

UNIT 9, SESSION 1

EASTER

MATTHEW 26-28

KEY POINT

Jesus died and rose again. He is our Savior!

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

Why is Easter the happiest day? Easter is the happiest day because Jesus is alive!

MEMORY VERSE

And He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died for them and was raised again. **2 Corinthians 5:15**

PREPARE



Take time to reflect on today's lesson.

LEADER BIBLE STUDY

It's Easter! The most wonderful time of the year! Take a moment to reflect on how good God is. He has never left or forsaken us. He died an awful death, but never compromised His witness, ministering and forgiving until His last breath. He died and rose again so we might have eternal life.

This is the perfect time of year to revel in his goodness. Praise Him. Worship Him. Thank Him. He is so good. This is the posture that we should hold all of our days, but in this time of remembrance, it may be easier to share, easier to invite people to church, and easier to tell someone—anyone—why we have so much hope.

Every first Sunday, we celebrate by taking communion. How special that Easter is the first Sunday of April this year, and while we're celebrating our 75th year of Northwest Bible Church. We have so much to celebrate!

As you teach the Easter lesson this week, remember that helping children understand the crucifixion is a difficult thing. Many adults wonder how or even if they should talk to their children about it. The idea of Jesus dying is difficult for grown-ups, never mind young children. Nevertheless, it is a fundamental truth of the gospel which can't and shouldn't be overlooked.

Our goal is to present it in an age-appropriate but biblically accurate way. You know your children! Pray and prepare for how the Lord will have you teach this special lesson as you go about your week.

WELCOME & OPENING



Connect with children as service starts.

WELCOME

Play music through the undercabinet radio (flash drive), or connect your phone to Bluetooth through the radio and play Christian preschool/Bible songs as you greet children coming into the classroom. Help them transition in and feel welcome as they play games and interact with others.

MEMORY VERSE SONG

Gather children and sing the song below to the tune of “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star”:

And He died for all, that those who live
should no longer live for themselves
but for Him who died for them
and was raised again.

2 Corinthians 5:15
2 Corinthians 5:15

THE LORD’S PRAYER/TEN COMMANDMENTS

Toddlers & Twos: Use the provided poster to review the Lord’s Prayer with the children in your class.

Threes & Fours: Using the provided poster, review the Ten Commandments with the children in your class. Read through each one, then have children repeat after you as you say them together.

ACTIVITY

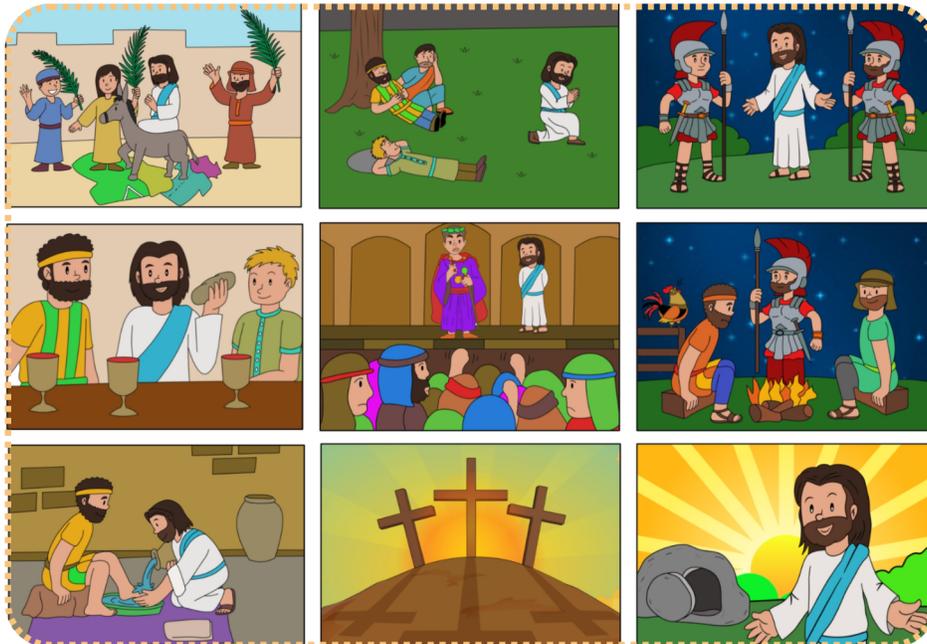


Help children with an activity connected to the lesson.

ACTIVITY: THE EASTER STORY

Give each child a set of the provided Easter story cards. Help children put the cards in the order that they happened. As you work, review the Easter story.

Put each child's set of cards in one of the provided bags for them to take home. Be sure to also send each child home with one of the provided empty tombs as a reminder of Jesus coming back to life!





BABIES & TWOS BIBLE LESSON

Our lesson today starts sad. Soldiers came to arrest Jesus. Jesus went with them willingly. They took Jesus to the Roman ruler and the king. Jesus was perfect; He obeyed rules and did everything the right way, but they chose to kill Jesus. Jesus was hurt very bad, but He still prayed that God would forgive the people. Jesus died and they placed Him in a tomb.

Even though all this was sad, it ends in the best way! Three days later, He came to life again! It was all part of God's rescue plan to save us! Jesus died for our sins so we can have eternal life if we believe in Him.

THREES & FOURS BIBLE LESSON

Jesus was still praying in the garden when a mob came to arrest Him. Judas, one of Jesus' disciples, chose to betray Jesus for some coins. Peter wanted to fight them, but Jesus went with them peacefully.

They took Jesus to the Roman ruler and to the king. They couldn't find anything wrong with Jesus. He obeyed all the rules and did nothing wrong. But they were afraid of the people, so they gave them a choice: they would free Jesus or a criminal. The people chose to free the criminal and kill Jesus.

They gave Jesus a cross to carry. It was heavy. He climbed to the top of a hill and they nailed Jesus to it. Jesus was in a lot of pain, but He prayed that God would forgive the people. Finally, Jesus said, "It is finished," and He died.

Three days later, Jesus' friends went to visit his tomb. When they arrived, it was empty. The huge stone had been moved. Soon, Jesus appeared to them. Jesus had risen from the dead, just as He had promised!

KEY POINT: Jesus died and rose again. He is our Savior!

SNACK & CLOSING



Continue to engage children near the end of the morning.

SNACK & DISCUSSION

Have everyone wash their hands, then serve a snack. Ask the following questions and retell parts of the lesson as needed.

1. What was your favorite part of today's Bible lesson?
2. What did you learn about God in today's Bible lesson?
3. What happened to Jesus after three days in the tomb?
4. Why is Easter the happiest day? **Easter is the happiest day because Jesus is alive!**

CLOSING ACTIVITIES

Sing the clean up song. Have children help put toys on tables.

Gather them on the rug in a circle and have one volunteer read today's Bible lesson from the children's Bible. Have a regular Bible ready as well.

Sing the "B.I.B.L.E." and "Everything in the Bible is Absolutely True" songs. Remind children that the Bible is God's Word and the most important book in the whole world!

The other volunteer should stand at the door and help with pick up, matching stickers, gathering children's things, etc.

BEFORE YOU GO...

Second service leaders, 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 binders to the cabinet.

THANK YOU FOR SERVING WITH US!