

Spring



Growing
in **CHRIST**®

Parents & Twos

A Christ-Centered Curriculum for Parents and Their Toddlers

TEACHER GUIDE



Copyright © 2006 Concordia Publishing House
3558 S. Jefferson Ave., St. Louis, MO 63118-3968
1-800-325-3040 • www.cph.org

All rights reserved. Unless specifically noted, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without the prior written permission of Concordia Publishing House.

The purchaser of this publication is allowed to reproduce the marked portions contained herein for use with this curriculum. These resources may not be transferred or copied to another user.

Written by Jane Haas

Edited by Pamela Nielsen

Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers, Wheaton, Illinois. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Catechism quotations are from *Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation*, copyright © 1986, 1991 Concordia Publishing House.

Hymn quotation is from *Lutheran Service Book*, copyright © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved.

This publication may be available in braille, in large print, or on cassette tape for the visually impaired. Please allow 8 to 12 weeks for delivery. Write to Lutheran Blind Mission, 7550 Watson Rd., St. Louis, MO 63119-4409; call toll-free 1-888-215-2455; or visit the Web site: www.blindmission.org.

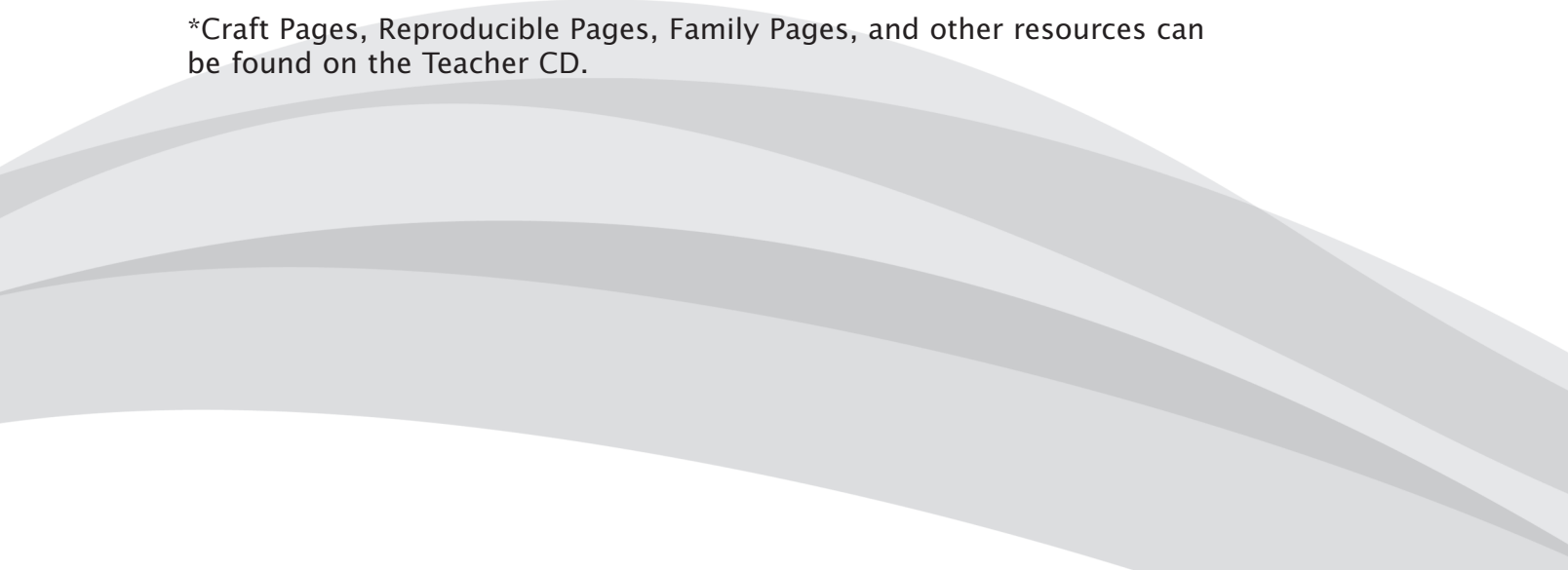
Growing in Christ® is published quarterly by Concordia Publishing House. Your comments and suggestions concerning this material are appreciated. E-mail us at sundayschool@cph.org.

Manufactured in the United States of America

Contents

Welcome to Growing in Christ!	5
Introduction	6
Teacher Tools and Family Kit	8
Getting Started	10
Lesson 1 Jesus Rides into Jerusalem	13
Lesson 2 Jesus and His Helpers Eat the Last Supper	21
Lesson 3 Jesus Prays in a Garden	29
Lesson 4 Jesus Is Alive! We Celebrate Easter	37
Lesson 5 Jesus Is Alive! Jesus Walks with His Friends	45
Lesson 6 Jesus Is Alive! Jesus Visits His Friends	53
Lesson 7 Jesus Is Alive! God Gives Us New Life	61
Lesson 8 Jesus Is Our Good Shepherd	69
Lesson 9 Jesus Helps His Friends Catch Fish	77
Lesson 10 Jesus Says, “Go and Tell!”	85
Lesson 11 Jesus Teaches Us to Pray	93
Lesson 12 Jesus Goes to Heaven	101
Lesson 13 The Holy Spirit Comes	111
Lesson 14 Philip Tells a Man about Jesus	119

*Craft Pages, Reproducible Pages, Family Pages, and other resources can be found on the Teacher CD.



