



Date: _____

Series: God is Our Rescuer
Summer Year 2, Lesson 5

Remembering the Rescue, The Lord's Supper

Primary Scripture: Matthew 26:17-28

Key Verse: Matthew 26:28, "This is my blood, the blood of the promise. It is poured out for many people so that sins are forgiven."

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

Kids need to know the reality of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection in their behalf. Because Jesus lived a long time ago, he sometimes may not seem as real. A kid cannot meet him personally, touch him, or listen to him. Perhaps Jesus set aside the Lord's Supper so that we would remember what he has done for us in such a way that he literally becomes part of our lives. In one sense, the Lord's Supper is Jesus' object lesson to the church. His life, his body, and his blood have been given for all believers. In a very real way, all believers sense the full presence of Christ. Today's lesson helps kids understand just how much God wants to communicate his love for them by giving to the church the Lord's Supper.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Jesus literally gave his body and blood as a sacrifice for the punishment of our sins. In the Lord's Supper, we celebrate the reality of Jesus giving us his life, even his body and blood.

Jesus in us: We are in Christ and Christ is in us as we are attached to him by faith. Jesus lives in us. He gives us the full presence of God through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus through us: When we remember what Jesus has done for us and that he lives in us, we cannot help but share this with others. Therefore, we experience Jesus working through us.

Stamp of Excellence:

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.

Psalm 111:4 (NIV) says, "He has caused his wonders to be remembered; the Lord is gracious..."

God wants us to remember something. He wants us to remember how he rescued us. When we remember how he rescued us, it helps us to trust him more and more every day.

At this time, the presenter needs to share a story about how God personally rescued him in some way. This could be an event in life in which God rescued him from near tragedy, or a way in which God rescued him by answering a great prayer. More fitting would be an example of how God rescued him when he came to salvation.

Then continue with:

God rescued us when he sent Jesus to pay the terrible price for our sin by dying on the cross. Now, Jesus is alive and wants to come live in our lives. When we remember this, we can't help but worship and praise him.

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!

The Power of the Cross:

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

This confession will involve some audience participation and needs to be dealt with sensitively.

Invite one or more children who would be willing to share with everyone what he or she did last week that was wrong and that God did not like. Encourage them to share and at the conclusion ask the following.

What do you think God wants you to remember about this?

Kids will usually say they should remember not to do this again. That is true. But there is an even more important thing that God wants them to remember, and that is this: Any sin is serious.

When we sin, God wants us to first remember that Jesus was punished for our sin and we need to tell Jesus about it. That is like giving it to him and he takes it away. He doesn't remember it anymore. We don't have to feel bad about our friendship with God. He has taken care of that. If we remember this, then we will want to obey him next time and not sin.

Let's all pray and mention at least one thing we have done this last week that we know God did not want us to do.

Option: Allow several children and adults to confess a sin aloud if they want to. Affirm each person's prayer by saying, **"Lord, in your mercy..."** and for the worshipers to respond, **"Hear our prayer."**

Announce God's forgiveness:

God tells us in Psalm 103:11-12, "As high as the heavens are above the earth- that is how vast his mercy is toward those who fear him. As far as the east is from the west- that is how far he has removed our rebellious acts from himself."

Your sins are forgiven through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

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. Talk about the mission activities they are supporting.

The presenter comes out with a bucket of candy.

One of the ways that we sometimes say thank you to people is to give them gifts. Today I would like to thank people for coming here. Is there someone visiting for the first time? Thank you for coming. Here is what I would like to give you to show my appreciation: candy. Did a friend invite you? I want to thank that person for inviting you. Here is candy for that person as well. Thank you very much.

How do we say thank you to God? We say thank you to God with praise and thanksgiving. That is very important in worship. We also say thank you by giving him the very first part of whatever we have. That means we give him the first part of our allowance, or our money. That is what we do now when we give our offering.

Bring your offering, boys and girls. Know that when you do this, you are saying thank you to 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.

Give children a napkin and a quarter cup of alphabet breakfast cereal and have them spread out their napkins, placing their alphabets to one side to spell words.

First, have the children spell any kind of word. If they don't have the right letter they can break a letter to make it work. Read samples of kids' completed words while others are still working.

Next, ask kids to spell a word of something that they would like to have in their life. That thing could be peace, friends or a mom, just as long as it is something good that they would like to have as part of them. After they do so, they may share their answer at the microphone. They can eat their words (*alphabet letters*) and then try to remember until next week what it was that they ate... what it was that they wanted in their life.

Jesus wanted us to know that the most important thing that we could have as a part of our lives would be Jesus himself. Jesus rescued us by giving himself as a sacrifice for us. It was Jesus' body that was broken and his blood that was shed, so that when he died on the cross, our sins would be forgiven. He wants us never to forget that.

Today we are going to find out how Jesus gave the church a special meal. When you eat it, you do not just eat bread and drink wine. With the bread and the wine, Jesus comes to you to remind you that he is a part of your life.

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.

Use the *Visual Bible: Matthew*, by Visual Bible Entertainment, Vol. 4, 1997. Order from http://www.christiancinema.com/catalog/product_info.php?products_id=41. Show from Matthew 26:17-30. This section lasts five minutes and thirty-six seconds and covers the Lord's Supper.

