

Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection

Bible Passage:

Matthew 26–28; John 20

Story Point:

Jesus died on the cross and is alive.

Key Passage:

“Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice,
and let them say among the nations, ‘The Lord reigns.’”

1 Chronicles 16:31

Big Picture Question:

What is the gospel?

The gospel is the good news that God sent His Son,
Jesus, into the world to rescue sinners.

INTRODUCE THE STORY



(15-20 Minutes)

TEACH THE STORY



(10-15 Minutes)

EXPERIENCE THE STORY



(20-25 Minutes)

The BIBLE Story

Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection

Matthew 26–28; John 20

Jesus had been arrested and taken to Pilate, the governor. Pilate's soldiers put a purple robe around Jesus and made a crown of thorns and put it on Jesus' head. They pretended to bow down to Him. Then they led Jesus away.

Jesus was put on a cross. They put a sign above Jesus' head that said: THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS. Two criminals were put on crosses next to Jesus.

Darkness covered the land. Jesus cried out, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" **Jesus died and was buried in a tomb. A large stone was rolled in front of the tomb, and Pilate's soldiers guarded the tomb so that no one would steal Jesus' body.**

On the third day, two of Jesus' friends, both named Mary, went to the tomb. They were very sad. Suddenly there was a big earthquake as an angel came down from heaven. The angel rolled away the stone and sat on it. The guards fainted.

The angel spoke to the women, "Do not be afraid! Jesus is not here! He has risen from the dead, just as He said He would."

The women were so happy! Jesus was alive! They left the tomb to tell Jesus' friends the good news. Just then, Jesus greeted them. The women worshiped Him. Jesus said, "Do not be afraid. Tell My friends to go to Galilee. I will meet them there."

Christ Connection: The most important thing that ever happened is that Jesus died and was raised from the dead. Jesus is alive! When we trust in Jesus, we have true joy. Jesus brings forgiveness and life with God forever.

INTRODUCE the Story

WELCOME TIME:

Set out some toys for the children to play with as they come in. Have one leader stand by the door with the clipboard to greet children by name and welcome their parents as they arrive. Allow the children to play with toys until **5 minutes after the beginning of the service**, then have them sit at the table to complete today's Activity Page.

ACTIVITY PAGE	ACTIVITY: Make Scratch Art
<p>Guide children to connect the dots to reveal the cross.</p> <p>SAY • The dots made a cross. Today's Bible story is about the most important thing that ever happened— Jesus died on the cross and is alive. Listen to the story to learn how we can have forgiveness for our sins and life with God forever.</p>	<p>Give each child a scratch art page and a chopstick. Invite children to draw with the chopstick on the page to create designs of their choosing. If chopsticks are not available, use craft sticks instead.</p> <p>SAY • Was it hard to decide how to make beautiful art on a pitch black page? Were you surprised to see such beautiful colors shine through it? Sometimes understanding how good can come from the really sad things that happen in life is hard. But underneath the sad things, God is creating something surprisingly beautiful. Today's Bible story proves it! God turned the worst thing ever into the best thing ever. If He can do that, we can trust Him to turn all the other sad things into good things someday, too!</p>

TEACH the Story

WORSHIP:

While the children finish playing or coloring, get the worship songs ready. Choose 3 or 4 songs to sing today. Suggest children move their bodies as the music plays. Feel free to bring out the musical instruments for the kids to use during worship.

SAY • Come sit in a circle with us ! We're going to sing some fun songs together that worship God! Why do we sing to God? (Answer: To honor Him with our worship!)

TRANSITION TO THE STORY:

To gain the attention of all the children to move them to Bible study, flip off the lights or clap a simple rhythm for the children to copy. Place a bookmark at Matthew 26 in your Bible. Invite a child to open it. Reverently display the open Bible.

SAY • For Easter, we are going back to the Gospels of Matthew and John as we celebrate the most important thing that ever happened! We know this story from the Bible is true because the Bible is God's Word.

TELL THE BIBLE STORY:

Show the Bible Story Video and then recap the Bible story by reading the words below.

SAY • The Jewish and Roman leaders did not like that so many people were following Jesus, so they put Him on a cross to die. But this was God’s plan to rescue sinners! On the third day, Jesus rose back to life just as He said He would. The most important thing that ever happened is that **Jesus died on the cross and is alive!** Jesus brings forgiveness and life with God forever. When we trust in Jesus, we have true joy!

