



EASTER BONUS SESSIONS

KIDS
WORSHIP GUIDE



the **GOSPEL** PROJECT.

EASTER BONUS SESSION 1

JESUS' TRIUMPHAL ENTRY

MATTHEW 21; MARK 11; LUKE 19; JOHN 12



CHRIST CONNECTION: The people welcomed Jesus as King, but they did not recognize Him as their Savior. Jesus calls all people to trust in Him as Savior and Lord. When we do, we will be saved from sin and death.

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

KEY PASSAGE: 2 Chronicles 7:14

EXPECTED RESPONSE: Belief



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

PLAN the Session

1. Read the Leader Bible Study and review the session plan.
2. Check out the session-by-session training available on Ministry Grid.
3. Pray for yourself, your group, and the other leaders and kids in your ministry.

LEADER Bible Study

This week we celebrate Palm Sunday, a day to remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem as He walked into the final week of His earthly life. Riding into the city on a lowly donkey, Jesus demonstrated a lot about the kind of king He came to be. Read the full story in Luke 19 and use the following teaching points to guide you as you prepare to teach.

Not everyone recognizes Jesus as King. Jesus entered Jerusalem to the shouts of praise from the crowds, much to the dismay of the religious leaders. They were shocked at this overt display of worship and rebuked Jesus. They were so engulfed in their own interpretation of the Scriptures that they completely missed how God had been pointing them to this King. Here was the salvation they had desired for generations, and they didn't have eyes to see who He truly was.

Jesus longs to be close to us. Jesus looked over the city of Jerusalem and wept. He knew that people would fail to see Him as their long-awaited Savior. His presence on this earth proved His deep, abiding love for people, and His desire to re-connect us to our Creator. We cannot get back to the Eden that was lost with the entrance of sin, so Jesus brings Eden to us through His invitation to join our hearts to Him in faith.

Jesus is the Savior and King we need. People may have been surprised at the way Jesus entered Jerusalem: riding on a donkey. Yet He is the humble, gentle King we all long for. He is a conquering hero, but not in the ways the world expects. He came to battle the evil in the world, beginning with the sin in each of us. He didn't need a war horse to accomplish victory. His weapon was love, and it's what held Him on the cross until the job was done. With the cry, "It is finished," our sin was atoned for and the gates into the kingdom were thrown wide open. All who desire God are freely welcomed.

As you teach this week, guide kids to see the glorious invitation God offers them. When they recognize their sin and understand that they cannot fight it on their own, Jesus goes to battle for them. In fact, He has already won, and from the moment someone chooses to follow Christ, they are ushered into a kingdom that will stand for eternity.



PREPARE

THE WEEK PRIOR

Prepare your heart to teach; plan the session



LEARN

20-30 MINUTES

Teach kids how and why we worship



LOVE

25-30 MINUTES

Lead kids to love God by worshipping Him



LIVE

10 MINUTES

Lead kids to live worshipful lives for God



PREPARE

FOR 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.



LEARN

Countdown

- ☐ countdown video

Worship through Music

- ☐ "Our God Is Holy," "Holy God (Holy, Holy, Holy)," or other high-energy worship songs of your choosing

Introduction and Big Picture Question

- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster

Tell the Bible Story

- ☐ "Jesus' Triumphal Entry" video
- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster

Group Demonstration

- ☐ birthday party invitation
- ☐ poster



LOVE

Group Activity

- ☐ beanbags
- ☐ hula hoops, 2

Respond in Worship

- ☐ "Mighty Fortress (Our God is Faithful)," "Walking By Your Side," or other slower worship songs of your choosing
- ☐ offering basket or collection box (optional)



LIVE

Key Passage

- ☐ Key Passage Poster
- ☐ "If My People (2 Chronicles 7:14)" song

Additional Activity

- ☐ pool noodles, 2



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN through Worship

1 COUNTDOWN

Show the countdown video as your kids arrive, and set it to end as worship time begins.

2 WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC (5–10 min.)

Choose a few high-energy worship songs—such as “Our God Is Holy” or “Holy God (Holy, Holy, Holy)”—to sing with your group of kids. Lead motions enthusiastically and encourage kids to join you. Between songs, help the kids think through what it means to worship God and why we often use music to help us do so. Take time to talk the kids through any lyrics that might be challenging to understand.

