



EASTER BONUS SESSIONS

YOUNGER KIDS
LEADER GUIDE



the **GOSPEL**PROJECT.

EASTER BONUS SESSION 1

JESUS' TRIUMPHAL ENTRY

MATTHEW 21; MARK 11; LUKE 19; JOHN 12



KEY PASSAGE: 2 Chronicles 7:14

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

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.

STORY POINT: People welcomed Jesus to Jerusalem as their King.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

LEADER Bible Study

All four Gospels offer a glimpse into the joy that overtook the crowds of Jerusalem as King Jesus made His way through the city gates. The events that would take place in the city just one week later would starkly contrast to the high-spirited festivities of Jesus' triumphal entry. In His sovereignty, Christ knew He would face crucifixion at the hands of His own people; yet He willingly approached the cross for our salvation.

What was the significance of the people's shouts for the King and His coming kingdom? What do we learn about Christ's heart for the lost?

Crowds poured into Jerusalem to celebrate Passover, and many of them participated in creating a grand entrance for Jesus. They waved palm branches, a symbol of pride for the Jews, and called out for their new King to usher in a new reign for God's people. They had heard reports of how He raised Lazarus from the dead and were eager to see His next miracle. Yet, they misunderstood the purpose of His entry into the holy city—it was not to overthrow their oppressors but to offer salvation to all who would turn to Him in faith. They sought a mighty conqueror in Jesus, not knowing that the Father would instead send a Suffering Servant to be sacrificed on their behalf. They wanted an earthly king to reign amid their difficult circumstances, not a Messiah who would be publicly humiliated on a cross. Despite what His people desired, God knew what His people needed and sent His Son to save them.

As Jesus approached the city, He wept for it—knowing the fate that would soon befall Him and the great price He would pay to establish peace between God and man. We later see His heart for the lost as He pleaded for the Father to forgive the people's sins. What God's people didn't know then is the story we get to proclaim now: Christ died for sinners! Lead boys and girls to see that Jesus is greater than our earthly rulers and worldly desires. He is the sovereign Savior and Lord who has already paid the price for our greatest need: salvation!



PREPARE

THE WEEK PRIOR

Prepare your heart to teach; plan the session



WELCOME

10-15 MINUTES

Greet kids and open the session



LEARN

25-30 MINUTES

Teach kids the story of the gospel



LOVE

15-20 MINUTES

Lead kids to love the God of the gospel



LIVE

15-20 MINUTES

Lead kids to live out 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, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.



WELCOME

Activity Page

- ☐ "Into Jerusalem" activity page

Session Starter (Option 1)

- ☐ plastic tablecloths
- ☐ washable green paint
- ☐ paper plates, 1 per table
- ☐ paintbrushes, 1 per kid
- ☐ wet wipes

Session Starter (Option 2)

- ☐ paper crown
- ☐ music



LOVE

Review & Bible Skills

- ☐ Small Group Timeline and Map Set (optional)



LIVE

Activity Choice (Option 1)

- ☐ brown craft paper
- ☐ construction paper, 1 sheet per kid
- ☐ blindfold

Reflection and Prayer

- ☐ Bible story coloring page



LEARN

Introduce the Session

- ☐ countdown video
- ☐ Story Point Poster

Big Picture Question

- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster

Review the Timeline

- ☐ Giant Timeline

Tell the Bible Story

- ☐ "Jesus' Triumphal Entry" video
- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster
- ☐ paper palm branches (optional)

Key Passage Activity

- ☐ Key Passage Poster
- ☐ "If My People (2 Chronicles 7:14)" song
- ☐ worship song of your choice (optional)
- ☐ dry erase board and marker



WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

SAY “Have you ever thrown a party for a friend or a relative? What was it like? What made it fun or special?”

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Into Jerusalem” activity page.