Welcome to Growing in Christ!

Jesus says,

“Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine; you are the branches.” John 15:3-5

GROWING IN CHRIST is the life of the child of God! Through the Word and Sacraments, we live and grow in Christ.

GROWING IN CHRIST is a Sunday School curriculum rich in God’s holy Word. Students learn all the major stories of the Old and New Testaments and see how God weaves His plan of salvation in Christ through the lives of ordinary men, women, and children.

GROWING IN CHRIST puts the focus squarely on the heart and center of the entire Bible: Jesus Christ, our Savior from sin, death, and the devil. Each lesson reveals our sin and God’s forgiving mercy in Christ.

GROWING IN CHRIST connects the Word of God to the daily life of the student, nurturing faith in our loving, forgiving Savior.

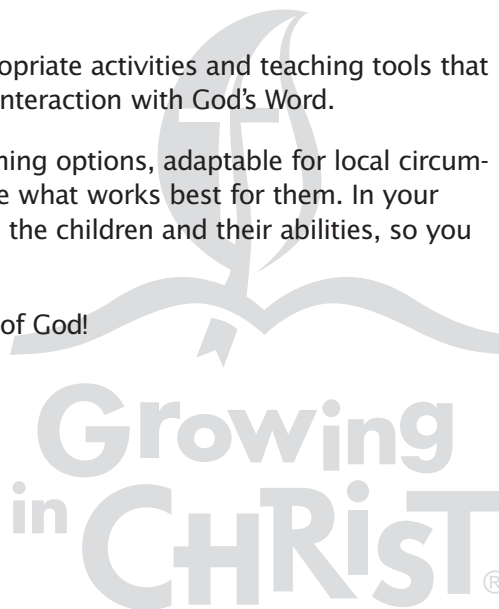
GROWING IN CHRIST strengthens Christ-centered grateful response in lives marked by thanks and praise and service and obedience.

GROWING IN CHRIST teaches the language and shape of Christian faith and life in the Lutheran Church, grounding students in the Bible, Small Catechism, and hymnal.

GROWING IN CHRIST is filled with age-appropriate activities and teaching tools that engage children in meaningful, relevant interaction with God’s Word.

GROWING IN CHRIST provides flexible teaching options, adaptable for local circumstances, giving teachers the choice to use what works best for them. In your classroom, you are the expert. You know the children and their abilities, so you choose what works best.

GROWING IN CHRIST is the life of the child of God!



Introduction

Why Have a Parents & Twos Sunday School Class?

God gives primary responsibility to parents to instruct their children in all His ways. Moses instructed parents in the way they should teach their children about God when he wrote God's inspired words in Deuteronomy 6:4–9:

The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

These Scripture verses emphasize the importance of God's directive to parents to bring their children up in the nurture of His Word and in fellowship with Christians:

Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old he will not depart from it (Proverbs 22:6).

[Joseph and Mary took Jesus] to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord (Luke 2:22).

The child [Jesus] grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon Him (Luke 2:40).

[Jesus said,] "Let the children come to Me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God" (Luke 18:16).

Each waking moment God gives parents the opportunity to talk about God and His love and forgiveness for us through His Son, Jesus, providing ways to keep Jesus in front of their children so they can see how great God is and what great things He has done for us—especially His great gift of salvation through Jesus' death and resurrection.

Parents need help. Pastors, teachers, and laypeople in the church can help train parents to train their children. We can build up one another in the faith development of families who have very young children. Parents & Twos can help welcome and meet the needs of families with toddlers.

Many families live far from relatives. They may feel isolated and may need the encouragement and support of Christian friends in the church community.

God's church becomes a special, familiar place for toddlers when they attend worship services and Parents & Twos class with their parents. The faith that began in them through Baptism is nurtured and strengthened when very young children hear God's Word, participate in activities related to the Bible story, sing, pray, and praise God.

What Is Parents & Twos?

- A Christ-centered education program for parents and their two-year-olds
- An opportunity to meet as a small group to learn together of God's love for all people through the life, death, and resurrection of His Son, Jesus
- Age-appropriate learning experiences for toddlers
- A relationship-building time for families who have very young children



- A time for parents to see their faith through the eyes of their children; a time to help them see more clearly their role as Christian parents

Getting to Know Two-Year-Olds

Twos:

- Are egocentric, thinking the world revolves around them
- Have a difficult time sharing
- Play parallel to each other
- Need routine and need to know what to expect
- Use their whole bodies to learn about the world around them
- Need space, equipment, and action experiences to meet their large-motor needs
- Need a variety of hands-on learning and discovering activities
- Need solid, concrete items to help them learn
- Aren't able to sit still for very long
- Need not be potty trained to participate in this class
- Enjoy the process of doing projects more than the actual finished project
- Can use chunky crayons and markers to scribble-color
- Do not have the fine-motor skills to use scissors
- Need much repetition in learning
- Enjoy moving to music
- May or may not communicate with words
- Learn through sensory experiences
- Learn best through play—children's work
- Experience God's love through adults who demonstrate it

The Parent-Child Relationship

During the Activity Center time, parents and their children experiment, discover, and learn by using the materials in each center. You can help parents relax and enjoy time learning and growing in the Christian faith with their children.

