

EASTER BONUS SESSION 2

Splash (Easter)

JESUS SAVES US FROM OUR ENEMIES

MATTHEW 27-28; MARK 15-16; LUKE 23-24; JOHN 19-20



KEY PASSAGE: 2 Chronicles 7:14

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What is repentance? Repentance is turning away from sin and turning to Jesus.

CHRIST CONNECTION: God's plan was always to send Jesus to die for the sins of the world. Jesus died on the cross, was buried, and rose on the third day. All who place their faith in Him will receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life.

STORY POINT: Jesus died on the cross to pay for sin and rose again to defeat death.



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

LEADER Bible Study

Amid the grief of Christ's death by crucifixion, we find the gospel's good news for sinners: "Don't be afraid, because I know you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here. For he has risen, just as he said" (Matthew 28:5-6). The basis of Christian hope is found within these words as an angel of the Lord reminds us of Jesus' victory over sin and death. Jesus alone has saved us from our enemies: sin and death.

What was the significance of Christ's cries from the cross to the Father? How should the reality of the resurrection impact our lives as followers of Jesus?

All four Gospels recount the brutality of the crucifixion and how our sinless Savior was mercilessly mocked and killed by sinful men. In previous chapters, we read that Jesus' sweat was like drops of blood in the garden of Gethsemane, as He knew the treacherous darkness He would face. Yet, Christ's obedience to His Father's will was motivated by the joy He would experience on the other side of the cross. Jesus cried out to the Father, "Why have you abandoned me?" He knew, however, that His sacrificial death was the only way for people to be saved. Jesus bore our sin and shame to set us free from sin and death, allowing those who trust in Him to be born again through the Spirit and welcomed into God's kingdom forever. Every believer has resurrection hope both now and for all eternity. Not only will we spend eternity in the presence of our Savior, but the life we now live, we live by faith in Jesus (Galatians 2:20).

Consider the simplicity of the gospel's good news: Jesus died for sinners so we could be set free from the tyranny of sin and death with the hope of eternal life. Those who were enemies of God can draw near to Him by faith in the Son who has paid our debts and given us new life. Lead boys and girls to see the power of the resurrection within our everyday lives as believers—no longer slaves to sin but children of God with good news to share!



PREPARE

THE WEEK PRIOR

Prepare your heart to teach; plan the session



WELCOME

10-15 MINUTES

Greet kids and open the session



LEARN

25-30 MINUTES

Teach kids the story of the gospel



LOVE

15-20 MINUTES

Lead kids to love the God of the gospel



LIVE

15-20 MINUTES

Lead kids to live out the mission of the gospel



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

GATHER Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.



WELCOME

Activity Page

- ☐ "Order the Events" activity page

Session Starter (Option 1)

- ☐ Easter eggs, 1 per kid
- ☐ small cross or picture of a cross

Session Starter (Option 2)

- ☐ rubber ball



LEARN

Introduce the Session

- ☐ countdown video
- ☐ Story Point Poster

Big Picture Question

- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster

Review the Timeline

- ☐ Giant Timeline

Tell the Bible Story

- ☐ "Jesus Saves Us from Our Enemies" video
- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster
- ☐ paper towel (optional)

Key Passage Activity

- ☐ Key Passage Poster
- ☐ "If My People (2 Chronicles 7:14)" song
- ☐ worship song of your choice (optional)



LOVE

Review & Bible Skills

- ☐ Small Group Timeline and Map Set (optional)



LIVE

Activity Choice (Option 1)

- ☐ 1 inch by 4 inches cardboard strips, 2 per kid
- ☐ 1 inch by 6 inches cardboard strips, 2 per kid
- ☐ brown yarn

Activity Choice (Option 2)

- ☐ paper towel
- ☐ permanent marker
- ☐ washable marker
- ☐ bin of water

Reflection and Prayer

- ☐ Bible story coloring page



WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

SAY “Has anyone ever paid for something you wanted because you didn’t have enough money to pay for it on your own? How did that make you feel?”

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Order the Events” activity page.

SAY “Today, we will learn that **JESUS DIED ON THE CROSS TO PAY FOR SIN AND ROSE AGAIN TO DEFEAT DEATH.**”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: PAID IN FULL

Before the session, create a cross for each kid from brown paper and write paid in full on each cross. Fold the crosses and tape them to walls or hide them around the room.