SAY “In today’s story, we will see how **PEOPLE WELCOMED JESUS TO JERUSALEM AS THEIR KING.**”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: HAND PRINT PALM BRANCHES

Cover tables with plastic tablecloths for easy clean up. Invite kids to sit around tables and distribute a sheet of paper, a paint brush, and a marker to each kid. Place some green washable paint on a paper plate and place in the center of each table. Direct kids to use their paintbrushes and paint to paint a “stem” diagonally across their paper. Then guide kids to paint their hands with a paintbrush, and stamp their hands onto their paper, creating leaves on their palm branch stem. Encourage kids to use wet wipes to clean their hands. Lastly, invite kids to write Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! somewhere on their papers.

SAY “Jesus, God’s Son, was born in Bethlehem. When He grew up, He began to tell people about God’s kingdom, and He also performed miracles. Lots of people started following Him because of the miracles. One day, Jesus rode on a donkey toward Jerusalem. **PEOPLE WELCOMED JESUS TO JERUSALEM AS THEIR KING.** They laid palm branches down as a sign of victory. Yet, we’ll see how the people misunderstood the true victory Jesus came to give them.”

☐ OPTION 2: KING OR QUEEN FOR A DAY



Invite kids to sit in a circle and give a paper crown to a kid. Play music and instruct kids to pass the crown around the circle. When the music stops, the kid holding the crown is the “king” or “queen.” Direct him to place the crown on his head. He will then say, “If I were king for a day, I would [insert response].” Kids may choose to say something like “give everyone free ice cream for a year” or “play as many video games as I want.” Continue the game as time allows, trying to help each kid have a turn.

SAY “Would it be fun to be king or queen for a day? [Allow responses.] Today, we will learn how the **PEOPLE WELCOMED JESUS TO JERUSALEM AS THEIR KING.** But the people’s idea of what a king should do or be was different than the type of King Jesus is. Jesus is a servant King, who came to lay down His life to save people from their sins. We’ll see that Jesus is the King who rescues people from sin and death.”

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





INTRODUCE the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (3 minutes)

Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

SAY “Hi, kids! My name is [your name], and I am happy to see you. Our Bible story took place thousands of years ago, but it is a true story that helps us see how much God loves us. If you have a Bible with you, will you take it out and hold it up high? [Distribute Bibles to kids who do not have one.] We’ll be reading from the New Testament in the books of the Bible called the Gospels.

Before Jesus died on the cross, we will see how the **PEOPLE WELCOMED JESUS TO JERUSALEM AS THEIR KING**. [Display the Story Point Poster.] The people were hoping for a king who would save them from the Romans. They didn’t understand how Jesus had come to save them from so much more. Let’s ask God to open our hearts as we prepare to hear from His Word: ‘Lord, thank You for Your Word. Help us focus on what You want to show us today and be obedient to what You tell us to do. In Jesus’ name, amen.’ ”

2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

Display the Big Picture Question Poster.

SAY “Our big picture question is, **What is repentance?** What is the answer we’ve learned? [Allow responses.] **Repentance is turning away from sin and turning to Jesus.**

We all have sinned against a good and perfect God. Jesus came to show us the way to be forgiven of our sin. We must repent—turn away from sin and turn to Jesus—for our sin to be forgiven. When Jesus was on earth, He told people to repent of their sins and trust in Him. Jesus calls us to do the same. When we do, we are forgiven of our sin and are given eternal life with Him. ”

3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

Show the Giant Timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

SAY “Because of Adam and Eve’s disobedience toward God in the garden of Eden, all people now sin and need a Savior. In the Old Testament, we learn how God promised to send a Savior to rescue His people from sin. God told Abraham that the whole world would be blessed through his family. Over time, God’s people—the Israelites—sinned against God and turned away from Him. But God is faithful to His promises despite His people’s unfaithfulness. At the right time, God faithfully provided His Son, Jesus, to be our Savior. Jesus was born in Bethlehem. He grew up and began a three-year ministry, calling people to repent for the kingdom of God had come. Today, we will see how Jesus was welcomed into Jerusalem for a final time before His death on the cross. ”



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Matthew 21:1-9; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-44; John 12:12-19. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show 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!”