Application:

The props for this object lesson will include a large section of matzo bread (or pita bread), some grape juice (or dark blue colored water), and an eyedropper.

While explaining the Lord's Supper, take the bread and mark it with "wine" using an eyedropper, printing on it the shape of the cross.

The cross marked on the bread reminds us that all the blessings of the cross are given to us as we receive God's powerful love to us in the Lord's Supper. We receive it by faith. The reason that Jesus gave us the Lord's Supper is for us to remember who he is and what he did and that he wants to be with us wherever we are.

Remember the learning game today and how you made a special word with your letters. In a very similar way, God does the same thing in the Lord's Supper. He does not write the name Jesus with the alphabet, but he does give us bread and wine and says that Jesus is part of our lives if we believe in him.

Now I am going to pass out some of this bread so that you can take a little piece of it and eat it so that it might remind you of some day when you will be able to take the Lord's Supper. This is not the Lord's Supper that we are doing right now, but it is a way to taste what kind of bread they use. You can remember that Jesus wanted, more than anything else, for people to remember what he did for them by dying on the cross and coming alive from the dead. He wants to now live inside each and every heart.

There are three important things that he wants us to know:

Memory Game:

In advance, have a divider on stage behind which two kids could "hide," a score sheet of some kind, and three sheets of poster board with the following words at the top in big, bold letters:

*Sheet one – **Jesus For Us***
*Sheet two – **Jesus In Us***
*Sheet three – **Jesus Through Us***

Ask for two volunteers to come forward. Choose a boy and a girl. Ask each child questions like the following:

1. What is your name?
2. How many brothers and sisters do you have?
3. What is your favorite subject in school?
4. What is one thing you might like to do when you grow up?
5. What is your favorite TV show?

Then have the two move behind the divider or out of sight and announce that this is a contest between the boys and the girls to see who can remember the most things about their volunteer. Boys “remember” anything they can about the boy volunteer; girls remember anything they can about the girl. They’re not allowed to say anything they know about the volunteer from any other time – only what they saw and heard today. Tally the number of each team’s correct responses on a poster board or piece of paper. The team with the most correct memories wins. Then say:

That was fun. Remembering things about people is fun, but it’s also important. When I remember things you tell me about yourself, you know that you are important to me. If you tell me something important and I forget, you feel less important, and that’s not a good feeling.

Jesus tells us in the Bible to remember him. How do you think it makes him feel when we remember him? Why? *(He feels good, because we’re telling him that he is important to us.)*

There are three main ways we can remember Jesus. They are written on these three poster boards.

Display the three poster boards: Jesus For Us, Jesus In Us, and Jesus Through Us.

1. **Jesus For Us** -- Let’s make a list on the “Jesus For Us” board of **all the things you can remember about what Jesus did for people when he lived on earth.**

Compile their responses: healed the sick, fed the hungry, forgave sinners, raised people from the dead, died on the cross... Then say:

Does Jesus do these things for people today? *(Yes.)* **What’s the most important thing he did for us?** *(Jesus gave his life for us.)* **All of our sins were taken care of when he poured out his blood on the cross. If any of you kids were in Kingdom Quest today, you saw how the**

destroyer could not enter people's homes that had blood covering the doorposts; the destroyer had to pass over them. It's the same today - when we believe in Jesus as our savior, his blood covers us. Jesus' blood assures us that we are forgiven and we will live forever with God in heaven. The destroyer will never reach us.

2. **Jesus In Us** -- The Lord's Supper not only says that Jesus was given for us, but it also says that when we trust in him, Jesus lives in us. He fills our hearts with his presence. Now let's make a list on the "Jesus In Us" sheet of the ways we can remember that we will be like Jesus if he lives in our heart.

If kids have trouble understanding what you mean, write one or two gifts of the Spirit (from Galatians 5) to get them started: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, self-control.

3. **Jesus Through Us** -- Jesus wants us to know that he not only gave his life for us and gave his life to live in us, but that his life will also work through us. Through the way we love other people and the way we talk about Jesus, Jesus can come to other people. Jesus is not here face to face to love people like he once was. That is why he needs us to do it in his place. When people go to the Lord's Supper they are reminded that when they leave, they are to show Jesus' love to everyone.

What shall we write on this final board? What will Jesus do through us? We're going to leave that list blank for now – but you're going to "write on it" all this next week. What will Jesus do through you this week? I can't wait to find out – I know it's going to be wonderful! Because I know that you are going to always remember – God rescues us. And remembering that, you are going to live for Jesus!



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.

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 songs so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God.

Supplies:

Offering:

- bucket of candy

Learning Game:

- small measuring cups
- Alphabet cereal (enough for each child to have about 1/4 cup)
- napkins

Bible Presentation:

- video: *Visual Bible: Matthew* (Matthew 25:17-30) by Visual Bible International, 1997—order from http://www.christiancinema.com/catalog/product_info.php?products_id=41
- matzo bread (small piece for each child and one big piece for the leader)
- grape juice or dark blue colored water
- eyedropper

Memory Game:

- a divider or something behind which two kids can “hide”
- a score sheet of some kind and pencil/pen/marker
- three sheets of poster board with the following words at the top in big, bold letters:
 - Sheet one – **Jesus For Us**
 - Sheet two – **Jesus In Us**
 - Sheet three – **Jesus Through Us**

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