



Date: _____
Series: Jesus Is the King
Winter Year 1, Lesson 47

The King of Sacrifice

Take Home Point: *Jesus traded places with us to win us eternal life. *Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: Matthew 27:11-50

Key Verse: 2 Corinthians 5:21: "God had Christ, who was sinless, take our sin so that we might receive God's approval through him."

We will help kids know:

- The physical pain Jesus suffered for us.
- The spiritual pain Jesus suffered for us.
- Jesus traded places for us to earn the Father's approval.

We will help kids feel:

- Remorseful for all their sins that cost Jesus so much for him to pay the price.
- Forgiven!

We will help kids do:

- Pray and ask God for forgiveness for those sins that nailed Jesus to the cross.
- Pray and make a commitment to share the wonderful news of Jesus dying for all with their unsaved friends.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
<p>Small Group Warm-Up</p> 	4-5	<p>Play a trading game much like the game show, "Let's Make a Deal." Each kid starts with a piece of candy. Each will have a chance to trade it for something else that might be better or that might be worse. Some may end up trading something good for something bad.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • visor for each shepherd • clear plastic bag filled with a lot of penny candy, a few candy bars, and a small rock for each child in the group • four envelopes numbered 1-4 with trading coupons inside for each child. (Appendix) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Envelope 1: Coupons read "Exchange for two pieces of penny candy." ▪ Envelope 2: Coupons read "Exchange for three pieces of penny candy." ▪ Envelope 3: Coupons read "Exchange for four pieces of penny candy." ▪ Envelope 4: Coupons read "Exchange for a rock."
<p>Large Group</p> 	<p>5-6</p> <p>9-10</p> <p>10</p> <p>10-12</p> <p>12</p>	<p>Overview</p> <p>Puppet Presentation: "Reporter Gordy and Eyewitness News: The King of Sacrifice"</p> <p>Video: <i>The Visual Bible: Matthew 27:11-50</i></p> <p>Optional Activity: "Eyewitness Special Report"</p> <p>Puppet Presentation Conclusion: "Reporter Gordy and Eyewitness News: The King of Sacrifice"</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gordy dressed as a news reporter (possibly with glasses and a tie) • news desk with a sign on the front that reads, "Passover Week 30 A.D." • banner that reads, "News Center K-I-N-G" • video, <i>The Visual Bible: Matthew</i> (Visual International and Visual Entertainment, Inc., 1997) cued to Matthew 27:11-50 www.christianbook.com or <i>The Animated Stories from the New Testament: He Is Risen</i> (Nest Masters, Inc., 1988) <p><i>For optional activity:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reporter (could be the large group presenter or an actor) • video camera • TV or imager • cord to connect the video camera and imager • microphone

<p>Small Group Application</p> 	<p>6-8</p>	<p>Instead of asking questions, kids are given a time to reflect on the trade Jesus made for them.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• one free-standing candle for each group• one candle for each shepherd to read by• additional candles may be needed if the room is still too dark with the above candles• matches
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Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



Purpose: *Get pointed in the right direction!* Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

Wear a visor and pretend to be a card dealer. You will be making deals with the kids much like the game show, “Let’s Make a Deal.” Have one plastic bag filled with lots of penny candy, a couple candy bars, and some small rocks visible for the kids to see. (Disclaimer: The candy bars will not be passed out but are used only to entice the kids to keep trading.)

You will also have four envelopes with trading coupons inside. The envelopes will be numbered one through four and include coupons that say the following (Appendix).

Envelope 1: “Exchange for two pieces of penny candy.”

Envelope 2: “Exchange for three pieces of penny candy.”

Envelope 3: “Exchange for four pieces of penny candy.”

Envelope 4: “Exchange for a rock.”

Begin by saying:

Today we are going to play a trading game much like the game show, “Let’s Make a Deal.” How many of you have seen this show before?

If there are any kids who have not seen the show explain how the game show works. People bid on a prize. If they win, they make the choice to keep the prize or trade it for another prize hidden behind a door. Sometimes the prize is a great one, sometimes it is a dud. It is a risk to trade something known for the unknown.

I will start by giving each of you a piece of candy. You will have a chance to trade it for something else that might be better or that might be worse. That’s the chance you will have to take. Once you trade, you can’t get your original piece back.

Hand each child a piece of penny candy. Then say:

You can keep your piece of candy or you can trade it in for what I have in this envelope. Who wants to trade? If you want to trade, place your candy in front of you.

For those that have laid their candy down, take the coupons from envelope one and lay them face down in front of the kids as you pick up their candy. Then have them turn over the coupons at the same time to read what they say. Then continue.