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. ”

STORYTELLING TIPS

Use props: Distribute paper palm branches for kids to wave or lay on the floor as you tell the story.

Define it: Tell kids that Hosanna means “save, please” or “save us now.” Remind kids that the people’s idea of salvation was different than the salvation Jesus came to offer.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY “ Before Jesus arrived in Jerusalem, He asked His disciples to go bring Him something. What did Jesus send them to get? **[Allow responses.]** Jesus sent two of His disciples to find a young donkey. In the Old Testament books of Isaiah and Zechariah, the prophets said the coming King would ride into Jerusalem on a donkey. Jesus is the promised King. Everything that was told about Him came true because God’s Word is true, and He always keeps His promises.

As Jesus entered the city, the **PEOPLE WELCOMED JESUS TO JERUSALEM AS THEIR KING**. They had heard about Jesus and all the miracles He had performed throughout His ministry. What did the people shout as they welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem? **[Allow responses.]** The people shouted, ‘Hosanna,’ and they laid out their clothes on the ground. The people placed palm branches on the ground as a sign of victory for their chosen King. They thought Jesus had come to give them victory from the Romans who ruled over them. But Jesus came for a greater rescue: He came to rescue people from sin and death.

When Jesus was in Jerusalem, He cried for the city. Why did Jesus cry for Jerusalem? **[Allow responses.]** Jesus was sad that the people didn’t understand He was the Son of God who had come to save them. They would have consequences for not turning to Jesus to be saved from their sin. Even the Pharisees, who were supposed to know the Scriptures, didn’t believe in Jesus. They wanted the people to stop praising Jesus. But Jesus is the true King, and He deserves all praise.

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.”

3 GOSPEL DISCUSSION

SAY “ Jesus is the King, and He is also the Savior. Jesus came to reign in our hearts and save us from sin. When we turn to Jesus, confess our sin, ask for forgiveness, and trust in Him, Jesus will save us from sin and eternal death. Have you trusted in Jesus to be your King and Savior? ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Create an environment where kids are welcome to ask questions about what it means to follow Jesus.)



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

4 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Show the Key Passage Poster. Lead kids in reading aloud 2 Chronicles 7:14 together.

SAY “Our key passage reminds us that when we repent and turn to God, He is faithful to forgive our sin. Let’s continue memorizing this important verse.”

Write the key passage out of order on a dry erase board. Challenge kids to look at the words and tell you which word comes first in the key passage. Then write the first word on the dry erase board. Repeat, writing each word in the correct order as kids tell you, until the entire key passage is correct.

Lead kids to sing “If My People (2 Chronicles 7:14).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

5 PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning to Love.

SAY “Thank You, God, for sending Jesus to be our Savior. Help us share this good news with others, so that they can experience the forgiveness, joy, and peace that comes with following You. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

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





LOVE

THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God by Applying the Story

1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles and display the New Testament Israel Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to Matthew. Explain that the Gospels are the first four books of the New Testament: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Tell kids these books contain stories from Jesus' life and ministry. Invite kids to turn to each book in their Bible. Then lead kids to turn to Matthew 21.

Consider pointing out the location of Jerusalem (H5) on the New Testament Israel Map. Choose a volunteer to read aloud Matthew 21:4-5 or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verses aloud.

SAY “ Before entering Jerusalem, Jesus told His disciples to go into a nearby village and untie a young donkey. Jesus did this to fulfill what both the prophets Isaiah and Zechariah wrote concerning Jesus entering Jerusalem. These men prophesied hundreds of years before Jesus was born that He would one day enter Jerusalem riding on a donkey. All of the Bible points us to Jesus. God’s plan has always been to send His Son into the world to rescue people from their sin. Jesus saves us from our sin when we trust in Him as our Savior. ”

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

SAY “ How is Jesus the true King? ”

Tell kids that the people were right to acknowledge Jesus as King, but He is an even greater King than they understood. Discuss how Jesus is King over everything because He is the Creator of the world and God in flesh. Jesus reigns supreme because God has exalted Him above everything for His perfect obedience to His plan to save people from their sin. Tell kids that we acknowledge Jesus as the true King in our lives when we follow Him and trust in Him as Savior.