3 INTRODUCTION AND BIG PICTURE QUESTION (3 min.)

SAY “Hi, friends! It’s so great to see you today! Before we jump into our story, I have a question for you to think about. Who is someone you would be excited to meet in person? How would you respond if they walked through the door? **[Allow responses.]** In our story, we’ll hear about the different responses people had to Jesus as He entered the city of Jerusalem. Some people were angry, while others worshiped Him.

We’ve been exploring the Old Testament, but today is a special day in the Christian calendar, so we’re going to jump ahead in the Biblical story to an important event in Jesus’ life. Today we celebrate Palm Sunday. This is the day we remember Jesus’ entrance into Jerusalem just a few days before He was crucified. If we want to read about Jesus’ life on earth, what part of the Bible would we turn to? **[Allow responses.]** That’s right, the four Gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. These four books of the Bible tell the story of Jesus’ life on earth, His death, and resurrection.

Each week we read from the Bible. It’s God’s Word to us and it is true. The Bible shows us who God is, what He is like, and how He is at work within His creation. The Bible tells us the amazing story of God’s plan to rescue us from sin and bring us into His kingdom. God’s Word helps us know that when we believe what is true about Jesus and repent, we are saved from our sin. **What is repentance? Repentance is turning away from sin and turning to Jesus.** Let’s turn to Luke 19 and get ready to learn more. ”



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

4 TELL THE BIBLE STORY (10 min.)

Open your Bible to Matthew 21:1-9; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-44; John 12:12-19. Tell the Bible story using the script provided, or flesh out the “Kids Sermon Outline” in the margin to teach a more in-depth message. You may choose to play the Bible story video “Jesus’ Triumphal Entry.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

JESUS’ TRIUMPHAL ENTRY

“ Jesus and His disciples were approaching Bethphage and Bethany, two villages on the way to the great city of Jerusalem. He sent two of the disciples ahead, saying, “As you enter the village, you will find a young donkey tied there, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it. And if anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ say this: ‘The Lord needs it.’”

They went ahead and found it just as Jesus had told them. When the owners said, “Why are you untying the donkey?”, they replied, “The Lord needs it.”

This took place so that the prophecy would be fulfilled that says, “See, your King is coming to you, gentle, and mounted on a donkey.”

The two disciples brought the donkey to Jesus, threw their clothes on it, and helped Jesus get on it. As He was going along, a large crowd of people spread their clothes on the road and cut palm branches from trees to place on the road as well. They said, “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

Some of the Pharisees were upset and asked Jesus to tell the people to be quiet. Jesus replied, “If they were to keep silent, the stones would cry out.”

As Jesus approached the city, He cried for it. He said, “Because you will not recognize the time when God visits you, sad days will come. Enemies will build a barricade around you and will crush you and destroy the city.” He was sad for the people because of the consequences that would come for not recognizing Him as God and Savior.

The Pharisees saw the way the people praised Jesus as King because they had seen Him do miracles like raising Lazarus from the dead. They said to one another, “See? We have accomplished nothing to stop the people from following Jesus. The world has gone after Him!”

KIDS SERMON OUTLINE

Not everyone recognizes Jesus as King (Mk. 11:15-19):

Some of the Pharisees were upset and asked Jesus to tell the people to be quiet. They wanted to arrest Jesus.

Jesus longs to be close to us (Lk. 19:41-44):

Jesus wept as He approached Jerusalem, because He knew they would not recognize Him as God and that there were sad days ahead for them.

Jesus is the Savior and King we need (Matt. 21:1-10):

The people expected Jesus to be a powerful king, but they did not recognize that He was their Savior.



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

5 CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY “ The people welcomed Jesus as King, but when Jesus saw Jerusalem, He cried. He knew they would not recognize Him as Savior and that there would be consequences. We also will have to deal with the consequences of our sin if we do not trust in Jesus as Savior. Jesus came to earth to solve the problem of evil in our world, beginning with the evil in us. Everyone is sinful and the consequence for sin is death. That’s really bad news! The good news is Jesus came to rescue us. He lived a life of perfect obedience to the Father, He died on the cross to take our punishment for sin, and He rose from the grave to promise that whoever believes in Him will have life forever in God’s kingdom.

