the people rolled a big rock in front of the cave. They thought that was the last time they would ever see Jesus. Let's pretend we are rolling a large rock in front of the cave.

Jesus is alive.

- Jesus stayed in the cave for three days. Let's count to three...one...two...three.
- Then some ladies came to visit the place where he was buried. Guess what they saw? The big rock was rolled away! When they looked inside the cave, they saw Jesus was not there. An angel told them that Jesus was alive. Show me your surprised face.
- Later, they found out that what the angel said was true. Jesus is alive!

Part Three: Pray, Sing and Review the Take Home Point

Prayer:

Let's fold our hands and say a prayer. Repeat after me.

Dear God, Dear God,

We love you. We love you.

You gave us Jesus. You gave us Jesus.

Jesus died. Jesus died.

Now he's alive. Now he's alive.

Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.
Amen. Amen.

Song: to the tune of *Farmer in the Dell*

Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

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J**E**sus D**I**ED for U**S**.

Take Home Point:

Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me:
Jesus died for us. Jesus died for us.

Activity 2: Snack

Supplies: straight pretzel sticks, large marshmallows, napkins, cups and water

Boys and girls, today we are going to eat a snack that reminds us of a cross. First, let's fold our hands and pray before we eat our snack:

Dear God, Dear God,
We love you. We love you.
You gave us Jesus. You gave us Jesus.
Jesus died. Jesus died.
Now he's alive. Now he's alive.
Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.
In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.
Amen. Amen.

Before children sit down, put four pretzels in a marshmallow to form a cross. Pass out a napkin and cup of water to each child.

See what I have in my hand? Show them the pretzel cross. **What do you think this looks like? That's right, a cross. Today's Bible Event tells us about Jesus dying on the cross. But is he alive now? Yes.**

Pass out four pretzels and one marshmallow to each child.

I am going to give you some pretzels and a marshmallow so you can make a cross, too.

After you make your cross, you may eat it. Remember to say, "please," if you want more.

Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me. Jesus died for us. Jesus died for us.

Song: to the tune of *Farmer in the Dell*

Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

JESus DIED for US.
JESus DIED for US.
JESus DIED but IS aLIVE.
JESus DIED for US.

Activity 3: Craft

Supplies:

- copies of Appendix A, one per child
- colors or washable markers
- variety of things to glue on picture—small colored pieces of paper, stickers, pieces of ribbon
- white glue

Boys and girls, today we will decorate a cross to remind us that Jesus died on the cross for us. You can color it any way you want and then you can glue things on it.

Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me. Jesus died for us. Jesus died for us.

Song: to the tune of *Farmer in the Dell*

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Let's pray now. Fold your hands and repeat after me:

Dear God, Dear God,
We love you. We love you.
You gave us Jesus. You gave us Jesus.
Jesus died. Jesus died.
Now he's alive. Now he's alive.
Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.
In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.
Amen. Amen.

Activity 4: Learning Game

Supplies: none

Boys and girls, today we are going to play a game called *Alive or Not Alive?* I will ask you a question, then you can answer me.

1. Is a puppy alive or not alive? That's right, it's alive. Let's bark like a puppy.
2. Is a rock alive or not alive? That's right, it's not alive. Let's make ourselves all small and round like a rock.
3. Is a butterfly alive or not alive? That's right, it's alive. Let's flap our wings and fly.
4. Is a shoe alive or not alive? That's right, it's not alive. Show me how you can dance in your shoes.
5. Is a frog alive or not alive? That's right, it's alive. Show me how you can hop like a frog.
6. Is a computer alive or not alive? That's right, it's not alive. Show me how you can press all the buttons on a computer.
7. Is a cow alive or not alive? That's right, it's alive. Let's moo like a cow.
8. Is a spoon alive or not alive? That's right, it's not alive. Show me how you would eat with a spoon.
9. Is a cookie alive or not alive? That's right, it's not alive. Show me how you would eat a cookie.
10. Is Jesus alive or not alive? That's right, he is alive. Let's say, "Jesus died, but now is alive."

Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me. Jesus died for us. Jesus died for us.

Song: to the tune of *Farmer in the Dell*

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In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.

Amen. Amen.

Large Group Wrap-Up (5-10 minutes)



Lesson Review:

Presenter shows the craft and compliments the children for doing a wonderful job. He/she reviews the Take Home Point: ***Jesus died for us.**

Lesson Prayer:

Let's fold our hands and pray. Repeat after me.