When kids arrive, challenge them to each find one piece of brown paper. Tell kids the papers contain good news, but they are not to unfold the paper. Once all kids have a brown paper, invite them to unfold it to reveal the cross. Then invite kids to read the message on the cross.

SAY “Every person has disobeyed God and sinned. Because of this, the Bible tells us that the price of sin is death. But your crosses contained some good news: Jesus paid the price of our sin in full. He took our place when He died on the cross. Anyone who trusts in Him has had the price of his or her sin paid for. Jesus saves us from our sin!”

☐ OPTION 2: ROLL THE STONE AWAY



Form kids into two teams. Line up half of each team on one side of the room and the other half on the opposite side of the room. Explain that kids will be competing in a relay race to roll the “stone” away. Provide the first on each team with a rubber ball. Guide kids to get down on their hands and knees. Then lead kids to use their heads to roll the ball to their teammate at the other end of the room. Pushing the ball with their head, and crawling, kids will roll the “stone” until they reach their teammate. Then that kid will roll the ball back to their teammate on the other side of the room. The first team to have all kids compete wins.

SAY “Jesus came to earth to die for our sin. After He was crucified on a cross, He was buried in a tomb, and a stone was placed in front of the tomb. Three days later, Jesus rose from the dead, and an angel rolled away the stone. Today we’ll learn how **JESUS DIED ON THE CROSS TO PAY FOR SIN AND ROSE AGAIN TO DEFEAT DEATH.**”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

INTRODUCE the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (3 minutes)

Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

SAY “Hi, kids! My name is [your name], and I am looking forward to sharing how Jesus saves us from our enemies: sin and death. If you have a Bible with you, will you take it out and hold it up high? [Distribute Bibles to kids who do not have one.]

All people have sinned. The Bible tells us that sin leads to death. Sin and death are real enemies. And in our own power, we could never defeat them. In our story today, we will see how **JESUS DIED ON THE CROSS TO PAY FOR SIN AND ROSE AGAIN TO DEFEAT DEATH.** [Display the Story Point Poster.] Because Jesus died and rose again, anyone who trusts in Him is saved from sin and death. Let's pray as we prepare to hear from His Word: 'Lord, thank You for Your love for us and for sending Jesus to die for our sin. Thank You for providing the way to be forgiven and have eternal life. In Jesus' name, amen.' ”

2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

Display the Big Picture Question Poster.

SAY “Today, we will discuss our big picture question: **What is repentance?** What is the answer we've learned? [Allow responses.] **Repentance is turning away from sin and turning to Jesus.**

Sin is disobedience toward God, and it leads us away from Him. That's why it is so important to repent of our sin. When we repent, we agree with God that our sin is wrong, turn from that sin, and follow Jesus. Following Jesus allows us to find forgiveness and life forever with God. It is only because of what Jesus has done for us through His life, death, and resurrection that we can have forgiveness and eternal life. ”

3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

Show the Giant Timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

SAY “God created a good world without sin. But when Adam and Eve disobeyed God, sin entered the world. God promised to one day send a Savior who would defeat sin and death once and for all. From Abraham to Moses, and through all the kings and prophets, God continued to remind His people of His promise to save them from sin. At the right time, just as God had planned, Jesus was born. He lived a perfect life, always obeying God the Father. He performed miracles, showing everyone He really is God's Son. And He taught the Scriptures and truth, to lead people to life in Him. However, Jesus was ultimately rejected by the people He came to save. Today, we'll see how He died and rose again. ”



Worship



* I Thank God
* Living Hope
* offering



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story



1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Matthew 27:27–28:10; Mark 15:16–16:8; Luke 23:26–24:12; John 19:16–20:18. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “Jesus Saves Us from Our Enemies.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

JESUS SAVES US FROM OUR ENEMIES

“After **Jesus’** triumphal entry in Jerusalem, He **was later arrested and put on trial**. The governor **Pilate handed Jesus over to be crucified**. Pilate had a sign made that said, “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews,” and had it placed on the cross.

The soldiers dressed Jesus in a scarlet robe. They made a crown of thorns and placed it on His head, spit on Him, hit Him, and made fun of Him, saying “Hail, King of the Jews!” Then they led Him away to crucify Him.

Two criminals were crucified along with Him, one on His right and one on His left. **Those who passed by shook their heads, saying “If you really are the Son of God, come down from the cross!”**

Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, because they do not know what they are doing.”