Why do you think Jesus wants us to believe in and follow Him? **[Allow responses.]** We don’t have to be perfect to be accepted by God. We simply need to understand that we are sinful, and we can’t do anything to save ourselves. We need Jesus! When we follow Him in faith, He wipes away our sin and gives us the Holy Spirit who helps us become the person God designed us to be. ”

6 GROUP DEMONSTRATION (5 min.)

Hold up a birthday party invitation. Discuss how it feels to get invited to a fun party. Then display the large poster of an invitation to God’s kingdom. Ask kids to guide you to fill it in. (What: God’s Kingdom! When: Right now. Where: Wherever you are. Directions: Repent and believe in Jesus!) Feel free to write in other information about the Kingdom.

SAY “ When was the last time you received an invitation to a party? How did it feel to get the invite? **[Allow responses.]** Usually when someone invites you to a party it feels good. We like being included in fun events, and it makes us feel loved that others want us to come. Can you imagine a party to which every person on earth is invited?

King Jesus offers the world an invitation. He invites us to trust in Him to set us free from sin. He invites us to follow Him as we learn to love God and love others. How do we say yes to this invitation? **[Read Romans 10:9, 13.]** Everyone who believes in Jesus is welcome to join in God’s kingdom. When we tell Jesus that we need Him, He takes away our sin and gets us ready to experience life with God. Following Jesus means your life will change. He will help you love God and love the people around you. Will you be perfect? Nope! But each day that you follow Jesus, you will become a little more like Him. Does that sound like a party you want to go to? I hope so!

God loves you so much, and He has made a way for you to be close to Him. We each must decide how we will respond to Jesus’ invitation. We are praying that you will say yes to Jesus and be part of His kingdom! ”



LOVE

THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE with Worship

1 DISCUSSION (10 min.)

Consider forming smaller groups to discuss the following deep questions. Encourage kids to be honest about their feelings and help them learn to process them in healthy ways.

1. **What did we discover about God in this passage?** Jesus shows us that He is a humble, gentle King. He longs to be with us and for all of humanity to receive Him as Savior. He wants us to worship Him because He is fully God, but even if people don't praise Him, all of creation will.
2. **In order for us to be part of God's kingdom we must believe that Jesus is truly King of our lives. Sometimes belief is difficult, especially when the people around you don't follow Jesus. What are some other ways you might respond to Jesus after hearing the story of Him entering Jerusalem on the donkey?** Provide a safe place for kids to discuss their emotions. Explain that God already knows how we feel and wants us to be honest with Him about what is on our minds as we look to follow His direction for our lives.
3. **What are some ways a person might show they believe in Jesus?** Belief in Jesus is our first step to entering God's kingdom. Someone who believes in Jesus submits to Him. They learn from Him through prayer and reading the Bible, and they try to obey His commands to love God and love people. They know they can't do it perfectly, and they rely on the Holy Spirit to guide them and give them strength to live in a way that honors Jesus.
4. **Can you think of other times you have felt those feelings? Would anyone like to share their stories?** Help kids talk through other situations where they have experienced belief or another emotion mentioned in the first question. Be prepared with examples from your own life.
5. **How would believing in Jesus change the way you treat other people?** Guide kids to see that when someone believes in Jesus, they follow Him as their example for how to live. Jesus was kind and compassionate. He showed mercy to people, and He cared for the most vulnerable, such as the poor, disabled, and sick. His followers reflect what He is like, so when kids give their lives to Jesus, they practice living like He did.

After the kids have had time to discuss, direct their attention back to the main worship leader for the group activity. If you formed smaller groups, you may choose to regather as a larger group depending on your ministry context.

2 RESPOND THROUGH PRAYER (3 min.)

Lead the kids in a minute or two of silent prayer, then close by praying the following prayer aloud.

SAY “ God, thank You for being a humble King who came to save us. We choose to worship You today. Help us to believe all that is true about You. Amen. ”

3 GROUP ACTIVITY: THE ROCKS CRY OUT (5–10 min.)

SAY “ We’ve been learning that Jesus is a humble King. Let’s play a game to help us remember an important truth about Him from our story. ”

Form two teams and assign each team a hula hoop on opposite ends of the game area. Spread the beanbag rocks throughout the space. Explain that the kids will run to pick up the rocks and bring them to their team's hula hoop. They can only get one beanbag at a time. They can also steal rocks from the other team's hoop and bring it to their own. At the end of three minutes,



THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

the team with the most rocks in their hoop wins.