- Print the day's Lesson Focus Sign from the Teacher CD and tape the page to a wall, door, or window each time, where parents can read it as they enter. Or print the focus on a chalkboard, white board, or poster.
- Speak to parents through their children. "Casey, will you please show Daddy the people in the rice pan?"
- Model appropriate adult responses to the children's activities. When Paul uses the play kitchen items to set the table and "cook" a meal, say, "What a good job you've done making lunch, Paul!"
- Emphasize that it's a time to do something with their children, not for them.
- Create signs (if needed) to help parents focus on each activity and its purpose (i.e., Help your child color the art page. Talk about how Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey as our Savior and King. Place stickers on the page. Thank You, God, for giving Your Son, Jesus, to be our Savior!).
- During Parent Talk time, children may have their snacks. Those who are comfortable leaving the table after eating and playing in a separate corner of the room with another adult or teen supervising may do so. Children who don't want to be separated from parents may stay at the snack table and make the transition to a play-dough or puzzle activity after eating.



- Parents can enjoy their children more if they learn to understand them. Use the Family Page (Teacher CD) for each lesson to guide the Parent Talk time. Use this time to be supportive and encouraging, to share Scripture and what God says to Christian parents, and to provide ideas for Christian parents in their daily child raising.

Creating a Child-Appropriate Environment

- Be sure the area/room is safe. Check for electrical outlets and any sharp corners or other hazards.
- Open space is needed for active learning. An area rug for storytelling time works well.
- Have child-size tables and chairs as well as chairs for parents to sit comfortably.
- Open wall space is needed for poster and picture hanging. Be sure to use putty or adhesive that doesn't remove paint from the wall.
- Define areas for each Activity Center, and keep them the same each week so children know what to expect.
- Create a worship/storytelling area in a quiet corner. Put a tablecloth or sheet over a short table or sturdy box. Place an unbreakable cross and vase of flowers on the "altar." Provide appropriate color strips to match the colors of your church's altar paraments. Hang Fall Quarter Poster 15—Jesus the Good Shepherd. Use an area rug, quilt, or blanket for seating. Place a CD player close by.



Teacher Tip

There is a bonus lesson in each quarter's materials to help you match your lessons to the Sundays in the Church Year.

Teacher Tools and Family Kit

Features of This Teacher Guide

- Easy to use, four-step weekly lesson plans
- Learning activities, songs and hymns, transition activities, action rhymes
- "Teacher talk" is in bold print to provide you with words as a model for the parents to use with their children.
- The Liturgy Link in each lesson allows time for children and families to learn and sing along with the liturgical words set to music. Pick and choose learning activities, songs, and action rhymes that fit the needs of the children in your group. Much repetition is necessary when teaching very young children. Toddlers learn best by repetition!

Bonus Lesson

Also in this Teacher Guide is a bonus lesson (Lesson 14) to assist you with the movement of Sundays in the Church Year. You may or may not need this extra lesson depending on when Lent begins. The bonus lesson in each quarter's materials will help you match your lessons to the Sundays in the Church Year.

Looking Ahead to Summer

We suggest that you repeat lessons of your choice for the Summer Quarter. If you have saved previously published "Parents & Twos: Together with Jesus" units, choose lessons from those to teach during the summer.

Features of the Teacher CD

- **Audio Recordings of Hymns and Songs:** The CD has a variety of music for use



Teacher Tip

Note that there is more music recorded on the CD than is specifically used in the lessons. Choose which songs you want to use with your class, and repeat those songs often.



in the lessons. Note that there is more music recorded on the CD than is specifically used in the lessons. Choose which songs you want to use with your class, and repeat those songs often. As you repeat the songs, hymns, and portions of the liturgy, along with the action rhymes throughout the quarter, children will slowly begin to participate in singing and saying the words. Don't expect them to sing or talk if they are young two-year-olds. Their language development takes time. But do trust that the Spirit works in their hearts through the hearing and doing of the songs and activities.