One of the criminals joined those making fun of Jesus. But the other criminal said, “We are getting what we deserve, but this man has done nothing wrong!” Then he said to Jesus, “Please remember me when You come into Your kingdom.”

Jesus replied to him, “Truly I tell you, today You will be with Me in paradise.”

Darkness covered the whole land for three hours. Jesus cried out, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” which means, “My God, my God, why have You abandoned me?” Then He cried out again with a loud voice, saying, “Father, into your hands I entrust my spirit. It is finished.” The curtain of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom.

A man named Joseph came and asked for Jesus’ body. He took it, wrapped it in clean linen, and placed it in his own tomb. A great stone was rolled against the entrance. Pilate told the Pharisees to make the tomb as secure as they could. They placed a seal on the stone and placed a guard there to make sure no one came to take His body.

After the Sabbath day, Mary Magdalene and another Mary came to the tomb. They found an angel of the Lord had rolled back the stone and was sitting on it. He told the women, “Do not be afraid! Jesus, who was crucified, is not here. He has risen, just as he said!” They ran to tell the disciples the good news!

Christ Connection: God’s plan was always to send Jesus to die for the sins of the

STORYTELLING TIPS

Vary your tone: Use a dramatic, sad, and excited voice as you tell the story to help kids stay engaged.

Tear it: Use a paper towel to demonstrate the curtain. Tear it from top to bottom when you share how the curtain was torn.



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

world. Jesus died on the cross, was buried, and rose on the third day. All who place their faith in Him will receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life. ”

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY “ Jesus was arrested, beaten, and placed on a cross. Jesus never sinned, but He was treated like a criminal. People mocked Jesus and treated Him badly. What did Jesus ask God to do for the people who made fun of Him and hurt Him? [Allow responses.] Jesus prayed for God to forgive them. Even as Jesus suffered on the cross, He displayed the love He has for people. Jesus came to forgive sinful people, and as He hung on the cross, He showed just how much He was willing to take our place for our sin. Jesus cried out and asked God why He had abandoned Him. God is holy and will not accept one sin. Jesus took our sins on Himself, and God punished Jesus for people’s sin. God didn’t save His Son from punishment because Jesus’ sacrifice is the only way for sinners to be saved.

Jesus’ work was finished, and He died. What happened after Jesus died? [Allow responses.] The temple curtain tore in two from top to bottom. The curtain was in the temple. It separated every person from the most holy part of the temple, where God’s presence was. Only the high priest could go into this most holy part once a year. Because of Jesus’ work on the cross, the curtain was torn. Jesus’ death made the way for anyone who trusts in Him to come before God. He defeated sin, so we can find forgiveness and be made right with God.

A man named Joseph buried Jesus’ body in his own tomb and rolled a stone to close the entrance. After the Sabbath, some women, who were followers of Jesus, made their way to the tomb. When they arrived, they saw two angels. What did the angels say to them? [Allow responses.] They told the women that Jesus had risen from the dead, just as He had said He would. The woman ran to tell the disciples the good news that Jesus was alive!

JESUS DIED ON THE CROSS TO PAY FOR SIN AND ROSE AGAIN TO DEFEAT DEATH. God’s plan was always to send Jesus to die for the sins of the world. Jesus died on the cross, was buried, and rose on the third day. All who place their faith in Him will receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life. ”

3 GOSPEL DISCUSSION

SAY “ We could never pay for our sin because we can never live a perfect life. Jesus did that for us. Jesus died to pay for our sin. He rose again, showing He has power over sin and death. Anyone who trusts in Him as Savior will be forgiven for their sins and receive eternal life. If you would like to know more about accepting Jesus as your Savior, I would love to speak with you. ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Create an environment where kids are welcome to ask questions about what it means to follow Jesus.)



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

4 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Show the Key Passage Poster. Lead kids in reading aloud 2 Chronicles 7:14 together.

SAY 🗣️ When we repent of our sin and trust in Jesus, we are forgiven. Jesus' death paid for our sin, and His resurrection gives us victory over sin and death forever. 🗣️

Use a sticky note to cover a word on the Key Passage Poster. Lead kids to say the key passage aloud. Then cover another word with a sticky note and challenge kids to say the key passage aloud. Repeat, until the entire key passage is covered.

