

EASTER BONUS SESSION 2

# JESUS SAVES US FROM OUR ENEMIES

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



**CHRIST CONNECTION:** Jesus came to earth to rescue sinners. Jesus died on the cross and rose again so that everyone who trusts in Him has forgiveness and life with God forever.

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

**KEY PASSAGE:** 2 Chronicles 7:14

**STORY POINT:** Jesus died on the cross and is alive.



## 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: 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 preschoolers and open the session



#### LEARN

##### 25–30 MINUTES

Teach preschoolers the story of the gospel



#### LOVE

##### 15–20 MINUTES

Lead preschoolers to love the God of the gospel



#### LIVE

##### 15–20 MINUTES

Lead preschoolers to live 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, Allergy Alert, construction paper, copy paper, washable markers, crayons, blunt-tipped scissors, glue sticks, glue, tape, blocks, baby dolls, play dough, world map, snacks, paper cups, napkins.



### WELCOME

#### Welcome

- ☐ "If My People Pray (2 Chronicles 7:14)" song

#### Activity Page

- ☐ "Count to Three" Activity Page, 1 per child

#### Knock down the wall

- ☐ cardboard box
- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster

#### Transition

- ☐ countdown video (optional)



### LOVE

#### Snack and talk

- ☐ hand sanitizer (optional)
- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster
- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster



### LIVE

#### Send a message

- ☐ yarn
- ☐ disposable plastic cup
- ☐ straw

#### Shine light through a tube

- ☐ cardboard tubes
- ☐ plastic wrap
- ☐ permanent markers, several colors
- ☐ tape or rubber bands

#### Look at books about Jesus

- ☐ Bible storybooks
- ☐ books about Jesus

#### Transition

- ☐ coloring page, 1 per child
- ☐ "If My People Pray (2 Chronicles 7:14)" song
- ☐ Big Picture Cards for Families



### LEARN

#### Introduce the Bible story

- ☐ black shirt

#### Learn about the Bible

- ☐ bookmark
- ☐ Giant Timeline or Small Group Timeline

#### Tell the Bible story

- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster
- ☐ "Jesus Saves Us from Our Enemies" video (optional)
- ☐ storytelling tips props (optional)

#### Practice the key passage

- ☐ Key Passage Marker
- ☐ Key Passage Poster
- ☐ "If My People Pray (2 Chronicles 7:14)" song
- ☐ craft sticks, 2 per child

#### Learn the Big Picture Question

- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster



## WELCOME Preschoolers

Post an Allergy Alert, if needed. Set out supplies to engage preschoolers as they arrive. Play music as you welcome preschoolers. Greet children by name at eye level. Follow your church's security procedures.

### 1 ACTIVITY PAGE

Lead preschoolers to complete "Count to Three" on the Activity Page.

**SAY** 🗨️ Jesus died and was in the grave on three different days: Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. **JESUS DIED ON THE CROSS AND IS ALIVE!** When the ladies visited the tomb, they found it empty, and the angels told them Jesus is alive. 🗨️

### 2 SESSION STARTER

Use one or both of the following options to engage curiosity about today's Bible story.

#### LOOK FOR THE DARKNESS



Invite children to stand in a circle. Show a small piece of black paper. Mention the paper reminds you of the darkness in today's Bible story. Crumple the paper into a small ball. Explain that you will play a game similar to "Button, Button, Who's Got the Button." Instruct children to place their hands behind their backs with their palms up and open. Walk around the outside of the circle, pretending to put the paper ball in each child's hand. Place the paper ball into one of the children's hands. Invite children to guess who has the paper ball. The first child to guess correctly gets to pass out the paper ball during the next round.

**SAY** 🗨️ Are you scared of the dark? How would you feel if it suddenly got dark outside? It might seem a little scary. Something like that happened in our Bible story today. 🗨️

#### KNOCK DOWN THE WALL

Turn a cardboard box on its side. Place a Bible with the Bible Story Picture Poster inside the box. Suggest the children pretend the box is a cave or tomb. Lead them to build a wall of blocks to cover the opening. After they make the wall, lead them to count, 'One day, two days, three days,' and gently knock down the wall. Guide them to look at the Bible and the story picture inside. (Note: If you have a large class, consider setting up multiple boxes)

**SAY** 🗨️ In today's Bible story, Jesus died, and His body was placed in a tomb. A big stone was rolled over the opening of the tomb, but when His friends came to the grave on the third day, the stone was rolled away because Jesus is alive! 🗨️

### 3 TRANSITION TO LEARN

Gain preschoolers' attention by showing the countdown video, turning the lights off and on, or clapping a simple rhythm for children to copy. Invite preschoolers to hold their hands over their hearts as they transition to Learn.