SAY “ Why do you think some people reject Jesus? ”

Remind kids that the religious leaders, or Pharisees, in Jesus' day rejected Jesus because they feared losing control over the religious practices of the people. People want to believe they are good on their own. Discuss how some people don't want to admit their need for a Savior and follow Jesus as King.

SAY “ How do we worship Jesus today? ”

Prompt kids to think how the people praised Jesus by shouting “Hosanna” and laid down cloaks and palm branches. Discuss how we can worship Jesus through singing, how we treat others, obeying our parents or adult leaders, and so much more. Anytime we exalt Jesus above our self-interests or show we love Him most we are worshiping Him. Tell kids that anything done for God's glory is worship.

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





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: PLACE THE CLOAK ON THE DONKEY

Before the session, draw the outline of a donkey on brown craft paper. Tape the paper to a wall. Distribute a piece of white construction paper to each kid. Tell kids the paper will be their “cloak.” Invite kids to color their cloak however they like. Depending on the size of your donkey, kids may need to cut their “cloak” to fit the donkey’s back.

Then direct kids to form a line in front of the donkey. Blindfold the first kid and place a piece of tape on his “cloak.” Spin him around several times. Then challenge him to place his “cloak” on the back of the donkey. Repeat until every kid has had a turn.

SAY “ Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem on a donkey fulfilled God’s promise. Jesus is the King God said would come to rescue His people from their sins. He is the Savior we need today. Anyone who trusts in Him will be saved from their sin. ”

☐ OPTION 2: STREAMER TOSS



Form kids into a large circle. Distribute a rolled-up streamer to two kids. Tell kids with the streamer to shout “Hosanna!” hold on to the end piece of the streamer, and toss the streamer to another kid in the circle. Then those kids who catch the streamer will do the same, except they will hold on to a piece of the streamer (not the end). Continue until both streamers have been completely unraveled. Then invite kids to help clean up the streamers.

SAY “ Streamers remind me of a party. When the **PEOPLE WELCOMED JESUS TO JERUSALEM AS THEIR KING**, they were having a big celebration. The people praised Jesus by shouting ‘Hosanna’ and laid down palm branches. Although the people didn’t truly understand how Jesus came to save them from their sin, we can see the big picture. Jesus came to be your King and Savior. And we can praise Him for saving people from their sin. ”

2 REFLECTION AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute a sheet of paper and pencil to each kid. Ask kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Who can I tell about this story?

Be sure to send the sheets home with the kids along with the activity pages so parents can continue to discuss the Bible story with their kids. If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page. Pray for your group.

EASTER BONUS SESSION 2

JESUS SAVES US FROM OUR ENEMIES

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



KEY PASSAGE: 2 Chronicles 7:14

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

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.

STORY POINT: Jesus died on the cross to pay for sin and rose again to defeat death.



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's good news: 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 kids and open the session



LEARN

25-30 MINUTES

Teach kids the story of the gospel



LOVE

15-20 MINUTES

Lead kids to love the God of the gospel



LIVE

15-20 MINUTES

Lead kids to live out 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, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.



WELCOME

Activity Page

- ☐ "Order the Events" activity page

Session Starter (Option 1)

- ☐ Easter eggs, 1 per kid
- ☐ small cross or picture of a cross

Session Starter (Option 2)

- ☐ rubber ball



LOVE

Review & Bible Skills

- ☐ Small Group Timeline and Map Set (optional)



LIVE

Activity Choice (Option 1)

- ☐ 1 inch by 4 inches cardboard strips, 2 per kid
- ☐ 1 inch by 6 inches cardboard strips, 2 per kid
- ☐ brown yarn

Activity Choice (Option 2)