Lead kids to sing "If My People (2 Chronicles 7:14)." You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

5 PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning to Love.

SAY 🗣️ Thank You, Lord, for sending Your Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for our sin and rise from the grave on the third day so we can receive forgiveness and eternal life. Help us share this good news with others. In Jesus' name, amen. 🗣️

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God by Applying the Story

1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles and display the New Testament Israel Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to Matthew 28. Explain that the Gospels are Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Tell kids that all four Gospels describe Jesus' death and resurrection.

Consider pointing out the location of Jerusalem (H5) on the New Testament Israel Map. Choose a volunteer to read aloud Matthew 28:5-7 or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verses aloud.

SAY 🗨️ When the women came to Jesus' tomb, He wasn't there. And angel told the women that Jesus is alive! Jesus had told His followers He would rise from the dead (John 2:18-22; Matthew 16:21), and He did exactly what He promised. Jesus' resurrection shows the power He has over sin and death.

The women then ran and told others the good news: Jesus is alive! We can tell others this good news as well. Because Jesus lives forever, we know He has defeated our enemies, sin and death, once and for all. Anyone who trusts in Him receives forgiveness of sins and eternal life. 🗨️

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

SAY 🗨️ Why is it important that Jesus really died? 🗨️

Tell kids that the payment for sin is death. God demands a sacrifice for sin because He is just and must punish sin. Share how the Bible tells us that without the shedding of blood there can be no forgiveness. Jesus never sinned, but He became the sacrifice for our sin so we can be forgiven. Jesus' sacrifice meets God's just standards.

SAY 🗨️ Why is it important that Jesus rose back to life? 🗨️

Explain how Jesus' resurrection reveals the power He has over sin and death. Tell kids that Jesus' resurrection gives us hope. Jesus' resurrection points to the resurrection all believers will have one day. The Bible says we will be raised just as Jesus was raised. Those who trust Jesus as Savior have eternal life forever with God.

SAY 🗨️ How does Jesus' death and resurrection bring joy to Christians? 🗨️

Discuss how Jesus' death and resurrection brings joy to Christians because when we trust in Jesus, we are saved. Tell kids there is no greater joy than to know our sins are forgiven and we will spend life forever with God. Help kids understand how we can face sadness, difficulties, and challenges with joy because we know nothing can separate us from God's love. Encourage kids to share this joy with others who do not know Jesus.

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: FRAME CROSS

Provide each kid with four cardboard strips. Direct kids to glue the strips together to create a rectangle frame. Invite kids to color their frame with markers. Then provide kids with brown yarn. Guide kids to wrap the yarn from the top center side of the frame to the bottom center side of the frame. Continue wrapping the yarn until you have several layers which form the long side of the cross. Cut the yarn and glue the loose end to wrapped yarn. Then wrap the yarn horizontally across the frame to create the short arm of the cross. Continue wrapping the yarn until you have several layers which form the long side of the cross. Cut the yarn and glue the loose end to wrapped yarn. Invite kids to write Jesus Is Alive on the frame.

SAY “JESUS DIED ON THE CROSS TO PAY FOR SIN AND ROSE AGAIN TO DEFEAT DEATH. We can remember this truth and share it with others who don’t know Jesus.”

☐ OPTION 2: WASHED CLEAN



Using a permanent marker, draw a heart on the right side of a paper towel. Fold the paper towel in half and draw a heart on the paper towel again, ensuring it’s on top of the original heart. On the original heart, write the word SIN using washable markers. Tell kids that we are all sinners with “unclean” hearts. Draw lines on the heart using washable markers to represent “sin.” Fold the paper towel in half, so the “unclean” heart is covered and the other heart is displayed. Tell kids we can try to “cover up” our sin. Place the folded paper towel in a bin of water. The water represents Jesus. The “unclean” heart will show through the other heart in the water. Tell kids we can’t hide our sin from God. Then tell kids when we trust in Jesus, He washes away our sin. Pat the paper towel until all the marker is washed away. Tell kids Jesus took our sin on Himself when He died on the cross. Hold up the paper towel, showing the “sin” is washed away.

SAY “Only Jesus can take away our sin and make us new. Anyone who trusts in Jesus will be forgiven and receive eternal life.”

2 REFLECTION AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute a sheet of paper and pencil to each kid. Ask kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Who can I tell about this story?

Be sure to send the sheets home with the kids along with the activity pages so parents can continue to discuss the Bible story with their kids. If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page. Pray for your group.