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





LEARN

## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

# LEARN the Bible Story

### 1 INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Wear or hold up a black shirt. Ask all children wearing red to stand up. Repeat with other colors until all the children are standing. Ask the children, “What color are my clothes?”

**SAY** “ Sometimes people wear black when someone dies to show that they are sad. In our Bible story today, Jesus died, and His friends were very sad, but they didn’t stay sad because something amazing happened! Let’s listen to the Bible story to find out more. ”

### 2 LEARN ABOUT THE BIBLE

Place a bookmark at Matthew 27 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Reverently display the open Bible.

**SAY** “ The Bible is a very important book because it is God’s Word. We can trust that God’s Word is true. Today’s Bible story is found in the Gospels. The Gospels are the first four books in the New Testament: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. ”

Point to the Bible story picture on the Giant Timeline or Small Group timeline. Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

### 3 TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Tell the following Bible story using the provided storytelling tips or show the video. Use the bold version of the Bible story for younger preschoolers.

#### JESUS SAVES US FROM OUR ENEMIES

“ One week after people welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem as King, many of them began to turn against Him. **Jesus was arrested and taken to a leader named Pilate. Pilate let the people take Jesus away to be killed on a cross.**

Pilate made a sign that said, “Jesus is the King of the Jews.” Some soldiers made fun of Jesus. They put a crown on Jesus’ head that was made of thorns. **Jesus never did anything wrong, but the people were mean to Him. Jesus asked God to forgive them.**

Jesus was on one cross, and two criminals were put on crosses next to Him. One of the men teased Jesus, but the other man was sorry for what he had done wrong. “Remember me when you go to heaven,” the man told Jesus.

**Suddenly, the sky was dark. Jesus cried out, feeling sad and alone. Then He said, “I trust You, God,” and Jesus died.** The big curtain in the temple tore from top to bottom.

**A man named Joseph took care of Jesus’ body and put it in a special cave called a tomb. A big stone was rolled in front of the tomb,** and soldiers stood guard. Pilate wanted to make sure no one took Jesus’ body.

**On the third day, some women went to the tomb.** But guess what? **The big stone was moved,**



## LEARN

### THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

and an angel was there! The angel said, “Don’t be scared! Jesus is alive, just like He said!”

The women were so happy! They ran to tell Jesus’ friends the good news. ”

#### 4 CHRIST CONNECTION

**SAY** “ Jesus came to earth to rescue sinners. Jesus died on the cross and rose again so that everyone who trusts in Him has forgiveness and life with God forever. ”

#### 5 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

**SAY** “ Jesus was arrested and sent to be killed on a cross, even though He never did anything wrong. When the guards were mean to Jesus and hurt Him, what did Jesus pray? (He asked God to forgive them.) After Jesus died, His body was placed in a special cave called a tomb. A big stone was rolled in front of the tomb. Early on the third day, some women went to Jesus’ tomb. They were surprised that the big stone was no longer there. They were even more surprised when they saw an angel! What did the angel tell them about Jesus? (Jesus is alive) The women couldn’t wait to tell Jesus’ friends the wonderful news: Jesus is alive! ”

#### 6 PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE

Place the Key Passage Marker at 2 Chronicles 7:14. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage aloud. Give each child two craft sticks. Lead children to tap the floor on each syllable of the verse. As you repeat the verse, guide children to tap on other surfaces, like the back of a chair or a table. Invite any interested preschoolers to say the verse from memory.

**SAY** “ I am so thankful that Jesus came to earth to rescue sinners. When we turn away from our sin and turn to Jesus He forgives our sin and allows us to live with God forever. ”

Sing the key passage song, “If My People Pray (2 Chronicles 7:14).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

#### STORYTELLING TIPS

**Show darkness:** Draw three crosses with a black permanent marker on a gallon-sized zip lock bag. Slide a white sheet of paper inside the bag. As you talk about Jesus and the two criminals, show the crosses. When you mention the darkness, slide the black sheet of paper into the bag over the white sheet of paper, making the crosses seem to disappear.

**Play music:** Play sad instrumental music. Ask the children how the music makes them feel. Continue playing the music as you tell the Bible story. When you talk about Jesus’ resurrection, change the music to happy, upbeat music.



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

## 7 LEARN THE BIG PICTURE QUESTION AND ANSWER

**SAY** “ In the Bible story today, one of the men hanging on the cross beside Jesus teased Him, but one of them repented. **What is repentance? Repentance is turning away from sin and turning to Jesus.** The man was sorry for what he did wrong and turned to Jesus. He asked Jesus to remember him when Jesus went to heaven. ”

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





LOVE

THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

## LOVE God because of what we learned

### 1 PRAY

Invite preschoolers to close their eyes and think about God as they talk with Him.