SAY “Great job, everyone! While there were no hula hoops in our story, Jesus talked about something interesting that rocks do. As Jesus rode toward Jerusalem on the donkey, not everyone was glad to see Him. The Pharisees were angry that Jesus allowed people to worship Him as if He were God. They told Him to tell everyone to stop worshiping Him. Jesus said that even if the people stopped praising Him, the rocks would do something special. What was it? **[Allow responses. Read Luke 19:40.]** Jesus said that even if He told the people to stop praising Him, the rocks would cry out! Jesus is fully God, and through Him, all of creation was made. Everything in nature praises Jesus—even the rocks!

As Jesus continued on His way, He looked out over the city of Jerusalem, and what did He do? Why? **[Allow responses.]** Jesus wept because the people, even though they were praising Him, didn’t really understand who He was. They thought Jesus was coming to Jerusalem as king. Jesus is a King, but the people were expecting an earthly king, one who would rule the people instead of Rome. But Jesus is our heavenly King who has come to save us from our sins. Jesus wept because He wanted the people to understand this.

All of us respond to Jesus in one way or another. Some people reject Him, others think He was a good teacher, and others put their faith in Him as their Savior and King. The most important question you will ever answer is: Who is Jesus? Jesus came so we can be close to God. Jesus gave up His life so we can know God and be known by Him. Jesus lived the perfect life we can’t live and died the death on the cross we deserve for our sins. Then He rose to life again, promising life with God to anyone who believes in Him. When we know Jesus, He brings us close to God, who loves us more than we could ever imagine. ”

4 RESPOND IN WORSHIP (3 min.)

Choose slower worship songs—such as “Mighty Fortress (Our God is Faithful)” or “Walking By Your Side”—that will help your kids reflect on the concepts they have learned about during this session. Encourage kids to respond however they feel God leading them, whether in prayer, quiet thought, or song.

SAY “We have talked a lot today about what it looks like to believe that Jesus is our King and Savior. God’s invitation to know Him and be part of His kingdom is a beautiful gift. It’s one that we can receive gladly, without having to earn it. Jesus has done the work of defeating sin for us, and He offers to give us life with God when we repent. **What is repentance? Repentance is turning away from sin and turning to Jesus.** Let’s praise God for everything He has done for us. ”

As you continue playing music, allow the kids a few minutes to pass an offering basket, bring offerings to a collections box, or collect offerings in another way.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE in Worship

1 KEY PASSAGE (5 min.)

SAY “I’m so proud of how hard you’ve worked on our key passage! Who is speaking in this passage? [Allow responses.] That’s right, these are God’s words to Solomon when he built the temple. God promised to heal everyone who repented and turned to Him with humility. Jesus is our perfect example of humility. He rode on a small donkey and gave up His own life to save His people. He is a King worth following with everything we have!”

Read 2 Chronicles 7:14 and encourage the kids to read along. Display the Key Passage Poster for kids to read. You may also sing the Key Passage Song, “If My People (2 Chronicles 7:14).”

2 APPLICATION (2 min.)

Spend some time following up with the kids to see if they were able to complete the application challenges from the previous session. Encourage each kid for his or her efforts, and remind kids to keep seeking ways to worship God each day.

SAY “Last time we talked about having strength from God to avoid temptation. How did that go for you this week? [Allow responses.] We learn so much during our time together, and knowing and believing what’s true about God changes the way we live. We do our application challenges each week to practice what we are learning together. Today we’ve talked about belief in Jesus. Check out this challenge to try before we meet again.

Jesus came as a humble King who served His people to the point of dying on the cross to set us free from sin. If you have given your life to Jesus, He calls you to reflect what He is like to your family, friends, and neighbors. Think of some ways you can serve people around you. Maybe you could bake cookies for a neighbor or offer to help your parents around the house. Jesus helps us practice humility by serving others.”

3 PRAYER AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (2 min.)

SAY “Father, we are thankful that You love us so much that You would come into the world to rescue us from our sin. Help us believe that Jesus is truly our perfect King who brings us into Your kingdom. Help us humbly repent of our sin and turn to You in faith. Amen.”

Make any announcements from your kids’ ministry before dismissing. If there’s significant time between dismissal and pick-up, consider using the additional activity to keep the kids engaged. You may also substitute the additional activity for the group activity.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

DONKEY RACES

Create two teams and give each team a pool noodle. Explain that they will run relay-style riding the donkey to the other side of the room and back. The first team with all their players back will say the Big Picture Question and Answer to win the game.