- ☐ paper towel
- ☐ permanent marker
- ☐ washable marker
- ☐ bin of water

Reflection and Prayer

- ☐ Bible story coloring page



LEARN

Introduce the Session

- ☐ countdown video
- ☐ Story Point Poster

Big Picture Question

- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster

Review the Timeline

- ☐ Giant Timeline

Tell the Bible Story

- ☐ "Jesus Saves Us from Our Enemies" video
- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster
- ☐ paper towel (optional)

Key Passage Activity

- ☐ Key Passage Poster
- ☐ "If My People (2 Chronicles 7:14)" song
- ☐ worship song of your choice (optional)



WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

SAY “Has anyone ever paid for something you wanted because you didn’t have enough money to pay for it on your own? How did that make you feel?”

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Order the Events” activity page.

SAY “Today, we will learn that **JESUS DIED ON THE CROSS TO PAY FOR SIN AND ROSE AGAIN TO DEFEAT DEATH.**”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: PAID IN FULL

Before the session, create a cross for each kid from brown paper and write *paid in full* on each cross. Fold the crosses and tape them to walls or hide them around the room.

When kids arrive, challenge them to each find one piece of brown paper. Tell kids the papers contain good news, but they are not to unfold the paper. Once all kids have a brown paper, invite them to unfold it to reveal the cross. Then invite kids to read the message on the cross.

SAY “Every person has disobeyed God and sinned. Because of this, the Bible tells us that the price of sin is death. But your crosses contained some good news: Jesus paid the price of our sin in full. He took our place when He died on the cross. Anyone who trusts in Him has had the price of his or her sin paid for. Jesus saves us from our sin!”

☐ OPTION 2: ROLL THE STONE AWAY



Form kids into two teams. Line up half of each team on one side of the room and the other half on the opposite side of the room. Explain that kids will be competing in a relay race to roll the “stone” away. Provide the first on each team with a rubber ball. Guide kids to get down on their hands and knees. Then lead kids to use their heads to roll the ball to their teammate at the other end of the room. Pushing the ball with their head, and crawling, kids will roll the “stone” until they reach their teammate. Then that kid will roll the ball back to their teammate on the other side of the room. The first team to have all kids compete wins.

SAY “Jesus came to earth to die for our sin. After He was crucified on a cross, He was buried in a tomb, and a stone was placed in front of the tomb. Three days later, Jesus rose from the dead, and an angel rolled away the stone. Today we’ll learn how **JESUS DIED ON THE CROSS TO PAY FOR SIN AND ROSE AGAIN TO DEFEAT DEATH.**”





LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

INTRODUCE the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (3 minutes)

Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

SAY “Hi, kids! My name is [your name], and I am looking forward to sharing how Jesus saves us from our enemies: sin and death. If you have a Bible with you, will you take it out and hold it up high? [Distribute Bibles to kids who do not have one.]

All people have sinned. The Bible tells us that sin leads to death. Sin and death are real enemies. And in our own power, we could never defeat them. In our story today, we will see how **JESUS DIED ON THE CROSS TO PAY FOR SIN AND ROSE AGAIN TO DEFEAT DEATH.** [Display the Story Point Poster.] Because Jesus died and rose again, anyone who trusts in Him is saved from sin and death. Let's pray as we prepare to hear from His Word: 'Lord, thank You for Your love for us and for sending Jesus to die for our sin. Thank You for providing the way to be forgiven and have eternal life. In Jesus' name, amen.' ”

2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

Display the Big Picture Question Poster.