**SAY** “God, thank You that Jesus died on the cross to rescue us from our sin and that You made Him alive again. Help these preschoolers to turn away from sin and turn to Jesus. Amen.”

### 2 SNACK AND TALK

Post an Allergy Alert. Wash hands or use hand sanitizer. Serve a snack. Show the Bible Story Picture Poster as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

**SAY** “What was your favorite part of today’s Bible story?”

**SAY** “What did you learn about God in today’s Bible story?”

**SAY** “What did the angel say to the women who went to the tomb?”

**SAY** “What is repentance? Repentance is turning away from sin and turning to Jesus.”

### 3 MAKE A GIANT CROSS

Give each child a sheet of paper and crayons or markers. Instruct children to draw a picture of themselves. As the children finish drawing, help them arrange the drawings on the floor into a large cross shape. Add extra papers if needed.

**SAY** “Stand over here with me and let’s look at the cross. I love how it shows each one of you. It reminds me that Jesus came to earth to rescue sinners. You and I are sinners. **JESUS DIED ON A CROSS AND IS ALIVE.** Jesus rescued us from sin by dying on the cross and coming back to life.”

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





## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### LIVE for God out of love

- 1 Choose the activities that best fit your group, space, available resources, and time constraints. Set up activities in one of these ways: as a group, all at the same time; in small groups that rotate through each activity; or set up as centers, allowing preschoolers to browse and choose.

#### TELL THE GOOD NEWS TO A FRIEND



Invite children to stand in a circle. Ask: “Does anyone have any good news they would like to share?” Allow children to share and then say, “The best news I have ever heard is that **JESUS DIED ON THE CROSS AND IS ALIVE**. Let’s share the good news with our friends.” Lead children to find someone with the same color hair and say today’s Story Point. Lead children to find someone wearing the same color and say it again. Suggest that children find another friend and whisper the Story Point, then find another partner and sing it to them.

**SAY** “ Sharing the good news about Jesus is very important. God wants people to know that **JESUS DIED ON THE CROSS AND IS ALIVE** so that everyone who trusts in Him has forgiveness and life with God forever. ”

#### SEND A MESSAGE

Tape a straw to the side of a plastic cup. Thread a length of yarn through the straw. Tape one end of the yarn to a wall or chair. Stretch the yarn until it is taut and tape the other end of the yarn to another wall or chair. Offer preschoolers paper and crayons and suggest they draw a message about Jesus. Show how to put the message in the cup on the yarn and push the cup to a friend.

**SAY** “ We sent messages about Jesus back and forth with our friends. Sharing the good news that Jesus died to rescue people from sin and that God made Him alive again is very important. Who can you tell about Jesus? [Allow responses.] ”



## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### SHINE A LIGHT THROUGH TUBES

Before the session, cover one end of a cardboard tube with plastic wrap. Secure with tape or rubber bands. Gently draw a cross shape on the plastic wrap with a permanent marker. Make several tubes with different colored permanent markers. Invite children to shine flashlights through the tube to make a cross appear on the wall. Guide preschoolers to notice how the cross gets smaller as you get closer to the wall, and as you move away, it gets bigger.

**SAY** “ How do you think Jesus’ friends felt when He died on the cross? (sad, angry, afraid) How did Jesus’ friends feel when the angel told them Jesus was alive? (surprised, happy) The cross makes me feel sad when I think about Jesus dying, but it also makes me feel happy because Jesus died to rescue people from sin and God made Him alive again. **JESUS DIED ON A CROSS AND IS ALIVE.** ”

### LOOK AT BOOKS ABOUT JESUS

Before the session, find stories about Jesus in various Bible storybooks and mark them with strips of paper. Set out the Bible storybooks and books about Jesus in a quiet area in the classroom. Invite preschoolers to look at the stories of Jesus. Answer any questions they have and read the stories as you are able.

**SAY** “ Jesus is God’s Son. God sent Jesus to earth as a baby. When Jesus grew up He did miracles like healing the sick and feeding large crowds. Jesus showed people how much God loves them. **JESUS DIED ON THE CROSS AND IS ALIVE.** Jesus died on the cross and rose again so that everyone who trusts in Him has forgiveness and life with God forever. That is really good news! ”

### 2 TRANSITION

Invite preschoolers to complete their coloring pages. Consider leading preschoolers to sing the key passage song or involving them in a simple game to practice the key passage or big picture question. If parents are picking up children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Give parents the completed Activity Page. Distribute the Big Picture Cards for Families. Encourage parents to review the Bible story and engage with the family discussion starters during the week.