



Date: _____

Series: Jesus Gave Himself for Me
Winter Year 1, Lesson 47

Jesus Goes to the Cross

Bible Event: Luke 23:33, 44-56

Take Home Point: *JESUS IS MY SAVIOR – *Jesus died and rose for me.*

*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: Because of Jesus' death, we now have power over death.

What kids will learn about God in this worship experience:

- Children will learn that before Jesus went to the cross to forgive our sins, he prayed to God, his father. He knew that dying on the cross would be painful, but God told Jesus that that was the only way our sins could be taken away. Like Jesus, we should pray to God when we have problems. But we should also be grateful that Jesus was willing to give his life for us. Kids will learn the take home point: ***JESUS IS MY SAVIOR – *Jesus died and rose for me***
- Children will respond to God's love as they pray to him, thanking him for loving them and forgiving them. 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: *Beginner's Bible – The Story of Easter*. Sony Music Entertainment. 1995 (Cue 12:41 to 16:06)

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: A Visit from the Traveler

The traveler is a character costumed in traveling gear: backpack, walking stick, hiking hat and shoes. He explains that he has traveled all around the world discovering wonderful deeds that God has done. He tells of an adventure he just discovered in God's Word as he pulls the Bible out of his backpack. As he tells the Bible event, he pulls out objects from his backpack that illustrate the story.

Supplies:

- Bible
- cross
- cross cut from poster board
- black post-it notes – or black paper and double-sided tape – to cover poster board crosses

Jesus is Crucified

Luke 23: 33, 44-56

Today we're going to talk about the most amazing thing that ever happened for us – **Jesus dying on the cross**. (Take kids around the room, or around the church, looking for crosses. Come back to the stage and pull a cross out of backpack.) **All of these crosses remind me of Jesus. Here's what happened way back then, when Jesus gave his life for us. Jesus had been arrested** (Remember when he was praying in the garden, and the soldiers came and took him away?) **and a ruler named Pilate had to decide what to do with him. Pilate did not think that Jesus deserved to die, so he asked the crowd what to do. They said, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" Crucify meant to kill him by putting**

him on a cross. Even though Pilate knew that Jesus had done nothing wrong. He didn't want the people to be angry with him, so he went along with them. He gave orders to his soldiers to crucify Jesus.

So soldiers took him away and did horrible things to Jesus. They made a crown out of prickly thorns and put it on his head. They took his clothes and they made him carry the very heavy wooden cross that he was going to die on. They nailed Jesus to the cross.

There were two robbers on crosses beside Jesus. One of the robbers made fun of Jesus as he hung there, but the other one believed in Jesus and said, "Lord, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus answered him, "Today you will be with me in paradise."

Jesus cried out loudly and said, "It is finished!" Then, he died there on that cross. Here's the very important part. Do you know why Jesus died there on that cross? He could have stopped it from happening, but he didn't. Jesus knew that he had to die on that cross to save us. You see, all of the wrong things all of the people have ever done in the whole world had to be forgiven. (Show the poster board cross and place the black pieces of paper on it to indicate sins. Point out that this represents the wrong everyone has done.) **God did not want us to take the punishment for those sins, so he had Jesus do it instead. Jesus had to take the punishment for all of those sins, so that you and I could be friends with God forever. After that, the punishment was over! (Pull all the sins off the cross.) After Jesus died our sins were forgiven and taken away. After Jesus died he became alive again to show everyone that our sins were taken away. Because of that, we can be friends with God forever. Remember: *JESUS IS MY SAVIOR – *Jesus died and rose for me!***

(Show cross.) Look at this cross. Is Jesus still there? No, the cross is empty. That's because after Jesus died, he came alive again. But to hear more about that, you'll have to come next week to Easter Sunday!

Pray with the children, having them repeat each phrase.

Dear God, (repeat)
Thank you for sending Jesus. (repeat)
Thank you for having him die for me. (repeat)
We praise you that he rose again. (repeat)
Thank you. Thank you! Thank you! (repeat)
Amen. (repeat)



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 small paper cups filled with chocolate milk. Give each child a few small marshmallows and a plastic spoon. Using the spoon, have them try to push the marshmallows down and get them to stay. The marshmallows should keep rising to the top, just like Jesus didn't stay 'down,' but rose again.

Messy Zone: Have children finger paint with chocolate pudding on waxed paper. Have them draw crosses.

Option: Have them make crosses out of play dough.

Video Zone: *He is Risen*, Animated Stories from the New Testament, Nest Masters Inc. , 1988.

Felt Zone: Use felt board materials to help children tell the story of Jesus dying for our sins.

Craft Zone: Provide blank paper, small paintbrushes and different colors of paint for children to paint crosses on the paper. Have them draw or paint decorations on the rest of the page. Attach the pre-made label "Jesus died and rose for me!"

Play Zone: Blocks

Quiet Reading Zone: Basket of books

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.

Supplies:

- Bubba, the puppet
- Black post-it notes
- White cross from the first presentation

Bubba comes on the stage with his head hung down. He's on his way to timeout in his room, because he got into a fight with his sister and he punched her on the arm. Bubba has a black sticky note (or a black piece of paper stuck with tape) on his hand. He holds his hand out to the presenter, and tells him that he might as well put this sin on that cross that we used earlier in today's lesson. (The presenter holds it in his hand before putting it on the cross) Bubba says that he can't look at it when the sin gets put on the cross. He feels terrible that all of his sins would be on the cross.

The presenter wants to show him something that will help him better understand, and even feel better. He asks Bubba if he trusts that Jesus died for his sins? Bubba says that he does. The presenter also notes that because of that he should be sorry for hitting his sister. Bubba says he is. The presenter concludes that even though he will still have to go to time out because that is the consequence for his sin, God will not remember that sin and punish him. Instead this is what happens, (He then places the post-it note on the cross, pressing the non-sticky side to the cross. It does not stick and falls to the ground.) That is how fast God's forgiveness is for us when we trust Jesus. And even though, we still have consequence like going to time out, so we can learn not to do it anymore, God's forgiveness takes away our sin right away. Just remember ***JESUS IS OUR SAVIOR – Jesus died and rose for me.**

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 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 your heart.)

keep you strong,
comfort, lead and guide you!

(Move to a "strong man" position. Then cross your arms with your 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:

- video: *Beginners Bible-The Story of Easter*—order from: <http://www.e-cdrom.com/cd7793.html> or from: http://www.kidsclick.com/descrip/begbible_easter.htm
- blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons

Opening Worship:

- Traveler's backpack gear
- Bible
- cross
- cross cut from poster board
- black post-it notes. Or black paper and double side tape

Action Zones:

Snack:

- small paper cups
- chocolate milk
- mini marshmallows
- plastic spoons

Craft:

- blank paper
- small paintbrushes
- variety of paint colors
- labels: "Jesus died and rose for me"

Play:

- blocks

Quiet Reading:

- basket of books

Messy

- chocolate pudding
- wax paper
- option: play dough

Video:

- *Animated Stories from the New Testament: He is Risen*—order from: http://www.nestfamily.com/store/product_detail.asp?productID=HRD

Felt:

- materials to reenact story

Closing Worship:

- Bubba, the puppet
- black post-it notes
- white cross from the first presentation

Closing Zones:

- colored pencils
- paper
- basket of books