SAY “Today, we will discuss our big picture question: **What is repentance?** What is the answer we've learned? [Allow responses.] **Repentance is turning away from sin and turning to Jesus.**

Sin is disobedience toward God, and it leads us away from Him. That's why it is so important to repent of our sin. When we repent, we agree with God that our sin is wrong, turn from that sin, and follow Jesus. Following Jesus allows us to find forgiveness and life forever with God. It is only because of what Jesus has done for us through His life, death, and resurrection that we can have forgiveness and eternal life. ”

3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

Show the Giant Timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

SAY “God created a good world without sin. But when Adam and Eve disobeyed God, sin entered the world. God promised to one day send a Savior who would defeat sin and death once and for all. From Abraham to Moses, and through all the kings and prophets, God continued to remind His people of His promise to save them from sin. At the right time, just as God had planned, Jesus was born. He lived a perfect life, always obeying God the Father. He performed miracles, showing everyone He really is God's Son. And He taught the Scriptures and truth, to lead people to life in Him. However, Jesus was ultimately rejected by the people He came to save. Today, we'll see how He died and rose again. ”



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Matthew 27:27–28:10; Mark 15:16–16:8; Luke 23:26–24:12; John 19:16–20:18. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show 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!

Christ Connection: God’s plan was always to send Jesus to die for the sins of the

STORYTELLING TIPS

Vary your tone: Use a dramatic, sad, and excited voice as you tell the story to help kids stay engaged.

Tear it: Use a paper towel to demonstrate the curtain. Tear it from top to bottom when you share how the curtain was torn.



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

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. ”

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY “ Jesus was arrested, beaten, and placed on a cross. Jesus never sinned, but He was treated like a criminal. People mocked Jesus and treated Him badly. What did Jesus ask God to do for the people who made fun of Him and hurt Him? **[Allow responses.]** Jesus prayed for God to forgive them. Even as Jesus suffered on the cross, He displayed the love He has for people. Jesus came to forgive sinful people, and as He hung on the cross, He showed just how much He was willing to take our place for our sin. Jesus cried out and asked God why He had abandoned Him. God is holy and will not accept one sin. Jesus took our sins on Himself, and God punished Jesus for people’s sin. God didn’t save His Son from punishment because Jesus’ sacrifice is the only way for sinners to be saved.

Jesus’ work was finished, and He died. What happened after Jesus died? **[Allow responses.]** The temple curtain tore in two from top to bottom. The curtain was in the temple. It separated every person from the most holy part of the temple, where God’s presence was. Only the high priest could go into this most holy part once a year. Because of Jesus’ work on the cross, the curtain was torn. Jesus’ death made the way for anyone who trusts in Him to come before God. He defeated sin, so we can find forgiveness and be made right with God.

A man named Joseph buried Jesus’ body in his own tomb and rolled a stone to close the entrance. After the Sabbath, some women, who were followers of Jesus, made their way to the tomb. When they arrived, they saw two angels. What did the angels say to them? **[Allow responses.]** They told the women that Jesus had risen from the dead, just as He had said He would. The woman ran to tell the disciples the good news that Jesus was alive!

JESUS DIED ON THE CROSS TO PAY FOR SIN AND ROSE AGAIN TO DEFEAT DEATH. 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. ”

3 GOSPEL DISCUSSION

SAY “ We could never pay for our sin because we can never live a perfect life. Jesus did that for us. Jesus died to pay for our sin. He rose again, showing He has power over sin and death. Anyone who trusts in Him as Savior will be forgiven for their sins and receive eternal life. If you would like to know more about accepting Jesus as your Savior, I would love to speak with you. ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Create an environment where kids are welcome to ask questions about what it means to follow Jesus.)



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

4 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Show the Key Passage Poster. Lead kids in reading aloud 2 Chronicles 7:14 together.

SAY “When we repent of our sin and trust in Jesus, we are forgiven. Jesus’ death paid for our sin, and His resurrection gives us victory over sin and death forever.”

Use a sticky note to cover a word on the Key Passage Poster. Lead kids to say the key passage aloud. Then cover another word with a sticky note and challenge kids to say the key passage aloud. Repeat, until the entire key passage is covered.

Lead kids to sing “If My People (2 Chronicles 7:14).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

5 PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning to Love.

SAY “Thank You, Lord, for sending Your Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for our sin and rise from the grave on the third day so we can receive forgiveness and eternal life. Help us share this good news with others. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

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





LOVE

THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God by Applying the Story

1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles and display the New Testament Israel Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to Matthew 28. Explain that the Gospels are Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Tell kids that all four Gospels describe Jesus' death and resurrection.

