

Splash - Pre teens  
4/5/26

## LIFE POINT

Jesus took the punishment for people's sins.

# CRUCIFIXION AND RESURRECTION



## LEADER BIBLE STUDY



### LEVEL OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

Jesus willingly died to provide salvation. Jesus' death and resurrection make salvation possible.

### SCRIPTURE REFERENCE

Matthew 26:36–28:10

### UNIT VERSE

“For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.”

John 3:16 (CSB)

### WEEKLY VERSE

He made the one who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (CSB)

### SUGGESTED FOR THE WEEK OF

April 5

### CONTEXT AND COMMENTARY FOR PERSONAL STUDY AND PREPARATION

Imagine Jesus, after being unfairly arrested, abandoned by His friends, beaten, and mocked, now hanging painfully from a cross in pitch-black darkness.

John 19:28 tells us that at this point, Jesus knew He had done everything necessary to fulfill Scripture. He knew He completed everything He needed to accomplish. He lived the perfect life. He followed the Father's will. He finished the race. He fulfilled His purpose, and Jesus knew that His death was about to pay the immense price of sin for those who would believe.

Then He spoke the words that would echo through history, “It is finished” (John 19:30).

Three words changed everything. Interestingly, in the original Greek, only one word is used: *tetelestai*. Written in the perfect tense, it signifies an action with ramifications that are still ongoing and will continue. In other words, at that moment, Jesus said, “It has been finished, it is finished, and it will always be finished.”

Jesus' death accomplished something eternal. In that moment, He made clear that Calvary is enough—His death is enough.

Regardless of your mistakes or sins, remember the truth Jesus cried out from the cross: Calvary is enough. It is finished. It is done. It is over.

His sacrifice freed us from the debt of our sins, offering us forgiveness and a fresh start. His victory on the cross was validated on the third day when the tomb was empty. When Jesus defeated death, He assured us we have a place with Him forevermore because of His sacrifice on the cross.

As you pray this week, ponder Jesus' final week, His death, and resurrection. Ask God to help you live and rest in the truth that “it is finished.”



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## PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

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- Explain that it is important to know that even when you make mistakes, God is loving and merciful because He always cares for you.
- Instruct the group to find and read John 3:16.
- Remind preteens that no matter what, God's love never stops, and He is always ready to forgive if you ask. When you mess up, God is there to help you get back on the right path.
- Encourage the group to remember this verse because it shows God's amazing love and mercy for everyone in the world!

› No advance preparation or supplies needed.



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## MISSIONS EMPHASIS

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- Show the “Send Kansas City” video or tell the missions story.
- Display the “Kansas City Fountains” and comment that the city is nicknamed the “City of Fountains.”
- Give each preteen a sticky note and a marker.
- Invite preteens to write their initials on the sticky notes.
- Call attention to the “United States Map.”
- Lead preteens one at a time to close their eyes and try to place their sticky notes near Kansas City, Missouri.
- Remind preteens that only 20 percent of the people in the city claim to be Christians, so there is a great need for more churches to be started.
- Pray for more churches to be started in Kansas City. Pray for people who live in Kansas City to have many opportunities to hear about Jesus.

› Video

› Printables:  
“Unit 2 Missions:  
Midwest: Kansas City”  
“Kansas City Fountains”  
“United States Map”

› small sticky notes

› markers

**Teaching Tip:** Print extra copies of the “United States Map” for large groups.



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## INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITY

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- Invite kids to play a game. State that one volunteer will lie down and pretend to sleep in the middle of a circle, while the other preteens form a circle around him as guards.
- Explain that each guard will take a turn, trying to sneak up silently and gently tap the sleeper on his head, hands, or feet, without being caught moving. Guards must freeze if they think the sleeper might wake up. If the sleeper catches a guard moving, that guard is out. The game continues until time runs out or all guards are caught.
- Afterward, a new round starts with a new sleeper.
- Mention that in today's Bible story, preteens will discuss how even Jesus' disciples had a hard time staying awake, and Jesus had to wake them up.

› No advance preparation or supplies needed.



