

Jesus Dies on the Cross

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Matthew 27: 15-61 or Luke 23

STORY OVERVIEW: Jesus was taken to Pilate who chose to crucify Jesus and let a murderer (Barabbas) go free. They beat Him and placed a crown of thorns on His head. They made Him carry His own heavy cross through the town up to the hill where He would die. Jesus was nailed to the cross and hung there to die between two prisoners. It became very dark, and the sun stopped shining. After Jesus died, He was taken off the cross and laid in a tomb. A large stone was placed at the entrance of the tomb and guards were posted there.

TEACHING TRUTHS: Jesus loves us so much that He died for us.
Jesus took the punishment for our sins.

MEMORY VERSE: But God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. Romans 5:8

MEMORY VERSE SONG: Romans 5:8

(You can find the link to the song on the Watermark Kids Kit page.)

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ACTIVITY 1: BIBLE TIME

1. Read to the children from The Beginner's Bible "Jesus is Arrested and Crucified" (p. 446-452) or the Jesus Storybook Bible, "The Sun Stops Shining" (p. 302-309). Pray a short, simple prayer thanking **God that Jesus loves us so much that He died for us.**
2. Use the questions below to review the story with the children.
 1. Who helped the leaders capture Jesus?
 2. Did the leaders believe Jesus is the Son of God?
 3. What did Jesus have to carry on His back?
 4. Why did Jesus have to die on the cross?
 5. What do you think God wants us to learn from this story? (Let the kids answer and then bring them back to today's Teaching Truths.)
3. Finish this time by having the children repeat today's Teaching Truths with you:
 - **Jesus loves us so much that He died for us.**
 - **Jesus took the punishment for our sins.**

MATERIALS:

- Lesson
- The Beginner's Bible or The Jesus Storybook Bible
(If you don't have one of these, you can read the story from Matthew 27:15-61 or Luke 23.)

ACTIVITY 2: STORY – Pinch Pot Tomb (Take Home)

1. The children will make a "pinch pot tomb."
2. Give each child a small amount clay or playdough and show them how to roll it into a ball.
3. Show them how to press their thumb into the center of the ball.
4. Push the clay into a cup shape using your thumb and finger.
5. Pinch a door into one side of the cup shape to make the "entrance of the tomb".
6. Use this pinched-off piece to make a stone for the entrance.
7. The children will then have a tomb to remind them of Jesus dying on the cross and where He was before He rose again!

MATERIALS:

- Clay/Playdough

ACTIVITY 3: TEACHING TRUTH - Jesus loves us so much that He died for us

1. Draw or print out a cross outline on the piece of paper.
2. Put newspaper down on a coffee or kitchen table. Then place the cross paper on top of it. Have the children sit on the floor around the cross paper.
3. One at a time, family members share things they do that would make Jesus sad. (The children are sharing sins, but may not know that yet.) As everyone shares, use a pastel crayon to write their statements inside the cross outline.
4. When everyone is done sharing and the cross is covered with their statements, call them up again to take turns coloring the cross with bold colors. As they are coloring, remind them that “Jesus loves you even when you...” **They want to cover the cross fully with lots of different colors.** Remind them that Jesus took care of all of our sad things when He died on the cross.
5. Talk with the children about how **Jesus loves us so much that He died for us.**

MATERIALS:

- Piece of white paper or cardstock
- Newspaper or scrap paper
- Crayons

ACTIVITY 4: MEMORY VERSE – Romans 5:8 – Over and Under

“But God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.”

1. Stand everyone in a line in order from tallest to shortest. Everyone should be facing the back of the person in front of you like you are walking in a line.
2. The first person will have the ball.
3. Start the music. While the music is playing, everyone sings along.
4. The first person bends over and passes the ball between their legs to the person behind them. The next person stands up and reaches over their head behind them to pass the ball to the next person.
5. When you get to the end of the line, everyone turns around, so the first person becomes last, and the last becomes first. Continue passing the ball over and under.
6. When the music stops, the person with the ball shouts the verse address.
7. Repeat as often as desired.

MATERIALS:

- Ball
- Memory Verse song