I will give you two pieces of candy, or you can trade your coupon for what I have in envelope two. If you want the candy, hand me your coupon. If you want to trade, lay your coupon down in front of you.

Make sure the kids see the candy bars in the clear bag but do not hand them out. Exchange the coupons for either the candy or for a coupon from Envelope 2 also laid face down in front of them. Again, have them at the same time turn their coupon over and read.

Repeat in the same manner for envelopes three and four. Some kids may have dropped out by now, but the brave ones will continue.

When you get to envelope four and the kids read the coupon that reads “exchange for a rock,” say:

How unfair! You didn’t deserve that! That didn’t seem like a fair trade at all. You traded something good for something bad. It didn’t make you feel that great—did it?

Hand each a rock and say:

Today we will see how Jesus traded something good for us, only he did it on purpose. He knew he was going to trade for something bad but he still did it anyway. Jesus traded his life and took the punishment of hell. Because he did this, he paid for our punishment and in exchange gives us salvation. Today we will learn that **Jesus traded places with us to win us eternal life.*

Note: *If some kids get upset about not receiving a piece of candy, exchange a piece of candy for the rock and explain that Jesus gives us grace. Grace is getting something we do not deserve. Explain that you are showing the kids grace by giving them candy that they did not deserve but you want to give it to them anyway. Mercy is **not** getting something we **do** deserve. Mercy will be explained later in the lesson.*

Large Group: 20-30 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible Event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

Overview

Puppet Presentation: “Reporter Gordy and Eyewitness News: The King of Sacrifice”--- Gordy is very upset that he lost his candy in a trade for a rock.

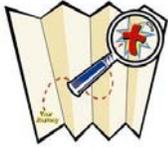
Video: *The Visual Bible: Matthew 27:11-50*

Preview this video section to determine if it is too graphic for your choice. If you would like a substitute, use the video Animated Stories from the New Testament: He Is Risen.

Optional Activity: “Eyewitness Special Report”

Puppet Presentation Conclusion: “Reporter Gordy and Eyewitness News: The King of Sacrifice”---Gordy learns about the unfair trade of all time. Jesus Christ, the sinless one, takes upon himself the punishment for our sins, which is death on a cross.

Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion, but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.

Instead of asking observation questions, give the kids a time to reflect on the trade Jesus made for them. Seat everyone on the floor close together. Have one child light a candle in the middle of the group. Hold a second lit candle to read by. (If the room is too dark even with that, use more candles.)

Tell the Bible event to the kids in a very moving way, reading it from the following script. The script includes reflection questions for kids' applications. Explain to the kids your expectation for them to be especially respectful and quiet during this meditative exercise.

“Jesus’ Death and Burial”

Outside the city of Jerusalem was a place called Calvary. That was where Jesus was crucified. The soldiers gave Jesus his heavy cross to carry. Many people stood by to watch along the way. Some were there because they were friends and were so very sad, and some were there because they just wanted to see what was happening.

Jesus was so weak because of what he had been through that he fell along the way. He just couldn't get back up. So the soldiers asked a man named Simon to carry the cross the rest of the way.

Do you think Simon was glad for the chance to carry Jesus' cross? What would you have done if you were Simon? Even though we might be *willing* to help Jesus carry his cross, think about this. Jesus was carrying *our* cross of punishment—what *we* deserved! How does that make you feel?

The enemies of Jesus nailed his hands and feet to the cross. Then they set the cross up between two other crosses bearing robbers who were also being crucified. The soldiers left them there to die.

The people called Jesus names, making fun of him. They said that if he was really the Son of God, he could save himself. Think how alone Jesus must have felt. But Jesus felt much love, so very much love for us. Love is what kept Jesus hanging on the cross for us.

Do you think Jesus could have come down from the cross by his power? Why did he choose not to? What would you have said to him if you were there?

To die on the cross was a horribly painful way to die. Think of the most horrible pain you have ever had and then know that it was a whole lot worse. Jesus traded his rights as a King to die for each of us on that cross. For six long hours Jesus hung on that cross for you and for me. He prayed to the Father to forgive the people because they did not know what they were doing.

Can you think of someone right now that you haven't forgiven? Ask God to help you forgive that person.

Give the kids a moment of quiet.

Jesus never stopped looking for ways to help people become friends with God. He knew that people simply needed to trust in him as their Savior. Even on the cross, he brought one of the robbers to faith.

Do you know someone who doesn't know what Jesus has done for them so they can be friends with God? Pray for that person right now. Ask God to give you a way to show them how they can be friends with God through trusting in Jesus.

