

Splash - Younger Kids
4/5/26

LIFE POINT

Jesus took the punishment for people's sins.

CRUCIFIXION AND RESURRECTION



LEADER BIBLE STUDY



LEVEL OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

Jesus died to pay the penalty for my sins—past, present, and future.

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

(For age-appropriate language, use the Bible story on the following pages.)

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

- Give three volunteers a reference index card.
- Encourage the volunteers to look up their card's verse in their Bibles and read them aloud.
- Ask what all the verses have in common. (*The verses explain that Jesus gives us eternal life by saving us from our sins.*)
- Explain that the Bible repeats over and over that, through Jesus, we can be saved. Today in our Bible story, we will see how Jesus saved His people through His crucifixion and resurrection.

~~• Lead kids to sing "Shine on Me."~~

worship, * "Praise" * "Living Hope" * offering

- › Music
- › Bibles
- › marker
- › index cards—Write each reference on a separate card: *Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8-9; Matthew 1:21.*



MISSIONS EMPHASIS

- * 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 child a sticky note and a marker.
- Invite kids to write their initials on the sticky notes.
- Call attention to the "United States Map."
- Lead kids one at a time to close their eyes and try to place their sticky notes near Kansas City, Missouri.
- Remind the kids 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.



INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITY

- * Show the "Unit 2 Banner" and state that Jesus took the punishment for people's sins.
- Lead kids to come up with hand motions to reflect that statement, such as hands extended like a cross and thumbs-down for *sin*.
- Explain that today's Bible story will show the kids that Jesus died and rose again so we could have eternal life with Him forever.

- › Pack Item 10: "Unit 2 Banner"
- › Option: "Crucifixion and Resurrection" coloring page (Printables)



STUDY THE BIBLE

1. BIBLE STORY

- Guide kids to turn in their Bibles to Matthew 26.
- Explain that in this unit, kids will learn about salvation: how Jesus saved us through His life, death, and resurrection. They will go through John 3:16, the Unit Verse, to learn something new about the gospel—the good news that Jesus came to save us from sin.
- Open your Bible to Matthew 26 and tell the Bible story.

BIBLE STORY: CRUCIFIXION AND RESURRECTION

Jesus took His disciples to the garden of Gethsemane. Jesus knew He was about to die. Three times Jesus prayed, “Father, please let this cup pass from Me. Not My will but Your will be done.”

Suddenly, Judas arrived with a large crowd carrying swords and clubs. Judas kissed Jesus on the cheek so the crowd would know who Jesus was. The men grabbed Jesus and arrested Him.

Peter, one of Jesus’ disciples, followed Jesus at a distance to the high priest’s courtyard. While Peter waited outside, some people said, “You were with Jesus.” Three times Peter said that he did not know Jesus.

Then the leaders took Jesus to Pilate, the governor. Pilate could not find that Jesus had done anything wrong. He tried to set Jesus free, but the crowds shouted, “Crucify Him!” Pilate agreed to put Jesus to death.

Soldiers beat Jesus, put a robe on Him, and placed a crown of sharp thorns on His head. They led Jesus to a place called Golgotha and nailed Him to a cross. From noon until three in the afternoon, darkness covered the land. Jesus cried out, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken (turned away from) Me?” Soon after, Jesus shouted again with a loud voice, and then He died.

One of the guards said, “This man really was the Son of God!”

That evening Jesus’ body was placed in a tomb, and a large stone was rolled against the entrance. Guards were posted to stop anyone from taking His body. But on the third day, guards could not stop the earthquake that shook the ground or the angel who rolled back the stone. The guards were so afraid that they dropped to the ground as if they were dead!

› Pack Items

10: “Unit 2 Banner”

11: “Unit 2 Verse”

12: “God So Loved Poster”

13: “God So Loved Cutouts”—The heart cutout will be used during this session.

› Teaching Picture 6

› Music

› Videos

› Printables:

“Cross Puzzle”—Print copies (1 for every group of 4 kids). Cut apart the puzzles and keep the sets separate.

› scissors

› masking tape

› soft ball

Teaching Tip: Save the “God So Loved Poster” and “God So Loved Cutouts” for use throughout the unit.



STUDY THE BIBLE

When some women came to the tomb to care for Jesus' body, they did not find Him. The angel said, "He is not here! He is risen, just as He said! Come and see!"

As the women ran to tell Jesus' disciples the news, Jesus met them. "Greetings!" Jesus said. The women fell at Jesus' feet and worshiped Him. Jesus is alive! "Don't be afraid," Jesus told them. "Go tell My brothers they will see Me in Galilee."

