



APRIL 18, 2025

GOOD FRIDAY

MATTHEW 26-28

CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus died on the cross and is alive!

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

What is the gospel? The gospel is the good news that God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to rescue sinners.

MEMORY VERSE

By his wounds you have been healed. 1 Peter 2:24

PREPARE



Take time to reflect on today's lesson.

LEADER BIBLE STUDY

Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection are essential to the Christian faith. If we teach Jesus as a respected teacher and miracle-worker who claimed to be the Messiah and who was crucified on the cross — but who was not resurrected — then we are teaching the Jesus of Judaism. If we teach Jesus as a wise teacher and prophet who ascended into heaven — but who was not crucified — then we are teaching the Jesus of Islam.

Jesus came to earth to save us from our sins. (Matt. 1:21) He died to show God's love to us (Rom. 5:7-8) so that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16) Jesus died so that we would be forgiven. (Eph. 1:7) Jesus died to bring us to God. (1 Pet. 3:18)

The time between Friday afternoon and Sunday morning must have been dark hours for Jesus' disciples. Fear, doubt, and confusion certainly overwhelmed their thoughts. Jesus, their Lord, was dead. He had been unjustly arrested, falsely accused, and severely beaten. Even worse, He had been killed in a horrible manner: crucifixion.

But the story doesn't end there. Jesus' body was laid in a tomb. The tomb was sealed and guards watched over it. The Jews remembered Jesus' claim that He would rise from the dead (John 2:19-21), and they made sure no one could steal His body and insist He had risen. Imagine their surprise when Jesus did rise from the dead!

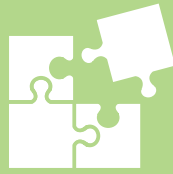
Jesus' resurrection gives us joy and hope for our own resurrection. The same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead will raise our bodies to life. (Rom. 8:11)

As you teach preschoolers this Bible story, emphasize the gospel: the good news of who Jesus is and what He has done. We do not worship a dead Savior. Jesus is alive! Sadness turns to joy. There is hope for sinners.

A REMINDER...

It's easy to get wrapped up in the pain and grief of the crucifixion on Good Friday. But we know the story doesn't end on the cross or in the tomb; Jesus is alive and His death and resurrection have saved us from our sins!

OPENING & ACTIVITIES



Connect with children through games and activities.

WELCOME

Play music in the background as you greet children coming into the classroom. Help them transition in and feel welcome as they play games and interact with others.

ACTIVITY #1: SING A SONG

Gather children and sing the song below to the tune of "Skip To My Lou":

By his wounds you have been healed,
you have been healed,
you have been healed.
By his wounds you have been healed.
1 Peter 2:24

(Repeat)

CONNECT THE DOTS



Our memory verse phrase says, "By his wounds you have been healed." God sent Jesus to earth to help us. Jesus saves us from our sins when we trust in Him. By Jesus' wounds, we have been healed. He died on the cross and is alive!



GOD IS KING. Ask: "Who is in charge at home? Who is in charge over the whole world?" Explain God made everything! He is King over everything, and He is in charge.



WE SINNED. Ask: "Have you ever done something wrong?" Tell children everyone sins, or disobeys God. Our sin makes God sad.



GOD SENT JESUS. Explain God is holy and must punish sin. God sent His Son, Jesus to take the punishment we deserve. Read John 3:16.



JESUS LOVES. Ask, "Do you like presents?" Explain that Jesus gives us the best present. He never did anything wrong, but He was punished in our place. Jesus wants to take away our sin because He loves us.

ACTIVITY #2: PRACTICE THE GOSPEL

Create motions to help children remember each part of *The Gospel: God's Plan for Preschoolers*.

Explain each statement and practice the motions several times. Use the suggested motions or create your own.

God is King: hands on head like a crown

We sinned: hands over downward face

God sent Jesus: arms extended straight out to sides like a cross

Jesus loves: hands over heart



JESUS' CRUCIFIXION AND RESURRECTION

Jesus had been arrested and taken to Pilate, the governor. Pilate's soldiers put a purple robe around Jesus and made a crown of thorns and put it on Jesus' head. They pretended to bow down to Him. Then they led Jesus away.

Jesus was put on a cross. They put a sign above Jesus' head that said: THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS. Two criminals were put on crosses next to Jesus.

Darkness covered the land. Jesus cried out, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" Jesus died and was buried in a tomb. A large stone was rolled in front of the tomb, and Pilate's soldiers guarded the tomb so that no one would steal Jesus' body.

On the third day, two of Jesus' friends, both named Mary, went to the tomb. They were very sad. Suddenly there was a big earthquake as an angel came down from heaven. The angel rolled away the stone and sat on it. The guards fainted.

The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid! Jesus is not here! He has risen from the dead, just as He said He would."

The women were so happy! Jesus was alive! They left the tomb to tell Jesus' friends the good news. Just then, Jesus greeted them. The women worshiped Him. Jesus said, "Do not be afraid. Tell My friends to go to Galilee. I will meet them there."

CHRIST CONNECTION

God sent Jesus to earth to help us. Jesus saves us from our sins when we trust in Him. By Jesus' wounds, we have been healed. **He died on the cross and is alive!**

SNACK & CLOSING



Continue to engage children near the end of the morning.

SNACK & DISCUSSION

Wash hands or use hand sanitizer. Serve a snack. Show children the Bible story picture as you ask the following questions and retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

1. What was your favorite part of today's Bible story?
2. What did you learn about God in today's Bible story?
3. What happened on the third day after Jesus died?
4. What is the gospel? The gospel is the good news that God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to rescue sinners.

CLOSING ACTIVITIES

Pick up toys and games from around the room and put them away. After the room is cleaned up, set out markers or crayons and let children work on today's Bible story coloring page or activity page until their parents arrive.

You can also choose a book to read to children as they work or for those who don't want to work. Please make the effort to have children quietly engaged in the last few minutes of the service. When parents arrive to pick up their child, share about something their child enjoyed doing or did well today.

BEFORE YOU GO...

Please clean up by doing the following:

1. Spray down toys with disinfectant.
2. Spot sweep if needed.
3. Return toys to closet, close door.
4. Throw away any trash left on counters and in room.
5. Return storage cubes to Rm 108.

THANK YOU FOR SERVING WITH US!