SAY “ Does it surprise you that Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey? Why? [Allow responses.] In those days when a king entered a city, he would ride in on a great war horse as a sign of his great power. Why would Jesus ride on a small donkey? [Allow responses.] Jesus fulfilled an Old Testament prophecy. Listen to this. [Read Zechariah 9:9.] Many years before Jesus came into the world, the prophet Zechariah wrote that a great king would come into Jerusalem on a donkey. Jesus made this prophecy come true.

Riding on the donkey shows what kind of king Jesus is. He is humble and gentle. He helps people and cares for them. He shows compassion for people who are suffering and in pain. Jesus preached to and healed poor, sick, and vulnerable people. He showed mercy and forgave people who had done wrong. His invitation is for anyone who is ready to repent of their sin. Remember, **repentance is turning away from sin and turning to Jesus.** Jesus wants everyone to be part of God’s kingdom by believing in Him. We can give Jesus our lives because He gives us something so much better. He turns our sin into righteousness. He turns the guilt and shame of sin into joy and peace with God. He gives us a life of flourishing and hope that one day He will return and make all things new. ”

EASTER BONUS SESSION 2

JESUS SAVES US FROM OUR ENEMIES

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



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.

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

KEY PASSAGE: 2 Chronicles 7:14

EXPECTED RESPONSE: Safety



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

PLAN the Session

1. Read the Leader Bible Study and review the session plan.
2. Check out the session-by-session training available on Ministry Grid.
3. Pray for yourself, your group, and the other leaders and kids in your ministry.

LEADER Bible Study

This week, we celebrate the greatest demonstration of love there has ever been. Jesus gave up His life to save sinners, and He was raised to life again, defeating death. Nothing held Jesus on the cross but His unconditional love for us. As you teach this week, point kids to the incredible invitation to experience God's perfect love for us every day on this earth and forever with Him in His kingdom. Read the full account of the Easter story and consider the following teaching points.

Jesus' death opened the door to life with God. Without saying a word Jesus could have come down from the cross, but love kept Him there. Jesus loves us so much that He was willing to take the pain of the cross and the torture of feeling forgotten by His heavenly Father so that we wouldn't have to. With the words "It is finished" on the cross, Jesus completed the work of being the perfect sacrifice for our sins.

Jesus' resurrection proves His victory over death. Jesus' resurrection means that He can and will keep His promise to give His followers new life. Though our physical bodies will one day die, our souls live on forever. When we give our lives to Jesus, our souls are safe with Him. Jesus fixes the brokenness in us caused by our sin and disobedience. He gives us freedom from the fear, anger, shame, and guilt that go along with sin. He sets us free to live a new life in His kingdom, reflecting what God is like to the world and experiencing peace that comes from being joined to Jesus.

Jesus' life, death, and resurrection save us from sin. The resurrection is the best news for us! We know that we can be truly forgiven because Jesus' death was sufficient to pay for our sin. Jesus invites us to recognize that we are sinful, and we need Him to save us. When we are joined to Jesus in faith, He gives us peace, joy, and a desire to live for Him. Jesus is alive, inviting us into God's kingdom forever.

This week, help kids understand that Jesus gives us what we need most in the world: to know God and be known by Him. When we are joined to Jesus, we get to participate in life in God's kingdom right now, enjoying His presence every day.



PREPARE

THE WEEK PRIOR

Prepare your heart to teach; plan the session



LEARN

20-30 MINUTES

Teach kids how and why we worship



LOVE

25-30 MINUTES

Lead kids to love God by worshipping Him



LIVE

10 MINUTES

Lead kids to live worshipful lives for God



PREPARE

FOR 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.



LEARN

Countdown

- ☐ countdown video

Worship through Music

- ☐ "Forgiveness," "Trust!", or other high-energy worship songs of your choosing

Introduction and Big Picture Question

- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster

Tell the Bible Story

- ☐ "Jesus Saves Us from Our Enemies" video
- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster

Group Demonstration

- ☐ food color
- ☐ glass of water
- ☐ flowering plant in a pot



LOVE

Group Activity

- ☐ masking tape

Respond in Worship

- ☐ "Walking By Your Side," "Your Promises," or other slower worship songs of your choosing
- ☐ offering basket or collection box (optional)



LIVE

Key Passage

- ☐ Key Passage Poster
- ☐ "If My People (2 Chronicles 7:14)" song

Additional Activity

- ☐ music



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN through Worship

1 COUNTDOWN

Show the countdown video as your kids arrive, and set it to end as worship time begins.