— BASED ON MATTHEW 26:36–28:10

2. REVIEW

- Explain that Jesus was beaten and nailed to a cross. When He died, one guard said: "This man really was the Son of God."
- Show the teaching picture and remind kids that Jesus died and rose from the dead because He wanted to take the punishment for our sins.
- Attach the heart "God So Loved Cutout" over the correct blank on the "God So Loved Poster." Remind the kids that Jesus was crucified and rose again because of His love for us.
- Read each Review Question. Invite kids who would like to answer to make a heart shape with their hands. You will call on the first person to form a heart shape with his hands.
- * Show the "Scripture Sketches" video.

3. LIFE ACTION

- Arrange the kids in a circle. Give one person the ball to start.
- Direct the kids to pass the ball around the circle while music plays. They should try not to be the one holding the ball when the music stops.
- Play "Risen Indeed" while kids pass the ball until you stop the music.
- State that the person to the left of the person holding the ball is out. Explain that even though the person holding the ball should have been out, someone else who did not deserve to be out took their place.
- Continue to play until one player remains.
- Say: "Jesus did not deserve to die for sin, but He took the punishment for our sin, even though He did not deserve it."
- * Show "The Adventures of Dab and Derek" video.

4. UNIT VERSE

- * Show the "Unit 2 Verse" and invite kids to read it aloud.
- Form groups of approximately four people, and give each group a set of "Cross Puzzle" pieces.
- Encourage the kids to put the puzzle together, revealing the verse.
- Invite a volunteer to read the verse aloud.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

- › What did Jesus pray when He was in the garden? (*"Father, please let this cup pass from Me. Not My will but Your will be done."*)
- › In the garden how did the crowd know who Jesus was? (*Judas kissed Jesus.*)
- › What did Peter say when people said he had been with Jesus? (*Three times Peter said he did not know Jesus.*)
- › Where was Jesus' body placed? (*in a tomb sealed with a heavy stone*)
- › What happened on the third day? (*The earth shook, and an angel rolled the stone from the tomb. The women did not find Jesus' body, He was risen.*)
- › What did the women do when they saw Jesus was alive? (*They fell at Jesus' feet and worshiped Him.*)

Option: Teach the Weekly Bible Verse: 2 Corinthians 5:21.



CHOICE 1

- › Kids Activity Pages
- › Printables:
“Key Chain Diagram”
- › pencils
- › lanyard strings in
28-inch lengths (1 per
person)
- › beads (30+ per person)
- › key chain rings (1 per
person)
- › scissors

CHOICE 2

- › Kids Activity Pages
- › pencils

CHOICE 1

CROSS KEY CHAIN CRAFT

- Invite kids to make a key chain.
- Give each person a length of lanyard string, a key chain ring, and at least 30 beads. Set out scissors for kids to share.
- Encourage the kids to tie their strings to the key chain ring and string the beads on the string to make a cross.
- Refer to the “Key Chain Diagram” to see how to put the beads on the string. Assist kids as needed.
- Lead kids to tie the string at the bottom of the cross and cut off any excess string.
- Remind the kids that Jesus died on the cross. He took the punishment for our sins.
- Guide kids to complete “Coded” on their Kids Activity Pages and allow volunteers to share the answer.

CHOICE 2

RESURRECTION TAG

- Invite kids to play “Resurrection Tag.”
- Assign one person to be the “tagger” (representing death) and another person to represent “Jesus.”
- Explain that when the game starts, the tagger will run around trying to tag other people.
- If a child is tagged, she must fall to the ground and pretend she is dead. “Jesus” will come by and tag her.
- Once she has been tagged by “Jesus,” she can continue to run.
- Play as many rounds as time allows.
- Remind the kids that the punishment for our sin is death, but Jesus died in our place. Now, because of Jesus, we can have eternal life with Him.
- Guide kids to complete “Search the Tomb” on their Kids Activity Pages and allow volunteers to share the answer.



LIVE IT OUT

CHOICE 3

RESURRECTION RACE

- Invite kids to run a race.
- Group the kids into pairs and lead each pair to line up on one side of the room. Give each pair a roll of toilet paper.
- On your signal, the first person from each pair will wrap their partners in toilet paper. They must use the whole roll.
- For a larger group, make one or two teams of girls and one or two teams of boys. Kids will choose one person per team to wrap.
- Once the kids are wrapped, they will break free from the toilet paper and run to the other side of the room.
- The first team to touch the wall on the opposite side of the room wins.
- Remind the kids that Jesus died and was wrapped in cloth for burial. Then He rose from the dead.
- Guide kids to complete “Coded” on their Kids Activity Pages and allow volunteers to share the answer.

WRAP UP

- Pray, thanking God for sending His Son, Jesus, to provide the way to spend eternal life with Him.
- Encourage kids to thank God’s Son, Jesus, this week for paying the penalty for our sins.
- Remind kids to take home their One Conversation pages and review them with their families.

CHOICE 3

- › Kids Activity Pages
- › pencils
- › toilet paper rolls (1 per pair or team)

Teaching Tip: Try to pair boys with boys and girls with girls for this activity. Form groups of 3 if needed.