

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.



PREPARE

IN ADVANCE TO TEACH 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



LEARN

10–15 MINUTES

Teach preschoolers the story of the gospel



LOVE

20–25 MINUTES

Lead preschoolers to love the God of the gospel



LIVE

15–20 MINUTES

Lead preschoolers to live the mission of the gospel



PREPARE

IN ADVANCE TO TEACH THE SESSION

GATHER Supplies

Keep these items on hand for each session: Allergy Alert, Bibles, construction paper, copy paper, washable markers, crayons, scissors (adult use), blunt-tipped scissors, glue sticks, glue, blocks, baby dolls, play dough, world map or globe, snack food, paper cups, and napkins.



LEARN

Welcome and worship with song

- ☐ "Help, Help, Help" song

Tell the Bible story

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

Review

- ☐ Giant Timeline

Respond through song and prayer

- ☐ "Be a Leader" song
- ☐ "I Know God Loves Me" song



LOVE

Feel and guess

- ☐ shoe box
- ☐ small blanket
- ☐ wooden cross
- ☐ piece of cloth
- ☐ stone

Move a big "stone"

- ☐ large beach ball
- ☐ large towel or small blanket

Find the empty one

- ☐ lunch-size paper bags, 4
- ☐ paper towels

Color over a cross

- ☐ heavyweight paper, 1 per child
- ☐ painter's tape



LIVE

Learn the Big Picture Question

- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster

Practice the Key Passage

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

Make and eat a snack

- ☐ paper plates
- ☐ craft stick
- ☐ graham cracker
- ☐ frosting
- ☐ chocolate coated candy pieces or chocolate chips



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 WELCOME AND WORSHIP WITH SONG

Greet preschoolers with a smile. As preschoolers arrive, sing a song such as “Help, Help, Help” or another upbeat worship song of your choice to engage and welcome preschoolers. Lead motions enthusiastically and encourage preschoolers to join you. Help the preschoolers think through what it means to worship God. Take time to talk about any lyrics that might be challenging to understand.

2 TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Share about a time when someone accused you of doing something you didn’t do. Encourage children to share how they would feel if that happened to them.

SAY “ Jesus was perfect. He never did anything wrong, but in today’s Bible story, people lied about Jesus, and He was arrested. If that happened to me, I would be mad, but Jesus responded surprisingly. Let’s listen to the Bible story to hear what happened. ”

Open your Bible to Matthew 27. Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling tips. Use the bold version of the Bible story for young 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, and an angel was there! The angel said, “Don’t be scared! Jesus is alive, just like He said!”

STORYTELLING TIPS

Show darkness: Draw three crosses with a black permanent marker on a gallon-sized ziplock 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

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

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.

3 REVIEW

Point to the Giant Timeline as you review today's Bible story. Ask the following review questions.

1. What did you like about the Bible story? (Answers will vary.)
2. What were some things in the Bible story that made you happy or sad? (Answers will vary.)
3. What did Jesus ask God to do to the people who were mean to Him? (forgive them)
4. Why did Pilate put a big stone and soldiers outside Jesus' tomb? (Jesus said He would come back to life; Pilate didn't want someone to take Jesus' body and then say He came back to life.)
5. Why did Jesus die on the cross and rise again? (so that everyone who trusts in Him will have forgiveness and life with God forever)
6. **What is repentance? Repentance is turning away from sin and turning to Jesus.**

SAY ” Jesus died on a cross even though He never did anything wrong. People were mean to Jesus, but He asked God to forgive them. Jesus' body was placed in a tomb, but on the third day, Jesus came back to life. **JESUS DIED ON THE CROSS AND IS ALIVE!** Jesus loves you. Jesus died because He came to earth to rescue sinners. People who trust in Jesus will be forgiven of their sin and live with God forever. **”**

4 RESPOND THROUGH SONG AND PRAYER

SAY ” Jesus came to earth to rescue sinners. **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. **”**

Sing “Be a Leader” as preschoolers move with the music. Prepare for prayer by singing “I Know God Loves Me.” Collect an offering.

SAY ” God, thank You for sending Jesus to rescue sinners. Thank You that if we repent and trust Jesus, You will forgive us. Amen. **”**





LOVE

THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God because of what we learned

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.

1 ☐ FIND SETS OF THREE



Challenge children to find sets of three of items based on what is available in your classroom. Some examples are red things, toys that make noise, books about Jesus, things that start with the letter B, or soft things. Call out several challenges.