2 WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC (5–10 min.)

Choose a few high-energy worship songs—such as “Forgiveness” or “Trust!”—to sing with your group of kids. Lead motions enthusiastically and encourage kids to join you. Between songs, help the kids think through what it means to worship God and why we often use music to help us do so. Take time to talk the kids through any lyrics that might be challenging to understand.

3 INTRODUCTION AND BIG PICTURE QUESTION (3 min.)

SAY “ Hello, everyone! I’m so glad to see you all today! What is something someone has done to show you they love you? [Allow responses and give an example from your own life.] Today we’re going to hear the story of the greatest demonstration of love there ever was or ever will be. Does anyone think they know what it is? We’ll learn that **JESUS DIED ON THE CROSS TO PAY FOR SIN AND ROSE AGAIN TO DEFEAT DEATH.**

Today is Easter, also called Resurrection Sunday. Today we celebrate the truth that Jesus is alive! He did it to show His great love for us. You may be looking forward to lots of candy or a big meal with family today. No matter how you spend your day, remember that today we celebrate Jesus’ power over sin and death. Jesus brings us out of the darkness of sin and into His kingdom of light and life. Everyone who repents is safe with Jesus. **What is repentance? Repentance is turning away from sin and turning to Jesus.** When we turn to Jesus in faith, He protects us from the punishment our sin deserves, and we are safe in His kingdom forever.

This is an incredible truth, and I’m excited to share the whole story from the Bible. The Bible is God’s Word and tells us what is true about Him and ourselves. In His Word, God shows us what He is like and how much He loves us. Our story can be found in all four Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. These books tell the story of Jesus’ life on earth, death, and resurrection. Let’s turn to Matthew 28 and get ready to learn more! ”



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

4 TELL THE BIBLE STORY (10 min.)

Open your Bible to Matthew 27:27–28:10; Mark 15:16–16:8; Luke 23:26–24:12; John 19:16–20:18. Tell the Bible story using the script provided, or flesh out the “Kids Sermon Outline” in the margin to teach a more in-depth message. You may choose to play 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! ”

KIDS SERMON OUTLINE

Jesus’ death opened the door to life with God (Lk. 23:32-34): Jesus’ death and resurrection made a way for us to be forgiven of our sins and be in relationship with God.

Jesus’ resurrection proves His victory over death (Mt. 28: 1-10): Jesus rose back to life, just as He promised.

Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection save us from sin (Mt. 28:16-20): All who place their faith in Jesus will receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life.



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

5 CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY “What an amazing story! Did anything surprise you? [Allow responses.] God wants to be close to us, but our sin separates us from Him. Jesus received the consequences we deserve for our sin when He was separated from God the Father and died. Thankfully, that’s not the end of the story. He showed His victory over sin and death by rising again from the dead. When we trust in Him, we receive eternal life. We are safe with Jesus.

Who is someone that makes you feel safe? How does it feel being with that person? [Allow responses.] Being safe with Jesus means that, when we submit our lives to Him, He protects us from the spiritual death of sin. He promises that we will be with God forever, even when we our body dies. We do not have to be afraid of anything because Jesus is in control, and we are safe with Him. How can we be saved by Jesus? [Allow responses.] We don’t have to be perfect because perfection is impossible. Jesus is perfect for us. We are all sinful, and we can’t fix our own hearts. We need Jesus! When we repent of our sin, He saves us. Remember, **repentance is turning away from sin and turning to Jesus**. All we need to do is believe He is God and He has the power to forgive our sin and heal our hearts. ”

6 GROUP DEMONSTRATION (5 min.)

Add a few drops of food color into a glass of water and mix it in. Show a piece of paper and ask a volunteer to come up front to crumple it up and tear it. Display the flower and ask a volunteer to come up and pick the petals.

SAY “When I added food color to the water, could it ever be separated? No. When our volunteer ripped the paper, can it ever be put back together perfectly? Again, no. What about the flower? Can the petals and leaves be reattached? No! All these actions cannot be undone. We usually think of death as something that cannot be undone. When we lose someone we love, we can’t bring them back to life. But in the story we heard today, Jesus did something amazing. He undid death itself! Jesus died on the cross to pay for sin and rose again to defeat death.

Jesus’ resurrection is a big deal for us. Jesus is alive because He never deserved to die in the first place. He is the only One who has ever lived a perfect life. You and I deserve death because we are sinful. But Jesus never sinned. His perfect obedience and righteousness made it possible for Him to overcome death. Only God could do such an amazing miracle! Jesus proved that He is fully God and fully human when He died on the cross and rose from the grave.