- **Family Pages:** Each has reinforcement activities and ideas for the families. Duplicate these to send home after each class.
- **Craft Pages:** One coloring page is provided for each lesson. The teacher will need to supply crayons, glue sticks, and stickers for families to use. Consider doing the optional suggestions in the art activities so that the children aren't always scribble-coloring on one-dimensional paper.
- **Reproducible Pages:** Duplicate these pages from the CD as an additional art project for the children.
- **Activity Pages:** Extra pages are offered for several lessons as an interactive activity for the children and parents. You will want to laminate these pages and provide wipe-off crayons or markers and paper towels so they can be reused. Occasionally, photocopy the activity and have one for each family to do during center time or to take home as a review/reinforcement activity.
- **Lesson Focus Signs:** Each lesson has a focus for you to share with the parents. Print these from the CD, and hang the focus on the wall each time your group meets.
- **Storytelling Figures:** Some lessons use storytelling figures to help illustrate the Bible story. You will need to print, color, and cut out these figures before class. Tape each figure to a craft stick. Insert the stick into a lump of clay, or tape each figure to a cardboard tube.
- **Teacher Resource Pages:**
 - **Family Info Page:** Have a parent (or adult) from each family complete this page at the beginning of the quarter so you have pertinent information about the child and family.
 - **Lyrics:** Use the lyrics to help teach the children the songs. Play the CD and sing along.
 - **Nametags** and **Recipes** used in the lessons can also be found in the Teacher Resource Pages.

Posters

- These colorful visuals are used throughout the quarter to teach and reinforce the lessons. They will last a long time if you laminate and carefully store them.

Features of the Family Kit

- **Bible Storybook**—a review of the quarterly lessons with visuals and text
- **CD** of songs, Scripture, and action rhymes

Sprout the Puppet

Sprout is one of the puppets in the Growing in Christ Early Childhood materials. You may order Sprout from Concordia Publishing House (order no. 41-1027). Lily, a little girl puppet, is also available (order no. 41-1028). Or you may substitute any puppet you have.



Getting Started



Teacher Tip

Invite families to bring their infants also. They sometimes sleep in a baby carrier in a safe corner, and when awake, they enjoy hearing the music and the activities.



Teacher Tip

Teachers of young children are special people who focus on the children and their needs. These teachers need to be dedicated and reliable. They should have a heart for families with very young children and believe in the importance of sharing the Gospel message.

- **Pray.** Ask that God will bless your efforts and be with you and your helpers as you minister to the families and their very young children.
- **Start Small.** Check your congregation's cradle roll and baptismal records for names of children. If you have a long list of children, begin with the older two-year-olds. In person or on the phone, talk with each family that has a toddler and invite them to the class. Follow up with a mailed invitation. As your class becomes established, expect walk-ins and give them a warm welcome!
- **Publicize.** Place an informational paragraph about the class and its purpose in your church's bulletin, newsletter, and on a bulletin board about children's ministry. Hang an eye-appealing sign outside your classroom (Teacher CD), post photos of families participating in activities together, and invite grandparents and congregational members to an open house. Ask parents to tell about the blessings they experience through the class to other small groups, to a congregational meeting, or before a worship service.
- **Pastor.** Ask your pastor(s) to include prayers for the Parents & Twos class during the worship services.
- **Two Teachers.** This is the best scenario for a Parents & Twos class. Two teachers can help provide "teacher talk" for parents and children during the Activity Center time, and also during snack and Parent Talk time.
- **Secure Environment.** Two-year-olds bloom within a secure environment (including the same smiling faces to welcome them each class session).
- **Involve Parents.** Often parents are more than willing to help with setup/put-away and providing snacks.
- **Family Information.** Gather family information by having a parent complete a Family Info Page (Teacher CD). The information will help you remember to celebrate special occasions and also alert you about any allergies the child may have. Ask families for their permission to share their e-mail address and phone numbers with families in the group.
- **Nametags.** Make nametags (Teacher CD) for each parent and child. Use these until names are familiar.
- **Advance the Threes.** Prepare to advance newly turned three-year-olds to the next class as little groups, if possible, because of the friendships children form. You might do this monthly or quarterly, or ask the Early Childhood teachers for the best time to transition the children. Advancement should always depend on the readiness of each child.
- **Evaluate.** It is helpful to evaluate your class on an ongoing basis. Ask teachers, helpers, parents, and others involved to help evaluate the Parents & Twos ministry.
 - What are our major strengths?
 - What are our major weaknesses?
 - How well are we meeting the needs of the children? (Scale of 1–6)
 - How well are we meeting the parents' needs?
 - Are we reaching all relevant families in our congregation?
 - Are we reaching out to our community?
 - What is one thing we can do to improve our educational program?

God Is with You!

- Regularly frequent God's house to receive His gifts in Word and Sacrament.
- Remember that God works through you by His Holy Spirit through His Word as you



teach and model it for the children.

- Pray for God's direction, words to say, and the strength and courage to lead each class.
- Remember you are part of His plan to "go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:19–20). Trust God to help you!

Creating a Worship Center for Lent, Easter, and Pentecost

Identify an area in your room where the class can gather in front of a simple worship center. Having a worship center helps focus on the purpose of the class—looking to the cross and hearing God's Word.