Give them a quiet moment to pray.

Jesus loved his mother so much and never stopped taking care of her, even when he was in so much pain. He asked John to take care of his mother after he was gone. Ask God to forgive you for the times you have not loved your father and mother as you should. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you be like Jesus.

Again, give the kids a moment of quiet.

When darkness came over the land, Jesus cried out in a very loud voice, "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?"

Close your eyes and imagine yourself in a very dark room that your dad has put you in. As he leaves you he says, "I can't have anything to do with your sin." Would you feel alone? Would you wonder if anyone cared? Jesus felt very alone because all of our sins had separated him from the Father. And yet, he still hung there and died

for us because he loved us. He traded with us. He took our loneliness and gave us his love.

At three o'clock, it was totally dark and Jesus shouted out in victory. He said, "It is finished." Then he said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." Then Jesus died.

Close your eyes and imagine this. Think how much God hates sin. Think how perfect he is. Can you see him smash sin for you? Think how much he wants to love us and cleanse us. If you were the only one who had sinned, Jesus still would have died for you.

Now open your eyes. Look at the center flame. When Jesus died he said, "It is finished."

Blow out the candle in the middle. Just as the smoke rises, immediately hold the flame from the other candle in your hand an inch above the wick in the path of the smoke. The flame from your candle will jump down to the smoldering wick and relight it.

Jesus died, but Easter is just around the corner. On Easter, we remember that Jesus is risen from the dead and the light shines brighter. We know that when we trust in him we, too, will live forever with him.

Closing Prayer:

Spend time praying for individual needs. Especially emphasize thanking ***Jesus for trading places with us to win for us eternal life.** You might want to try whispering your prayers. Whispering the Lord's Prayer together is very effective.

After prayer say:

Remember our key verse, 2 Corinthians 5:21: "God had Christ, who was sinless, take our sin so that we might receive God's approval through him." Let's learn those words together.

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“Reporter Gordy and Eyewitness News: The King of Sacrifice”

Puppet Presentation

Gordy: *(Speaking with urgency.)* Quick! Let’s roll it. I have a late breaking story that I must report. Cameras ready? Okay. Action in 3-2-1.

Hello, this is News Anchor Gordy reporting for K-I-N-G Eyewitness News. The latest fast-breaking news is quite serious indeed. It seems that kids in churches across the country are getting ripped off.

Mr. King: Wait a minute, Gordy. That’s not today’s top story!

Gordy: Well, it is now. This is very serious! It seems that kids traded their candy to their shepherd and ended up with a rock instead.

Mr. King: Ouch! That does sound serious.

Gordy: Of course it’s serious. Otherwise, Reporter Gordy wouldn’t be reporting it. And besides, I lost all my candy for a stupid old rock! What a lousy trade!

Mr. King: So you are one of the kids that lost out on this trade?

Gordy: Yes. But right now I’m just doing my job as a reporter. It’s not fair I tell you. Not fair!

Mr. King: But, Gordy, we have a different trade we are reporting today.

Gordy: I bet it’s not fair either.

Mr. King: You’re right. It’s not fair either.

Gordy: *(Sharp tone and frustrated.)* I knew it! I hate getting ripped off! Well, this is one news reporter that is going to get the truth out. And when I do...

Mr. King: Wait a minute, Mr. News Reporter. In today’s story you are not getting ripped off. You’re getting the best end of the deal. Someone is making a trade for you. He is getting punished in your place.

Gordy: Who is getting punished in my place?

Mr. King: Jesus. Let’s go live 30 A.D., to Jerusalem for the rest of the story.

Gordy: Hold it! What do you mean Jesus gets punished in my place? He is the King sent from heaven. He never did anything wrong!

Mr. King: Right. Jesus never sinned. Though he didn't deserve to suffer and die, he took your sin, my sin, and the sin of the whole world on himself. He was the sacrifice for sin.

Gordy: So he would be the King of Sacrifice.

Mr. King: The Bible puts it this way in 2 Corinthians 5:21: *“God had Christ, who was sinless, take our sin so that we might receive God’s approval through him.”*

Gordy: So when did this happen?

Mr. King: When Jesus was on the cross. You might even hear him say, *“My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?”* That’s when Jesus felt the punishment God had for sin. Jesus took our sin and God turned his back on Jesus at that time. That’s when God was punishing all the sin that Jesus carried for all of us.

Gordy: Wow. He did all that for me so I wouldn't have a punishment like it.

Mr. King: He’s the King of Sacrifice. Let’s go now to live coverage of events as they unfold. Boys and girls, if some parts in our video coverage seem too terrible to watch, just close your eyes. You don’t have to watch if it is too upsetting to you.

