



UNIT 31 | SESSION 5

JESUS SUFFERED FOR US

PHILIPPIANS 2

CHRIST CONNECTION: Jesus died on the cross to rescue people from their sins.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: Jesus took our punishment. Isaiah 53:5

BABIES GOSPEL GEMS

- Jesus was hurt and died for us.
- Paul told people to be like Jesus.
- Because of Jesus, we can follow and obey God.

BIBLE STORY FOR TODDLERS:

Paul wrote a letter to say thank you to his friends in Philippi. Paul was in prison because he told people about Jesus. Paul wrote, “Be like Jesus. Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man. He did what God wanted by dying on a cross. One day, everyone everywhere will bow down to Jesus and honor Him. Everyone will know and say that Jesus is Lord.” Jesus was hurt and died for us. But now Jesus is alive! Because of Jesus, we can follow and obey God. He will help us be like Jesus. Paul said, “You are children of God in a dark world. When you follow Jesus, you will shine like stars.”



LEARNING Activities

Engage babies in the following activities during the session. In each activity, provide handheld Bibles for babies to handle. Open a Bible to Philippians 2. Show the Bible story picture as you say the gospel gems in a soothing voice. Read the key passage phrase card. Pray for the babies.

1 SING TO A FAMILIAR TUNE

Sing to the tune of “London Bridge”:

“Jesus died to rescue us, rescue us, rescue us.
Jesus died to rescue us. He is our Savior.”

SAY “ Jesus is our Savior. Jesus was hurt and died to rescue people from their sins. Because of Jesus, we can follow and obey God. ”

2 FIND THE BIBLE

Place a Bible on the floor in front of the babies. Drape a hand towel or cloth napkin over the Bible. Say a baby’s name to get his attention. Slowly lift the towel to show the Bible. Then cover the Bible again. Ask, “Where is the Bible?” Uncover the Bible and say, “There it is!” Repeat as interest allows.

SAY “ This is the Bible. The Bible tells about Jesus. All the words in the Bible are true. Jesus was hurt and died to rescue us! ”

3 ROLL A BALL

Tape a cross to one side of an inflated beach ball and a picture of Jesus to the other side. Sit babies across from one another on the floor in horseshoe-shaped pillows. Slowly roll the ball back and forth, pointing out and saying, “Cross” and “Jesus,” for the babies as the ball rolls. Talk about the Bible story.

SAY “ Can you find the picture of Jesus? Jesus loves us! Can you find the cross? Jesus was hurt and died on the cross for us. Because of Jesus, we can follow and obey God. ”

Check diapers, serve bottles if needed, and release babies to parents according to your church’s security guidelines. Give parents today’s big picture card. Repeat the Christ connection, gospel gems, and Bible-learning activities for babies who stay a second hour.



TODDLER ACTIVITIES

LEARNING Activities

Engage toddlers in the following activities. In each activity, show the Bible story picture as you review the Bible story. Provide small Bibles for toddlers to handle.

1 CIRCLE TIME

Open your Bible to Philippians 2. Show the Bible story picture as you tell the provided toddlers' Bible story. Read the key passage phrase card and guide toddlers to say it. Pray for the toddlers.

2 PAINT WITH COTTON SWABS

Provide painting smocks and black paper for each toddler. Squirt a small amount of white or yellow washable paint on a paper plate. Demonstrate how to dip the cotton swabs into the paint and make dots on the papers. Talk about how the dots look like stars. Retell the story.

SAY “ When we follow and obey Jesus, what did Paul say we were like? Yes! Stars! Because of Jesus, we can follow and obey God. He will help us be like Jesus. ”

3 TRACE LETTERS

Display and open age-appropriate junk mail for toddlers to see. Explain that letters are used to make words. Encourage toddlers to notice all the different letters on the mail. Write JESUS on the papers for each toddler. Direct toddlers to trace the letters with their fingers as you read aloud and sound out the word Jesus. Review the Bible story as the toddlers trace.

SAY “ Paul wrote a letter to his friends. Who was his letter about? That’s right! Jesus! Paul told his friends to be like Jesus; Jesus is God. Because of Jesus, we can follow and obey God. ”

4 SHINE A LIGHT

Before the session, use nails or sharpened pencils to punch holes in a large cardboard box. Hold the box in front of a light to allow the light to shine through the holes. Explain that light shines in dark places, like stars. Allow toddlers to explore the box as you retell the story.

SAY “ God wants us to follow Jesus. Paul said that when we follow Jesus, we will shine like what? That’s right! Stars! When we follow Jesus, we are like a light shining in the dark to other people. ”

5 WRITE THE LETTER J



Fill gallon-size ziplock bags with colored rice or candy sprinkles. Write the letter J on a sheet of paper and slide it in the bags. Seal the bags with duct tape. Consider double bagging to prevent leaks. Lay out the bags, covering the letter J. Invite toddlers find and write the letter in the rice or sprinkles as you review the story.

SAY “ Who was Paul’s letter about? Yes! Paul wrote a letter about Jesus! Paul told his friends to be like Jesus. Because of Jesus, we can follow and obey God. ”

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PHILIPPIANS 2

CHRIST CONNECTION: Jesus died on the cross to rescue people from their sins.

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1 TRANSITION ACTIVITY: PLAY WITH MAGNETIC LETTERS

Fill a plastic container with shredded paper. Hide magnetic alphabet letters that spell JESUS among the strips of paper. Challenge the children to find all of the letters. Write JESUS on a sheet of paper and tape it to a magnetic baking sheet. Challenge children to match the magnetic letters to the ones on the paper. Assist as needed. Review the story as toddlers play.

SAY “ Paul wrote about Jesus. Who did Paul tell people to be like? Yes! Jesus! He told his friends to be like Jesus; Jesus is God. Because of Jesus, we can follow and obey God. ”

2 SING TO A FAMILIAR TUNE

Sing the song below to the tune of “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star”:

“Jesus, Jesus, we love Him. He’s our Savior and our friend.
Tell the world about Him now. Do not stop until they know.
Jesus, Jesus we love Him. He’s our Savior and our friend.”

3 FIND ALL THE PEOPLE

Draw a simple stick person on a sticky note (at least two per child). Tape the Bible story picture or any other picture of Jesus to a wall at toddlers’ eye level. Adhere the sticky notes all around the room. Guide the toddlers to notice the picture of Jesus. Challenge them to find the stick people from around the room and place them on the picture of Jesus. Retell the story, focusing on how everyone everywhere will one day know and say “Jesus is Lord!”

SAY “ What did Paul say that everyone everywhere would say? Yes! ‘Jesus is Lord!’ Paul told his friends that one day everyone everywhere would know and say that Jesus is Lord. Because of Jesus, we can follow and obey God. ”

4 RECORD WORDS

Gather the toddlers and lead them to say, “Jesus is Lord” in various ways. Ways include to whisper or talk like a giant, a robot, a pirate, and so forth. If possible, record the toddlers’ voices with an electronic recording device and play it back for them to hear. Continue as interest allows. Review the Bible story.

SAY “ What did Paul say everyone would say about Jesus? Right! Jesus is Lord! Paul told people to be like Jesus; Jesus is God! He is our Lord! Because of Jesus, we can follow and obey God. ”

Check diapers, serve a snack if needed, and release toddlers to parents according to your church’s security procedures. Give parents today’s big picture card to reinforce today’s Bible story, Christ connection, or gospel gems throughout the week.