During the Spring Quarter, begin by using a lavender or purple tablecloth or bedsheet over a small, short table or a sturdy box for the season of Lent. You can find inexpensive plastic tablecloths in many colors at a party store or dollar store. Or you might purchase a length of fabric cut to the size you need. Change the cloth to white for Easter and to red for the Festival of Pentecost. Place an unbreakable cross or crucifix, Bible, and vase of flowers on the "altar" after Lent is over. Use silk lilies for the Easter season. Hang Fall Quarter Poster 15—Jesus the Good Shepherd, or another picture of Jesus. Use an area rug, quilt, or blanket for seating. Place a CD player close by.

Plan to tell the Bible story at this worship center too. If you have empty wall space above and around the worship center, use a loop of masking tape or wall putty on the back of a laminated Bible story poster to display it for the lesson.

The Importance of Balancing Law and Gospel

There is a vital question that can be asked in *every* interaction a Christian has with another person: Is it a Law moment or a Gospel moment?

Every time a parishioner comes to see the pastor, every time a Sunday School teacher looks out at the young souls in her or his charge, every time a believer in Christ greets a friend at the grocery store, the question is, "What word from God does my member (student, friend) need to hear right now?" Does he, does she, need to hear that because of some sin not repented, because of reliance on self, all is *not* well with his or her relationship with God at this moment? Or does this same dear person need to hear instead that all sin is forgiven and that God is near and will never forsake us because Christ Jesus on the cross reconciled all people to Him?

Is it a Law moment or a Gospel moment?

This is the question C. F. W. Walther suggests we must raise and answer in Thesis II of his classic work *The Proper Distinction between Law and Gospel* (CPH, 1929): "Only he is an orthodox teacher who . . . also rightly distinguishes from each other the Law and the Gospel." It's also what St. Paul means when he says faithful teaching is "rightly handling the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15).

The word of truth is all of Holy Scripture, but God speaks in Scripture in two ways: In countless passages He tells us of our sin, our helplessness, our need for a Savior—that's Law. In all the rest of the Bible, He assures us that we have forgiveness, that we *have been* saved and are being given all we need in Christ Jesus—that's Gospel. God speaks to us in these two different ways because at one moment we need to hear one, and at another moment we need to hear the other. Rightly handling the Word means giving people we meet the Word they need right now.

A Law moment, a moment another soul needs to hear Law, looks like Cain staring down God and denying he knows anything about Abel's murder. It looks like a world blatantly ignoring God's warnings in the days of Noah. A Law moment looks like a Parents & Twos classroom in which little ones are fighting over a toy or crayon,



drowning out the teacher's words about God's grace in His Son.

A Gospel moment, which may come just seconds later, immediately after the Law has done its work, looks like Cain, desperate because his punishment is more than he can bear. It looks like heads hung in shame because they've been mean or disrespectful.

A Law moment sounds like "I don't care" or "So what?" A Gospel moment sounds like "I'm sorry" or "What can I do now?"

The faithful teacher or pastor or friend gives the Word from God that the moment demands.

Adapted from an article by Dr. Carl Fickenscher, which first appeared in the Fall 2006 issue of *Teachers Interaction* magazine.

A Suggested Class Schedule

Opening—Relationship Building, Activity Centers, and Singing Circle (30 minutes)

- Give families the opportunity to get to know each other and participate with their children in the day's Activity Centers, which focus on the lesson's Gospel-centered theme.
- Sing praise songs and have children move to music as they use rhythm instruments, ribbons, or scarves.
- Celebrate children's birthdays and Baptism birthdays.

God Speaks—Introduce, Tell, and Apply the Bible Story (10 minutes)

- Children sit on a parent's lap or on a special rug or blanket.
- Sprout helps to introduce the Bible story.
- The leader uses an open Bible to tell a very brief Bible story and shows visuals.
- Apply the Bible story to the families' lives. Use simple words. Make a simple concrete connection with what the children already know and have heard.
- Pray together. Keep prayer phrases very short.
- Link to the liturgy by playing the CD as everyone moves to the table for snacks or at other transitional times.

We Live—Snack Time and Parent Talk (10 minutes)

- Provide simple, nutritious snacks. (Parents are often more than happy to help provide snacks. You might have a sign-up list with lesson titles and snack suggestions that relate to the day's theme.)
- Share Scripture and discuss Christian parenting ideas and resources.
- If you have a team teacher, share the responsibilities of leading the discussion with parents and the children's playtime in a separate corner.

Closing—Songs and Prayers (10 minutes)

- Review the day's Gospel-centered focus.
- Say an action rhyme and a short prayer.
- Sing a good-bye song.
- It's important to say a personal good-bye and give the children a hug as they leave with parents. Say a simple focus statement such as "God made you, and He cares for you, Rick." (Sprout can help you say good-bye to the children.)
- Invite families to return for the next class.
- Send home the child's Craft Page, the art project, and the Family Page.



Jesus Rides into Jerusalem

Luke 19:28–38; John 12:12–16

Key Point

Jesus rode into Jerusalem as God’s Son, sent to die for the sins of all people, and as our loving King.