Show *The Visual Bible: Matthew 27:11-50* (lasts ten minutes).

OR

“Eyewitness Special Report”

Optional Activity

The following monologue can replace the video so the Bible event can be told in dramatic fashion. To use this along with the video would be too lengthy. It would also lose dramatic effectiveness if both were used in the same lesson.

Enter the “SPECIAL REPORT” K-I-N-G reporter.

Hello, I’m _____, K-I-N-G’s Eyewitness Reporter. The story of Jesus has taken a terrible turn. The man called Savior, Son of God, Messiah, is dead—crucified like a common thief. How did it happen? What went wrong? How did the crowds’ joyful shouts of “Hosanna” turn into the angry and hateful screams of “Crucify him!” Once people would flock to see him, straining to get just a glimpse of him. Tonight, abandoned by his 12 closest disciples, Jesus is left to suffer

and die alone with only a handful of faithful believers daring to stay near.

The horrible chain of events began with betrayal by one of those closest to him for 30 pieces of silver. The betrayer was Judas, one of Jesus' 12 disciples. After handing Jesus over, Judas is overcome with guilt and even tries to return the money to the Chief Priest and Pharisees to clear his conscience. But he cannot.

Jesus is then taken before Pilate, the governor. Pilate questions Jesus, but Jesus remains silent. Pilate realizes Jesus is innocent and tries to free him by offering to release a prisoner to the crowd (a custom during Passover). Pilate offers the crowd a trade: either Barabbas, a convicted killer, or Jesus. To Pilate's dismay, the crowd shouts to free Barabbas.

When Pilate asks the crowd what he should do with Jesus, the crowd cries out, "Crucify him!" Pilate realized he was losing control. In an attempt to clear his conscience, he washes his hands as if he can wash away the blame. He turns Jesus over to the angry mob.

Jesus is taken by the soldiers to be flogged. He is whipped, beaten, spat at, and mocked. A crown of thorns is shoved on his head and a robe is thrown over his bleeding back. Through all of this, Jesus remains silent.

The soldiers then took Jesus to Golgotha to be crucified. He is forced to carry the heavy crossbeam of the cross on his back, which has been literally ripped to shreds by the soldiers' whips.

As Jesus struggles, the angry mob lines the streets screaming insults. At Golgotha, Jesus' hands and feet are nailed to the cross. The cross is lifted up and dropped into place so it stands upright. A sign is placed at the top of the cross, "King of the Jews." The soldiers cast lots, or gamble, for his few clothes.

Despite unbelievable pain, Jesus speaks a few times. Incredibly, he cries out asking God to forgive the people. Later he cries, "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?" And finally he says, "It is finished."

As Jesus dies, the temple curtain is torn from top to bottom and the earth shakes. Tombs open and the dead inside come alive. A centurion soldier at the cross says, "Certainly, this was the Son of God!" As evening approaches, the small group of believers take Jesus' body and lay it in a tomb.

I remember watching Jesus hanging on the cross and hearing the crowds yelling insults. “If you’re the Son of God, come down from the cross.” And I wondered why didn’t Jesus come down? He could have had 10,000 angels there in an instant but he chose not to.

Why? Because of his love for you and me.

Remember the bread and the cup? “This is my body broken for you. This is my blood poured out for the forgiveness of sins.” Jesus suffered and died for you and me. Each one of us is a sinner and the Bible says the wages of sin is death. Because of our sin, we deserved to die. But Jesus was willing to stand in our place and take the punishment for our sins.

It is finished. Jesus is dead. This is _____, K-I-N-G’s Eyewitness Reporter.

“Reporter Gordy and Eyewitness News: The King of Sacrifice”

Puppet Conclusion

Gordy: This is one news reporter that is lost for words.

Mr. King: I know what you mean, Gordy. We all saw how Jesus truly is the King of Sacrifice.

Gordy: Jesus traded places with me, didn’t he?

Mr. King: Jesus took death so he could give us life—eternal life.

Gordy: **Jesus traded places with us to win eternal life for us.*

Mr. King: Let’s think about that as we close our eyes and bow our heads. Gordy, would you like to pray?

Gordy: Dear God, we just saw how Jesus is the King of Sacrifice. My sin must have really been serious for Jesus to go through so much. I am so sorry for my sin. Thank you for sending Jesus to trade places with us so we can have eternal life. Help each one of us to trust Jesus as our Savior and to tell others about him. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

This is Gordy from Eyewitness News K-I-N-G, signing off.