## STUDY THE BIBLE

### › Pack Items

12: “Unit 2 Banner”

13: “Unit 2 Verse”

### › Teaching Picture 6

### › Music

### › Videos

### 1. GETTING TO THE POINT

- Instruct preteens to open their Bibles to 2 Corinthians 5:21 and encourage the group to read the verse together.
- \* Display the “Unit 2 Banner” and explain that Jesus lived a perfect and sinless life, which means He did nothing wrong. And yet, He took the punishment for all our sins (all the wrong things we did that we should be punished for).
- Say: “Jesus did this so we could be forgiven and made right with God. Jesus’ sacrifice gives us a chance to be close to God and live the way He wants us to live.”
- Remind preteens that God loves us so much that He does not want sin to separate us from Him.
- \* Show the “Scripture Sketches” video.

### 2. LOOK IN THE BOOK

- Give preteens an overview by reading the Bible story summary on the back of the teaching picture.
- Invite the group to open their Bibles to Matthew 26:36.
- Explain that in Matthew 26:36–28:10, we witness some of the most powerful moments of Jesus’ life—His prayer in Gethsemane, His arrest, His crucifixion, and His resurrection. These events show the depth of Jesus’ love for us and the hope we have in Him.
- Emphasize that we will look at events that show us how much Jesus loves us and was willing to go through to save each of us.
- Enlist a volunteer to read Matthew 26:57-60.
- Point out that the religious leaders were trying to convict Jesus of doing something wrong, but He was innocent! Jesus had done nothing wrong, and yet He knew He had to go through this in order to save people.
- Invite a volunteer to read Matthew 27:11-14.
- Remind the group that Jesus is innocent and yet still did not say anything because He knew God had a big plan in store.
- Explain that Jesus was then mocked, beaten, and hung on a cross. At noon, darkness covered the land, and He died on the cross.
- Excitedly tell the group that early on the third day, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary visited Jesus’ tomb. An angel appeared, telling them that Jesus is alive!
- Invite a volunteer to read Matthew 28:5-7.
- Point out that without the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus, people deserve to die because of their sins, but Jesus died in their place. He was the blood sacrifice made once and for all for the forgiveness of sins. God was pleased with Jesus’ sacrifice and raised Jesus from the dead to reign as King over all creation. You may be forgiven only through Jesus. Jesus took the pain so you could have the promise of being free



## STUDY THE BIBLE

because He died for everyone's sins! To receive the gift of salvation, you thank Jesus for dying for your sins and for saving you, ask for forgiveness for your sins, and believe that He is the Son of God.

### 3. REVIEW CHALLENGE

- Explain that preteens will move, dance, or do something silly while "Risen Indeed" is playing. When the music stops, everyone must freeze.
- Remind preteens that if anyone moves after the music stops, he will answer a review question in the sidebar.
- Play a couple of rounds, encouraging fun and silly movements. If no one moves during the rounds, the leader can begin calling on random players to answer a question from the sidebar after a few rounds.
- Continue playing until preteens answer all the questions, making sure everyone has an opportunity to participate and engage.

### 4. UNIT VERSE CHALLENGE

- Read the "Unit 2 Verse" together.
- Explain that a leader will read the verse aloud, pausing after certain sections for the preteens to echo it back. The preteens will echo it back in a certain way.
- Suggestions for how preteens will echo words: normal, silly voice, fast, slow, low-pitched voice, high-pitched voice, robot voice.
- Encourage enthusiasm and fun with each round!
- Explain that John 3:16 is important because it shows God's great love for the world. It reminds us that through Jesus, we can have eternal life by believing in Him, offering hope and salvation to everyone!

### 5. APPLY THE BIBLE AND PRAY

- Show "The Adventures of Dab and Derek" video.
- Remind the group that Jesus faced death on the cross to take the punishment for our sins. He willingly died to save us. His resurrection proves His victory over sin and death, offering forgiveness and eternal life to all who believe.
- Challenge the group this week to think about the love Jesus showed by taking the punishment for our sins and what that means to be forgiven.
- Pray, thanking Jesus for His sacrifice, for loving us, for forgiving our sins, and for making a way for us to have eternal life with Him.
- Dismiss preteens to Live It Out groups.