Jesus’ resurrection means that He can and will keep His promise to give His followers new life. Though our physical bodies will one day die, our souls never die. When a person gives her life to Jesus, her soul is safe with Him. Jesus undoes the brokenness in Christians caused by sin and disobedience. He gives believers freedom from the fear, anger, shame, and guilt that go along with sin. He sets believers free to live a new life in His kingdom, reflecting what God is like to the world and experiencing the peace that comes from being joined to Jesus. ”



LOVE

THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE with Worship

1 DISCUSSION (10 min.)

Consider forming smaller groups to discuss the following deep questions. Encourage kids to be honest about their feelings and help them learn to process them in healthy ways.

1. **What did we discover about God in this passage?** God's love for us is put on display in the story of Jesus' death and resurrection. He willingly took the punishment that should have come to us, and His mercy has no bounds. He welcomes all who come to Him, even in their final moments of life. God has power over everything, even death.
2. **We've talked about how Christians' souls are safe with Jesus when they trust Him as their Savior. When people are joined to Jesus, nothing in the world can separate them from God's love. Feeling safe may be one response you have, but I'm sure there are others. You may feel joy, knowing that Jesus offers you eternal life, too. What are some other feelings you have as you think back to our Bible story?** Provide a safe place for kids to discuss their emotions. Explain that God already knows how we feel and wants us to be honest with Him about what is on our minds as we look to follow His direction for our lives.
3. **What are some ways a person might show they feel safe with Jesus?** A sense of safety brings contentment and confidence. When someone trusts in Jesus, they don't need to be afraid because He is in control. Jesus is bigger than anything we could be afraid of, even death. Jesus promises to give us eternal life, and He always keeps His promises.
4. **Can you think of other times you have felt those feelings? Would anyone like to share their stories?** Help kids talk through other situations where they have felt safe with Jesus or another emotion mentioned in the first question. Be prepared with examples from your own life.
5. **Why does Jesus' resurrection matter for us today?** Guide kids to understand that God is more powerful than anything, including death. Because Jesus died and was raised to life again, we know that our sins can be truly forgiven. When Jesus said, "It is finished" on the cross that meant He had completed the work of being the perfect sacrifice for our sins. His death was sufficient to pay for our sin, and now Christians can live free!

After the kids have had time to discuss, direct their attention back to the main worship leader for the group activity. If you formed smaller groups, you may choose to regather as a larger group depending on your ministry context.

2 RESPOND THROUGH PRAYER (3 min.)

SAY "God, thank You for Your wonderful gift of salvation. Thank You for loving us so much that You would send Your one and only Son to take the punishment that our sin deserves. And thank You for demonstrating Your great power in raising Jesus from the dead. We praise You for Your love and mercy toward us. We pray that those who haven't yet received Your gift will believe that You have saved them. Amen."

3 GROUP ACTIVITY: TOMB BREAKOUT TAG (5–10 min.)

SAY "Jesus died on the cross and was buried in the tomb, but He didn't stay there long. Let's play a game to help us remember an exciting truth from our Bible story."

In the middle of the playing area create a 5 ft. by 5 ft. square with masking tape. This will be the tomb. Choose one kid to be It. On Go! It will try to tag kids. If someone is tagged, she must



LOVE

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go to the tomb. She can't be freed until another player tags her. Continue for a few minutes before choosing another kid to be it.

SAY “Great job! You needed someone to help you if you wanted to get out of the tomb. Otherwise, you would have been stuck. Let's think back to our story. Jesus died on the cross, and His body was placed in a tomb. Was He stuck there? No way! Three days later Jesus rose from the grave. When the women came to the tomb early in the morning, the stone was rolled away, and Jesus wasn't there. They saw an angel sitting on the stone. What did the angel say? [Allow responses. Read **Matthew 28:5.**] Jesus had risen from the grave, just as He promised!”

The story of Jesus' death and resurrection is a beautiful picture of God's love for us. But why did Jesus have to die? If God wanted to forgive our sins, why couldn't He just say, 'You are forgiven'? [Allow responses.] There is a price to pay for sin. The Bible says that the payment for sin is death. Jesus is the Son of God who came to be the perfect sacrifice in our place. **JESUS DIED ON THE CROSS TO PAY FOR SIN AND ROSE AGAIN TO DEFEAT DEATH.** Anyone who trusts in Jesus is forgiven for their sin and welcomed into God's kingdom. ”

4 RESPOND IN WORSHIP (3 min.)

Choose slower worship songs—such as “Walking By Your Side” or “Your Promises”—that will help your kids reflect on the concepts they have learned about during this session. Encourage kids to respond however they feel God leading them, whether in prayer, quiet thought, or song.