SAY “You did a good job finding sets of three. How many days was Jesus in the tomb? (three) Jesus died on the cross and rose again so that everyone who trusts in Him has forgiveness and life with God forever. Jesus came to earth to rescue sinners. **JESUS DIED ON THE CROSS AND IS ALIVE!**”

2 ☐ FEEL AND GUESS

Prior to the session, place a wooded cross, a piece of cloth, and a stone in a shoe box. Cover the top of the box with a blanket. Invite preschoolers to take turns touching one of the items in the box and then guess what it is. Ask preschoolers if they think they are touching a cross, a cloth, or a stone. Use the items to review the Bible story. Put the items back in the box after they are revealed so each child can have a turn.

SAY “You touched a cross, a cloth, or a stone. The cross reminds us that Jesus died. Jesus never sinned, but He was punished. The cloth helps us remember that after Jesus died, the big curtain in the temple tore from top to bottom. The last item was a stone. Do you remember how a large stone was used in the Bible story? (It was rolled in front of the tomb.) When the women went to the tomb, the stone was moved and an angel was there. What did the angel tell the women? (‘Don’t be scared! Jesus is alive.’) **JESUS DIED ON THE CROSS AND IS ALIVE!**”

3 ☐ MOVE A BIG “STONE”

Spread a bath towel on the floor. Place a beach ball on the towel. Suggest the children pretend the beach ball is a large, heavy stone. Invite four children to hold each corner of the towel. Challenge the children to move the “stone” across the room. Challenge children to complete tasks like raising and lowering the ball three times, turning in a circle, or walking backward ten steps. If space allows, provide a second towel and ball and invite additional preschoolers to play.

SAY “Jesus’ body was placed in a tomb, and a large stone was rolled in front of the cave. When some women went to the tomb, the stone was rolled away. Why? (The angels told the women Jesus is alive.) **JESUS DIED ON THE CROSS AND IS ALIVE!**”



LOVE

THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

4 ☐ FIND THE EMPTY ONE

Place a paper towel inside three separate paper bags. Fold the openings of the paper bags to secure the paper towel inside. Leave one of the paper bags empty. Place the bags on a table and challenge preschoolers to determine which one is empty. Let them hold, touch, and gently shake the bag. After preschoolers have made their guesses, open the bags to reveal the empty paper bag.

SAY “Where you surprised at which bag was empty? The women were surprised that Jesus’ tomb was empty. After Jesus died, His body was placed in a tomb. The tomb was empty because Jesus rose from the dead. **JESUS DIED ON THE CROSS AND IS ALIVE!**”

5 ☐ COLOR OVER A CROSS

Use painter’s tape to make a cross shape on heavyweight paper for each child. Invite children to use washable markers or crayons to color over the cross. Encourage preschoolers to color the entire paper, especially around the tape. Help children gently remove the tape and reveal their cross pictures.

SAY “I like how each cross is different, just like God created each of you different. When you see your cross, it can remind you that **JESUS DIED ON THE CROSS AND IS ALIVE.** God sent His Son, Jesus, to die on a cross for our sin because He loves us. That is really good news!”



THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE for God out of love

1 LEARN THE BIG PICTURE QUESTION AND ANSWER

SAY “What is repentance? Repentance is turning away from sin and turning to Jesus. Sin is making the choice to disobey God. Sin is choosing to do things our way instead of God’s way. When we repent, we stop doing things our way and choose to do things God’s way.”

2 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 preschoolers paper and markers. Invite them to draw a self-portrait. Say the verse several times, leading the children to hold up their pictures each time you say “people.”

SAY “If we pray and turn from our wrong ways, God will forgive our sins. Jesus came to earth to rescue people from sin. **JESUS DIED ON THE CROSS AND IS ALIVE!**”

Sing the key passage song “If My People Pray (2 Chronicles 7:14)” together.

3 PRAY

Invite preschoolers to tell you any prayer requests they have. Pray for them.

SAY “God, thank You that Jesus died on the cross but is now alive. Thank You that if we trust in Jesus, we can have forgiveness and life with You forever. Amen.”

☐ MAKE AND EAT A SNACK



Distribute a paper plate, graham cracker, and craft stick to each child. Give each child a dollop of frosting and tell them to use the craft stick to spread it on their graham cracker. After the children are finished, give each child 10-12 chocolate-coated candy pieces or chocolate chips. Demonstrate how to use them to form a cross shape in the frosting.

SAY “We used the chocolate pieces to make a cross shape. Jesus died on a cross. But did Jesus stay dead? (no) **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.”