### REVIEW QUESTIONS

- › What did Jesus pray for in the garden? (*He prayed for God's will to be done.*)
- › Why did Jesus die on the cross being blameless? (*Jesus died to take the punishment for our sins.*)
- › What three things happened when Jesus died? (*The earth shook, the temple curtain tore, and graves opened.*)
- › Who were the first people at the tomb on the third day? (*Mary Magdalene and the other Mary*)
- › Why is Jesus' resurrection important? (*It shows us that Jesus defeated sin and death.*)
- › What does salvation mean? (*deliverance from sin and its consequences through faith in Jesus*)

**Option:** Memorize the Weekly Bible Verse: 2 Corinthians 5:21.



## LIVE IT OUT

### CHOICE 1

#### › Pack Item

14: “Mode Codes”

#### › balls (1 per team)

### CHOICE 1

#### PLAY BALL

- Assign preteens to equal teams based on how many balls are available. Each team should have one ball.
- Instruct each team to form a single file, straight line, with each player facing the back of the player in front of him.
- Hand a ball to one player on each team.
- Read the directions on the “Mode Codes” and review the actions.
- Inform the group that the players will keep passing the ball down the line following the code until it reaches the last player, who must then bring it to the front.
- Mention that if the ball is passed incorrectly, the team must start over.
- Play as many rounds as time permits.
- Explain that it is important to have focus and follow directions, just like how salvation requires us to follow God’s plan. That plan is:
  - Admit you are a sinner. Romans 3:23 says, “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”
  - Believe that Jesus died for your sins and rose again. John 3:16 says, “For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son.”
  - Confess Jesus as Lord. Romans 10:9 says, “If you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”
- State: “Just as we must follow the ball-passing instructions, following God’s plan leads to salvation!”

### CHOICE 2

#### › Kids Activity Pages:

“Crossword Craze”

#### › pencils

### CHOICE 2

#### SOLVE A PUZZLE

- Encourage preteens to look at “Crossword Craze” on their Kids Activity Pages. The puzzle is based on the Bible story, going through the key moments from Jesus’ arrest, crucifixion, and resurrection, as told in these chapters of Matthew.
- As preteens fill in the puzzle, reflect on how each word connects to the powerful message of Jesus’ sacrifice and victory.
- Explain that preteens have been given 14 clues based on important events, symbols, and actions in Matthew 26:36–28:10. These range from places where Jesus prayed and was crucified to key people and actions involved in His death and resurrection.
- Instruct preteens to write the answers in the grid based on the clues.
- Explain that the journey through Matthew 26:36–28:10 is more than just a story. It is a reminder of why we need to know what Jesus did for us. Solving the puzzle gave us clues to reveal a great truth of salvation and redemption through the events that happened. Through His sacrifice, Jesus made a way for us to be forgiven and restored to God.



## LIVE IT OUT

- Explain to the group that by reflecting on these key moments, we remember we need to trust in Jesus. Just as each clue in this puzzle builds on the next, God’s plan for salvation was laid out carefully, piece by piece. This is the main idea of the gospel, and understanding it transforms our relationship with God.

### CHOICE 3

#### DRAW IT

- Form four teams and send each team to a corner.
- Ask a leader to stand in the middle of the room with the “Draw It Cards” while teams stand around their marker boards in their corners.
- Explain that for each round, the leader will select two players from each team to come to the middle. The leader will show these players a card, and they must run back to their team’s board to start drawing it. The first drawer will begin to draw the word while her teammates try to guess it. No talking allowed!
- State that the leader will have a timer set for five seconds. After every five seconds, the host will yell: “Switch!” and the second teammate must take over drawing where the first player left off. The two drawers will switch and draw until the word is guessed. When the team guesses the word, everyone on the team sits down, and the host moves on to the next round. The team that guesses the word first earns one point.
- Emphasize that the game continues for a set number of rounds. The team with the most points at the end wins!
- Remind the group to think about the events of Matthew 26:36-28:10—Jesus’ prayer in the garden, His betrayal, crucifixion, and resurrection. Every part of Jesus’ sacrifice was necessary, just as each image in this game is essential for understanding the full picture. Just as we need to know what Jesus did for us, each word in this game reveals a key moment that helps us understand God’s plan of salvation. Jesus’ actions, from praying in Gethsemane to rising from the dead, show us His unwavering love for us.

### WRAP UP

- Remind preteens that Jesus’ love for us was greater than the anguish He experienced in Gethsemane and going to the cross to be crucified. Jesus rose from the grave, revealing His sacrificial love and victory over sin and death so that we could be with Him forever.
- Challenge the group to remember how much Jesus loves them. He died so that everyone’s sins could be forgiven, and we should tell everyone about this good news.
- Remind preteens to take home their One Conversation pages and review them with their families.

### CHOICE 3

- › Pack Item  
15: “Draw It Cards”
- › scissors
- › 4 dry erase markers
- › 4 markers boards or index cards
- › Place a marker board and markers in each corner of the room.
- › timer