Consider pointing out the location of Jerusalem (H5) on the New Testament Israel Map. Choose a volunteer to read aloud Matthew 28:5-7 or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verses aloud.

SAY “When the women came to Jesus’ tomb, He wasn’t there. And angel told the women that Jesus is alive! Jesus had told His followers He would rise from the dead (John 2:18-22; Matthew 16:21), and He did exactly what He promised. Jesus’ resurrection shows the power He has over sin and death.

The women then ran and told others the good news: Jesus is alive! We can tell others this good news as well. Because Jesus lives forever, we know He has defeated our enemies, sin and death, once and for all. Anyone who trusts in Him receives forgiveness of sins and eternal life.”

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

SAY “Why is it important that Jesus really died?”

Tell kids that the payment for sin is death. God demands a sacrifice for sin because He is just and must punish sin. Share how the Bible tells us that without the shedding of blood there can be no forgiveness. Jesus never sinned, but He became the sacrifice for our sin so we can be forgiven. Jesus’ sacrifice meets God’s just standards.

SAY “Why is it important that Jesus rose back to life?”

Explain how Jesus’ resurrection reveals the power He has over sin and death. Tell kids that Jesus’ resurrection gives us hope. Jesus’ resurrection points to the resurrection all believers will have one day. The Bible says we will be raised just as Jesus was raised. Those who trust Jesus as Savior have eternal life forever with God.

SAY “How does Jesus’ death and resurrection bring joy to Christians?”

Discuss how Jesus’ death and resurrection brings joy to Christians because when we trust in Jesus, we are saved. Tell kids there is no greater joy than to know our sins are forgiven and we will spend life forever with God. Help kids understand how we can face sadness, difficulties, and challenges with joy because we know nothing can separate us from God’s love. Encourage kids to share this joy with others who do not know Jesus.

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





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: FRAME CROSS

Provide each kid with four cardboard strips. Direct kids to glue the strips together to create a rectangle frame. Invite kids to color their frame with markers. Then provide kids with brown yarn. Guide kids to wrap the yarn from the top center side of the frame to the bottom center side of the frame. Continue wrapping the yarn until you have several layers which form the long side of the cross. Cut the yarn and glue the loose end to wrapped yarn. Then wrap the yarn horizontally across the frame to create the short arm of the cross. Continue wrapping the yarn until you have several layers which form the long side of the cross. Cut the yarn and glue the loose end to wrapped yarn. Invite kids to write Jesus Is Alive on the frame.

SAY “ JESUS DIED ON THE CROSS TO PAY FOR SIN AND ROSE AGAIN TO DEFEAT DEATH. We can remember this truth and share it with others who don’t know Jesus. ”

☐ OPTION 2: WASHED CLEAN



Using a permanent marker, draw a heart on the right side of a paper towel. Fold the paper towel in half and draw a heart on the paper towel again, ensuring it’s on top of the original heart. On the original heart, write the word SIN using washable markers. Tell kids that we are all sinners with “unclean” hearts. Draw lines on the heart using washable markers to represent “sin.” Fold the paper towel in half, so the “unclean” heart is covered and the other heart is displayed. Tell kids we can try to “cover up” our sin. Place the folded paper towel in a bin of water. The water represents Jesus. The “unclean” heart will show through the other heart in the water. Tell kids we can’t hide our sin from God. Then tell kids when we trust in Jesus, He washes away our sin. Pat the paper towel until all the marker is washed away. Tell kids Jesus took our sin on Himself when He died on the cross. Hold up the paper towel, showing the “sin” is washed away.

SAY “ Only Jesus can take away our sin and make us new. Anyone who trusts in Jesus will be forgiven and receive eternal life. ”

2 REFLECTION AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute a sheet of paper and pencil to each kid. Ask kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Who can I tell about this story?

Be sure to send the sheets home with the kids along with the activity pages so parents can continue to discuss the Bible story with their kids. If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page. Pray for your group.



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.