Connections

Bible Words

Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. John 12:13

Faith Words

Jesus, Savior, hosanna, praise, King

Catechism

Apostles’ Creed: Second Article
[I believe] in Jesus Christ, [God’s] only Son,
our Lord . . .

Hymn

All Glory, Laud, and Honor (LSB 442; LW 102)

Liturgy

Sanctus (LSB, p. 161; LW, pp. 148–49)

Materials Needed

1 Opening

Teacher Tools

Nametags
Family Info Page
Lesson Focus Sign
Craft Page 1
Reproducible Page 1
Activity Page 1
CD

Other Supplies

See “To Prepare” instructions for each Activity Center
Rhythm instruments, ribbons or scarves

2 God Speaks

Teacher Tools

Poster 1
CD

Other Supplies

Sprout puppet
Emerald fronds
Towel or jacket
Toddler Bible
Poster of Jesus

3 We Live

Teacher Tools

Family Page 1
CD

Other Supplies

Water or juice
Tortillas
Smooth fillings (peanut butter, cream cheese, or jelly)
Bibles

4 Closing

Teacher Tools

CD

Student Stuff

Bible Storybook

Other Supplies

Emerald fronds
Toddler Bible

1 Opening

30 minutes



Teacher Tip

Laminate the nametags after class (or create new ones, if needed). Staple a piece of ribbon to the top, and use a safety pin to pin it to each person's shirt every Sunday. Be sure to collect the nametags after class.



Teacher Tip

Hosanna means "Save now" and came to be used as an expression of trust that God would save and as an expression of praise for that salvation.

Welcome

To Prepare: Print out the following from the Teacher CD—nametag for each family member, Family Info Page for each family, and the Lesson Focus Sign to hang in a visible location in the classroom.

Smile and greet parents and children by name as they come into class. Point out the theme on the Lesson Focus Sign and explain that parents will want to reinforce the Bible truth with their children.

Introduce families to each other if someone is new to class, and ask them to complete a Family Info Page.

Activity Centers

Rice

To Prepare: Vinyl tablecloth; plastic pan; dry rice; scoops and cups; plastic toy people; plastic donkey; fabric cut into 3 × 3-inch pieces; paper palm branches or small silk or plastic palmlike leaves.

Help children discover the plastic people figures, fabric squares representing coats and blankets, a donkey, and palm branches in the rice pan.

Say **God loves us so much that He sent Jesus to be our Savior. On Palm Sunday, Jesus rode a donkey into the city. Many people sang and shouted their hosannas, "Save us now." They placed their coats and blankets on the road to show their love for Jesus. Jesus was getting ready to go to the cross, where He would die to save us from our sins. Let's say "Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!" together right now!**

Art

To Prepare: Craft Page 1 (Teacher CD); stickers—crosses, hearts; green construction paper; Reproducible Page 1 (Teacher CD); craft sticks or wooden spoons.

Duplicate Craft Page 1. Children can scribble-color the page.

Say **Point to Jesus. What is the animal Jesus is riding on? People sang hosanna to Jesus. They knew He was the Savior whom God sent for all people. Add a cross sticker to your paper. Jesus grew up to die on a cross to take our sins away. Jesus did that because He loves you and me! Hosanna! Jesus saves us!**

Add the cross and heart stickers to show how much Jesus loves us.

Use Reproducible Page 1 as a pattern to cut a green paper palm branch for each child. Tape a large craft stick vertically to the center of each branch.

Say **Boys and girls waved palm branches as they shouted "Hosanna!" to Jesus. They knew Jesus was the Savior and King. Let's say "Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!" together now.**

Play Dough

To Prepare: Play dough; child-size rolling pins; cookie cutters—cross, people.

Say **Roll play dough into crown shapes. Kings and queens wear**



crowns to show they are very important. Today, we will hear about a King who didn't wear a fancy crown. He was Jesus. Use cookie cutters or roll play dough to create people shapes. Jesus is your King. Jesus is my King. Name your family members. Jesus is their King too! Let's say "Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!"

Discovery

To Prepare: Variety of tree branches—deciduous, evergreen, palm; “emerald fronds” (they resemble palm leaves and are easy for young children to hold and wave); Activity Page 1 (Teacher CD); paper towels.

Families can look at the various tree branches and leaves together.

Say **Compare the colors green and brown. Compare the sizes of leaves. Compare leaves and needles. God made each tree's branches and leaves or needles different. He made them all wonderful! Today we'll use one of these branches as we sing and thank Jesus. Which branch do you think we'll wave as we sing? Let's say "Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!"**

Print Activity Page 1 on 11 × 17-inch paper and laminate, if possible. Parents can help their children use wipe-off crayons or markers to connect the bold dashes and dots to discover the shapes of the palm branch and the crown. Place paper towels in the center to wipe off marks as families take turns using the activity.

Say **Who is our King? Jesus! When we sing, wave our palm branch, play our bells, and wave our ribbons, we are telling Jesus "I love You. I praise and thank You. You are my Savior and King!"**

Pretend

To Prepare: Flowers; candle; cross; purple cloth for altar; Bible for altar; rhythm scarves and ribbons; “emerald fronds”; dolls and stuffed animals; large building blocks; Teacher CD.