LEARN THE BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

The most important thing that ever happened is that Jesus died on the cross and is alive! Jesus brings forgiveness and life with God forever. That is the message of the gospel! **What is the gospel? The gospel is the good news that God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to rescue sinners.**

PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE:

Place the key passage marker at 1 Chronicles 16:31. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage.

SAY • We can be glad and rejoice, like our key passage says, because Jesus rose from the dead as king over everything! When we trust in Jesus, we have true joy.



PRAY TO CLOSE:

SAY • Why do we pray? (*Answer: To open our hearts to God and talk to Him!*)

Ask the group if anyone has any prayer requests and pray together as a group. If there are a lot of children, break into smaller groups and have leaders pray for the children’s requests.

EXPERIENCE the Story

SNACK AND REVIEW:

Have kids find a seat at the table. Hand each kid a sanitizing wipe and pass out the snack. During snack, remind children that **Jesus died on the cross and is alive.** Point to the Bible story picture as you ask the following review questions:

- Where was Jesus buried? (*in a tomb with a large stone rolled in front*)
- When did Jesus rise from the dead? (*on the third day*)
- To whom did the angel first tell the good news? (*two women named Mary*)
- Why is this the most important thing that ever happened? (*Jesus brings forgiveness and life with God forever to sinners*)
- **What is the gospel? The gospel is the good news that God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to rescue sinners.**

Easter Craft	ACTIVITY: Play “What’s missing?”
<p>Help kids assemble the provided craft kit. Discuss today’s story while they work on the craft.</p>	<p>Display several classroom items on a table. Allow children a minute or so to memorize the items. Then cover the items with a towel and ask children to close their eyes. Remove one of the items and hide it out of sight. Invite children to open their eyes and guess what is missing. Once they guess correctly, replace the item and play again.</p> <p>SAY • You figured out what was missing! When the women went to Jesus’ tomb on the third day, they found something missing as well. Do you know what—or who—it was? Jesus! He wasn’t in the tomb anymore because He rose back to life. The women were so happy! The most important thing that ever happened is that Jesus died on the cross and is alive. When we trust in Jesus, we have true joy.</p>

TRANSITION AND DISMISSAL:

For the remainder of the time, kids may color the Bible story coloring page, play a simple game to practice the key passage, or sing another song together.

CHECKOUT PROCEDURE:

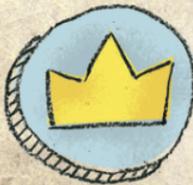
- As parents begin to arrive, open the door and have one leader stand just outside the classroom door with the attendance sheet.
- Take the parent’s security sticker and call loudly for the child to come.
- While you wait for the child to come, tell the parents something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the service and distribute the preschool big picture cards for families.
- Before you let the child leave the classroom, look to see that the parent and child security codes match and remove the sticker from the child’s shirt as they leave.

Note: If a parent lost their security sticker, send them to the check-in desk for approval; never allow a child to go to a parent unless they have the security sticker.

THE GOSPEL

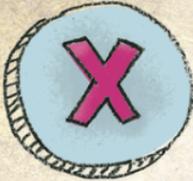
GOD'S PLAN for US

The gospel is the good news, the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use these prompts to share the gospel with your kids.



GOD RULES.

Ask: "Who is in charge at home?" Explain that because God created everything, He is in charge of everything. Read Revelation 4:11.



WE SINNED.

Ask: "Have you ever done something wrong?" Tell kids that everyone sins, or disobeys God. Our sin separates us from God. Read Romans 3:23.



GOD PROVIDED.

Explain that God is holy and must punish sin. God sent His Son, Jesus, to take the punishment we deserve. Read John 3:16.



JESUS GIVES.

Ask: "What is the best gift you've ever received?" Say that Jesus took our punishment for sin by giving His life, and He gives us His righteousness. God sees us as if we lived the perfect life Jesus lived. This is the best gift ever! Read 2 Corinthians 5:21.



WE RESPOND.

Explain that everyone has a choice to make. Ask: "Will you trust Jesus as your Savior and Lord? You can turn from self and sin and turn to Jesus." Read Romans 10:9-10.