

## Create a Cross

### INTRO FOR PARENTS:

Jesus knew every hard thing that was going to happen to Him BUT He also knew that what He would go through would be used for the greatest good ever. It can be hard to talk about Jesus' suffering with children. Be prayerful in how you do it with your kids, but don't ignore it completely. We don't want them to miss the truth that Jesus went through really hard things because of our sin. Because He suffered for us on the cross, we can be saved from our sin and have a relationship with God forever!

### SUPPLIES NEEDED:

Feel free to use whatever you can find around your house for the craft. Here are a few suggestions:

- For the cross: sticks from outside, craft sticks, play-dough, pipe cleaners, paper
- Something to keep your cross together like string, tape, or glue
- Something red to put on your cross like stickers, paint, sequins, yarn
- Piece of paper
- Jesus Storybook Bible by Sally Lloyd Jones

### HELPFUL HINTS:

- Gather all of your supplies before you start the teaching time
- Texts that are **bolded** are meant to be read out loud
- All other texts are either activity directions or answers to the teaching questions
- Feel free to modify the teaching portion for younger children
- Start and end your time talking to God in prayer

### TEACHING TIME:

Before starting the craft, take time to read "A Dark Night In The Garden" (Page 294) from the Jesus Storybook Bible or watch the video version on YouTube or Facebook @jesusstorybookbible.

**Was Jesus having a happy time in the garden or a sad time? (a sad time) Jesus knew it was time for Him to die and how He was going to die... a very painful death on a cross. He was going to take the punishment for all the wrong things anybody had done or will ever do.**

**Did Jesus do anything wrong? (No. He is perfect.) Jesus did not deserve to die. He wished there was another way so He prayed to His Father. It might be hard for us to think of Jesus feeling these things. However it is good for us to remember this because He still willingly went to the cross, obeying His Father, even though He knew it would be hard. He had the power to stop it but He chose to die for us!**

**Today we will make a cross to remind ourselves of two very important truths. Repeat after me.**

- **Jesus loves us so much that He died for us**
- **Jesus took the punishment for our sins**

### ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1) Give everyone time to make a cross out of the supplies you have gathered.
- 2) Once everyone is done, gather back together to see everyone's crosses.
- 3) Have everyone draw a picture of something wrong they've done (or you can write it for them) on their cross or on a piece of paper you can attach to their cross
- 4) Next have them cover their cross/picture with your red craft supplies
- 5) As they are doing this, explain: **The red color represents Jesus' blood from dying on the cross. His blood covers our sins (*anything we think, say, or do that does not please or honor God*). He took the punishment even though He never did anything wrong.**
- 6) Repeat the two truths together again and write them either on the cross itself or on a label or strip of paper you can attach to the cross. **Jesus loves us so much that He died for us. Jesus took the punishment for our sins.**
- 7) Have everyone find a special place for their cross where they will see it often and be reminded of what Jesus did for them.