Families can use building blocks to create a road from one point to another. Place dolls and stuffed animals along the way to represent them watching a parade. Pretend to watch Jesus riding on a donkey along the road. Sing “Hosanna! Hosanna!” (CD 30) or say “Praise and thank You, Jesus!” together. Wave your emerald fronds or “praisers” (ribbons or scarves).

Place a purple cloth on the altar. Help children arrange the flowers, Bible, candle, and cross on the altar. Pretend to sing, pray, and listen to God's Word.

Say these words as you wave your palm branches and move around the room.

Say **Hosanna! Save us now! Praise and thanks to You, Jesus! Praise to our King!**

Books and Puzzles

Children enjoy working with simple puzzles of circles, squares, triangles, diamonds, rectangles, and ovals. Place one or more of these on a table for each session in addition to other age-appropriate puzzles showing people, animals, places, and things.

During this quarter, you will want to have a book basket or tabletop to display age-appropriate books telling about Lent, Easter, Ascension, Pentecost, and Jesus, Our Good Shepherd.

Check out the Concordia Publishing House Web site, www.cph.org. Select a few books to add to your collection!

Transition

Give a two-minute alert to families to finish the Activity Centers and to put things



Teacher Tip

Floral shops sell tree branches at low cost. Ask for palm fronds, deciduous, or evergreen branches.





Teacher Tip

Teach all songs with the same enthusiasm and energy. With your help and encouragement, children will eagerly learn, through repetition, songs or hymns that seem challenging.

away. Sing “Let’s Clean Up” (CD 18–19) or another favorite cleanup song. Move to face one another in the Singing Circle.

Singing Circle

Choose songs from the CD to fit today’s Lesson Focus. Repeat the songs often. Give each child and parent an emerald frond (palm branch) to wave today in your Palm Sunday parade. Then collect the emerald fronds to use during storytelling. Or encourage children to choose rhythm instruments or “praisers” (ribbons, bell bracelets, or scarves) to use as they sing and move to the music.

Celebrate a child’s birthday or Baptism birthday by singing a special song and inserting his or her name.

Sing one or two familiar songs (the CD also contains some favorites from the Fall and Winter Parents & Twos CDs). Chant the Bible words with the CD, and teach a special song or the chant for Palm Sunday. Don’t forget to do your welcome and other favorites as time allows. Emphasize the following songs today:

Sing Luther’s Morning Prayer

Second Article

God’s Own Child, I Gladly Say It

Hosanna! Hosanna!

All Glory, Laud, and Honor (parents sing stanzas; children sing refrain)

Sanctus (teach the version your church uses)

March On, Little Donkey

Do You Know Who Died for Me

2 God Speaks

10 minutes



Come to the Worship Center

Play “Hosanna! Hosanna!” (CD 30) several times as everyone gathers at the worship and storytelling area. Begin your storytelling time with “Luther’s Morning Prayer” (CD 54). This will signal to the children that it is storytelling time, and the frequent use of it will help teach them this wonderful prayer.

Have children sit on a special rug, blanket, or quilt to get ready to hear today’s Bible story.

Say You came so nicely to our Worship Center! Thank you! Let’s begin our time together by making the sign of the cross. Do you remember how we do that? Watch me! With your thumb pressed to your index and middle fingers, trace the shape of the cross from your forehead to your chest and then from right to left. Show the children how to do this. **Each week we begin our time together doing as the pastor did at your Baptism when he made the sign of the cross and said these words:**

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



Introducing God’s Word

Say We just told Jesus “Hosanna! Hosanna!” One more time, let’s wave our hands and shout “Hosanna” to Jesus, who saves us.

Sprout appears.

Sprout: Hi, everybody! Why are you singing and shouting “Hosanna”? I heard you way down the hallway!

Teacher: We’re glad you heard us, Sprout! *Hosanna* means “Save us!” Jesus loves us so much that He died on the cross to save us from all our sins. Today is Palm Sunday. We learn about Jesus riding on a donkey into Jerusalem and how the people sang and shouted their praises to our Savior and King.

Sprout: I like to sing and shout praises too!

Teacher: Let’s do that together. Sing this song with me (melody: “The Farmer in the Dell”):

Sing **Hosanna to our King!**
Hosanna to our King!
Wave your palms* and sing with me:
Hosanna to our King!

(*Additional words and actions—Clap your hands; Give a hug; Nod your head; Stomp your feet; Turn around; Jump for joy.)

Sprout: That was fun! I like to praise and thank Jesus!

Teacher: How nice you sound singing your hosannas to Jesus! In our Bible story today, we’ll hear how the people waited to see their King Jesus.



Transition

Say the action rhyme “Open Them, Close Them” (CD 22) or “Two Little Eyes” (CD 26). Place your open Bible in front of the children and sing “Written Down” (CD 27) or “Alleluia, Lord, to Whom Shall We Go?” (CD 58) to focus on the Bible story as God’s gift to us.