Dear God, Dear God,
We love you. We love you.
You gave us Jesus. You gave us Jesus.
Jesus died. Jesus died.
Now he's alive. Now he's alive.
Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.
In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.
Amen. Amen.

Lesson Song:

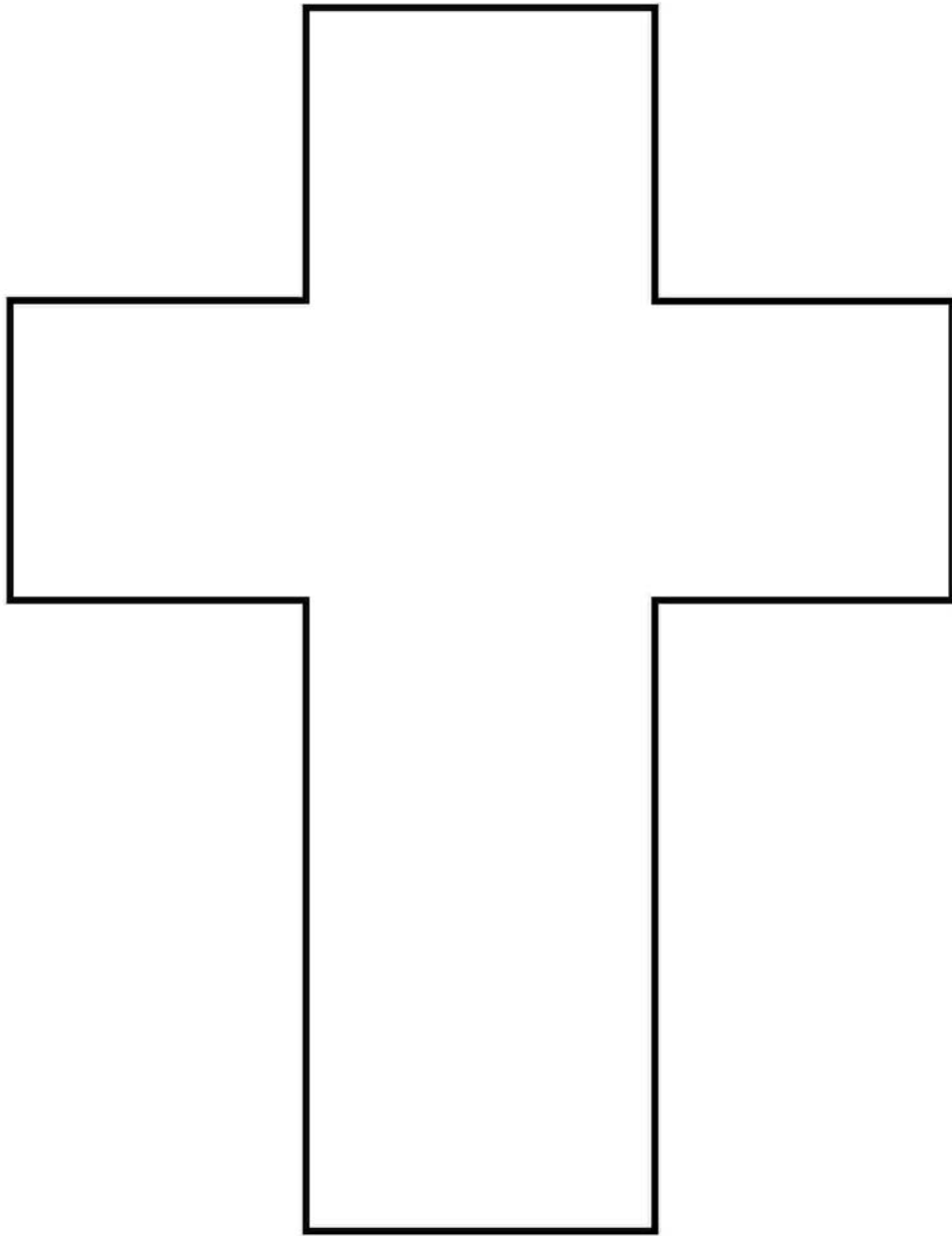
Song: to the tune of *Farmer in the Dell*

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Lead them in three songs on a tape or CD until parents begin arriving. Let parents know that they are welcome to join in. Dismiss by handing out the God Talk at Home.

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