



SR. LESSON: Easter: Jesus Death and Resurrection

Date: Sunday April 14th **Teachers:** Jasper & Christine Jonker

Bible Passage: Matthew 26:36–28:10; John 18:1–20:18

Main Point: Jesus died on the cross to save people from sin, and He is alive.

Big Picture Question: **Who saves us from our sin? Only Jesus saves us from sin.**

Prep for Easter service presentation: Susan

OPENING ACTIVITY: “Falling short” materials: (use a ball from the bag at the back of the gym)

Form teams of two kids. Give each team a ball and instruct the kids on each team to stand one or two paces apart. The kids will toss the ball to their teammates. After each successful catch, the two will each take a step apart before trying to toss the ball back.

Say• The Bible says that we have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. [See Rom. 3:23.] Our sin separates us from God because He is holy. When Jesus died, He took our sin upon Himself and took the punishment we deserve. Jesus died on the cross to save people from sin, and He is alive.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Do you remember our big picture question? We heard it last week: **Who saves us from our sin? The answer is, Only Jesus saves us from sin.** Sin separates us from God because God is holy. But God loves us, and He sent His Son, Jesus, to save us from our sin. Think about that as we hear the Bible story today.

Leader• Our last Bible story was called “Jesus’ Triumphal Entry.” Toward the end of Jesus’ ministry on earth, Jesus rode into the city of Jerusalem on a donkey. People welcomed Jesus to Jerusalem as their King. That happened at the beginning of the week. By the end of the week, people’s feelings about Jesus had changed. Today’s Bible story is about what happened at the end of the week.

THE BIBLE STORY VIDEO

THE BIBLE STORY REVIEW:

The religious leaders decided that they wanted to get rid of Jesus. They didn’t like that people were praising Jesus and following Him. So they made a plan and paid Judas, one of Jesus’ disciples, to betray Him. They did not accept who Jesus is.

When Jesus said that He is the Son of God, they didn’t believe Him. They said He was guilty of blasphemy.

Blasphemy is an attitude of disrespect for God. Jesus did not do anything wrong, but the leaders believed He had committed a crime by claiming to be God.

Is Jesus the Son of God? Yes! He is fully God and fully man. But the religious leaders convinced the crowd in Jerusalem that Jesus should die. The people who welcomed Jesus and praised Him at the beginning of the week when He rode into the city on a donkey now hated Him.

Jesus knew it was time for Him to do God’s plan to save people from sin. God sent His Son into the world to be the Savior. The Bible says that sin requires a payment of death, so Jesus was going to die to pay the price for our sin.

The Bible says that we have all sinned, and the fair punishment for sin is death. Our sin separates us from God, and nothing we do could make up for our sin. That is some very bad news.

But the gospel is good news! God loved us and sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to rescue us from sin. Jesus did this by living the perfect life we cannot live. He died the death we deserve. Jesus died in our place!

REVIEW QUESTIONS:

Which of Jesus' disciples helped the crowd arrest Jesus? (Judas, Matt. 26:47-49)

Why did the crowd want to kill Jesus? (He claimed to be God's Son, Matt. 26:63-66)

What happened when Jesus died? (The curtain in the temple sanctuary split in two and there was an earthquake; Matt. 27:51)

Who rolled away the stone in front of Jesus' tomb? (an angel of the Lord, Matt. 28:2)

Who saves us from our sin? Only Jesus saves us from sin.

Say• The crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus is the center of the gospel. We deserve to die because of our sin, but Jesus died in our place. We are forgiven only through Jesus. (Acts 4:12) Jesus died on the cross to save people from sin, and He is alive.

DISCUSSION VIDEO:

When you hear good news, do you keep it to yourself or tell others? Think about that as we watch this video.

Show the "Unit 32, Session 2" discussion starter video. Then lead kids to discuss the following questions:

What happens when we don't share good news with others?

Why is Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection good news for sinners?

Why should we tell others about Jesus?

Leader• This is the gospel: Jesus died on the cross to save people from sin, and He is alive. God forgives everyone who trusts in Jesus and gives us eternal life.

ACTIVITY: Activity sheet provided (crayons or pencil crayons for colouring)

The BIBLE Story

Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection Matthew 26:36–28:10; John 18:1–20:18

Jesus came with His disciples to a place called Gethsemane (geth SEM uh nih). He prayed to God, "Father! If it is possible, take this suffering away from Me. But only if it is part of Your plan." While Jesus prayed, the disciples fell asleep. Jesus said, "Get up. It is almost time."

Suddenly Judas arrived with a large crowd. Judas kissed Jesus so the crowd would know who Jesus was. The crowd arrested Jesus. Peter tried to stop the men, but Jesus told Peter not to. Jesus' followers ran away, but Peter stayed nearby. Three times, people asked Peter if he was a follower of Jesus. Peter said he was not.

The crowd took Jesus to the high priest. The high priest asked, "Are You the Messiah, the Son of God?"

Jesus replied, "Yes, that's right."

The high priest said, "He has spoken against God. He deserves to die!" The religious leaders did not want to believe Jesus is God's Son.

When morning came, the religious leaders led Jesus to Pilate, the governor. "Are You the King of the Jews?" Pilate asked. "Yes, that's right," Jesus replied.

Pilate asked the crowd what he should do. "Crucify Him!" they said. Pilate did not think Jesus had done anything wrong, but he handed Jesus over and said, "Do whatever you want."

The governor's soldiers put a scarlet robe on Jesus. They made a crown of thorns and put it on His head. Then they mocked Him, "Here is the King of the Jews!" Then they beat Him and led Him away to be killed.

The soldiers nailed Jesus to a cross. They put a sign above His head that said, THIS IS JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. Two criminals were crucified next to Him.

Darkness covered the land. Then Jesus cried out, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" Jesus shouted again and then He died. Suddenly, the curtain in the temple sanctuary split in two, from top to bottom, and there was an earthquake. One of the men guarding Jesus' body said, "This man really was God's Son!"

Jesus was buried in a tomb. A stone was sealed in front of the tomb so that no one could steal Jesus' body.

On the third day, Mary Magdalene (MAG duh leen) and the other Mary went to the tomb. Suddenly there was an earthquake. An angel of the Lord rolled back the stone and sat on it. The angel spoke to the women, "Don't be afraid! I know you are looking for Jesus, but He is not here. He has been resurrected, just like He said He would."

The women left the tomb quickly. They ran to tell the disciples the good news. Just then Jesus met them. The women worshiped Jesus. "Don't be afraid," He told them. "Go tell My disciples to meet Me in Galilee. They will see Me there."

Christ Connection: The crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus is the center of the gospel. We deserve to die because of our sin, but Jesus died in our place. He was the blood sacrifice made once and for all for the forgiveness of sin. God was pleased with Jesus' sacrifice and raised Jesus from the dead to reign as King over all creation. We are forgiven only through Jesus. (Acts 4:12)