SAY “The resurrection is the best news for us! Because Jesus is alive, we know that our sins can be truly forgiven. Jesus invites us to recognize that we are sinful and that we need Him to save us. When we are joined to Jesus in faith, He gives us peace, joy, and a desire to live for Him. Jesus is alive, and He invites us into God's kingdom forever, starting the moment someone decides to follow Him. Let's worship God together! ”

As you continue playing music, allow the kids a few minutes to pass an offering basket, bring offerings to a collections box, or collect offerings in another way.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE in Worship

1 KEY PASSAGE (5 min.)

SAY “ In our key passage God spoke about forgiving His people. How can we be forgiven? [Allow responses.] When you repent and turn to Jesus, He forgives your sin. God wants to heal your heart and bring you close to Him. The only way to know God is to give your life to Jesus. ”

Read 2 Chronicles 7:14 and encourage the kids to read along. Display the Key Passage Poster for kids to read. You may also sing the Key Passage Song, “If My People (2 Chronicles 7:14).”

2 APPLICATION (2 min.)

Spend some time following up with the kids to see if they were able to complete the application challenges from the previous session. Encourage each kid for his or her efforts, and remind kids to keep seeking ways to worship God each day.

SAY “ Last week, we talked about believing in Jesus. Knowing and believing what is true about Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection brings us safely into God’s kingdom. God doesn’t promise that we will always be physically safe, but He does promise that our souls are safe with Him. Let’s try this application challenge this week to help us remember what we’ve learned today.

What does it feel like to know that you are safe with Jesus when you trust Him as your Savior? This week, draw a picture to describe Jesus saving you. Share your picture with someone and tell this week’s Bible story to them. Remember that God loves you so much! Jesus came into the world to rescue you from your sin so you can be part of God’s kingdom for eternity. This is an amazing gift. Spend time this week thanking Jesus for His death and resurrection! ”

3 PRAYER AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (2 min.)

SAY “ God, we are incredibly thankful for this Easter Sunday and the chance we have to worship You together and say thank You for everything You’ve done for us. We are amazed at Your great love. I pray that the kids here today would give their lives to Jesus so they can be set free from sin and welcomed into Your kingdom forever. Amen. ”

Make any announcements from your kids’ ministry before dismissing. If there’s significant time between dismissal and pick-up, consider using the additional activity to keep the kids engaged. You may also substitute the additional activity for the group activity.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

FREEZE DANCE

Lead kids to spread out around the game area. Explain that you will play music while they dance around the room. When the music stops, they must freeze. Anyone caught moving after the music stops must complete a simple challenge, for example, do five jumping jacks.

SAY “ Jesus is alive! This is an amazing truth and one worth celebrating with everything we’ve got. Dancing is another fun way we can worship God! He is more powerful than anything, even death. Jesus died but came back to life again. The resurrection is good news for us because we know that our sins can be truly forgiven. When Jesus said, ‘It is finished’ on the cross that meant that He had completed the work of being the perfect sacrifice for our sins.

We know that we can trust Him. God always does what He says He will do. God always keeps His promises. Jesus will never let us down. You and I can have hope for eternity. Second Corinthians 4:14 says, ‘we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you.’ We know that even when we die, if we have trusted in Jesus, we will live forever with God. No matter how hard life gets, we have hope that God will one day make all things new, even us! ”



THE GOSPEL

GOD'S PLAN FOR US

The gospel is the good news, the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use these prompts to share the gospel with your kids.



Ask: "Who is in charge at home?" Explain that because God created everything, He is in charge of everything. Read Revelation 4:11.



Ask: "Have you ever done something wrong?" Tell kids that everyone sins, or disobeys God. Our sin separates us from God. Read Romans 3:23.



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



Ask: "What is the best gift you've ever received?" Say that Jesus took our punishment for sin by giving His life, and He gives us His righteousness. God sees us as if we lived the perfect life Jesus lived. This is the best gift ever! Read 2 Corinthians 5:21.



Explain that everyone has a choice to make. Ask: "Will you trust Jesus as your Savior and Lord? You can turn from self and sin and turn to Jesus." Read Romans 10:9-10.