Telling God’s Word

To Prepare: Have the emerald fronds from the Discovery Activity Center and a towel or a jacket ready.

Hang Poster 1, or place it on an easel close to you.

Open your toddler Bible and make sure to say that this story comes from God’s Holy Word, the Bible. Then put the open Bible near you as you tell the following.

Say **God sent Jesus to be our Savior and King. Jesus was getting ready to do what God wanted Him to do. He told His friends, “Go into the town, and you’ll find a donkey there. Bring it to Me.” The friends walked to town, and the owner of the donkey gave them the donkey. They walked back to Jesus.**

Jesus told His friends, “I will ride this donkey into the city.” He got on the donkey. His friends walked with Jesus. They came to Jerusalem, where many people stood along the street.

Mothers, fathers, boys and girls, and grandmas and grandpas were all there! Mommies were holding babies. Daddies held



Teacher Tip

Frequent singing and hearing the Liturgy Links and hymns will help children to learn these songs of God’s people in worship. The children will be eager to sing along with the congregation in the worship service.





Teacher Tip

Say short, echo-style prayers when praying with very young children.

Have children repeat the words of the prayer after you. Pause at the * and repeat the words with them.

children high so they could see. All the people shouted, “Hosanna! Hosanna! Lord, save us! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!”

Children put their palm branches on the road. Some people threw their blankets and coats on the road. They all waved their palm branches and shouted praises to King Jesus.

Many people ran out to see King Jesus!

People told their friends, “It’s Jesus! He’s our King and Savior!” They waved their palm branches and shouted “Hosanna!”

Point to the Poster of Jesus. **God kept His promise and sent us a Savior. Jesus would soon die on the cross to save all people from their sins. Jesus saves us too! That’s why we sing and shout “Hosanna!” and sing our thanks to Him.**



Have children and parents wave the emerald fronds. Place the towel or jacket on the “path” and sing “Hosanna! Hosanna!” (CD 30) and “All Glory, Laud, and Honor” (CD 35) together to review the Palm Sunday Bible story. Gather the emerald fronds, and save them to give to families at the end of class.

Say Now let’s fold our hands and thank God for giving us Jesus.



**It’s time to sit still now
And bow our heads to pray.
We fold our hands and close our eyes.
God listens as we pray:**

**Pray Dear heavenly Father,*
Thank You* for giving Jesus*
To be our Savior and King.*
Hosanna!*
Lord, save us now!*In Jesus’ name we pray.* Amen.***



Liturgy Link

As you move from the prayer to Snack Time, listen to the Palm Sunday songs and the Bible words. Take time to teach the Liturgy Link “Sanctus” (CD 59–60). (Note that two versions are recorded; select the one used in your church.)

3 We Live

10 minutes

Snack Time

Provide wet wipes for parents to clean the children’s hands. Sing “Thank You, God, for This Food” (CD 25) or “Come, Lord Jesus” (CD 1) as children fold their hands. Provide water or juice to drink.

Have parents or children help give out paper plates and napkins.

Parents will need to cut the soft flour tortilla in half and spread a filling onto the tortilla. Then roll the half-tortilla to make a parade “blanket.” Continue playing the songs for today softly in the background.

Growing through God’s Word—Parent Talk

Hosanna to Jesus!

While children eat their snacks and everyone gathers around a large table, explain that during these minutes, parents have the opportunity to share and discuss



how children grow, learn, and what they understand about God. If you have a team leader, he or she may take the children to an area of the room to have a short play-time or to hear additional storybooks related to Jesus, our Savior and King, being willing to die for our sins.

Provide Bibles and Family Page 1 for discussion (five to ten minutes).

Say **This day in the Church Year is known as either Palm Sunday or Sunday of the Passion. It begins Holy Week for God’s people. The Church’s worship on this day, as well as on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil, and Easter morning, offer children a rich feast of sights and sounds that will help fix these important salvation events in their minds.** Discuss what traditions and customs your congregation observes during Holy Week. Ask parents what stands out in their memories.

Your child is learning that Jesus rode into Jerusalem as God’s Son, sent to die for the sins of all people, and as our loving King. Take time to point things out before, during, and following the worship service. Spend time during the week helping prepare your child for what comes next in Holy Week, and plan to bring them to all the services. Sit near the front of the church so they can see what is happening. After each service, talk about what they observed. Provide copies of the Holy Week worship schedule to the parents.

Today’s Bible story takes place during the week of Passover, when crowds of faithful Jewish people make their journey to Jerusalem. Knowing what must happen, Jesus sends two disciples to a small village to borrow a donkey and her colt. He began His ride toward the city on the donkey’s colt. Read John 12:13. What did the people say and do to praise and worship Jesus as He rode into the city on the back of a donkey? The crowds know what Jesus’ arrival means: He is the King, the Messiah!

***Hosanna* is a prayer literally meaning “Save now!” See Matthew 21:9. Luke records the shouts of the people, echoing the words of the angels at Jesus’ birth (Luke 2:14). In Holy Baptism, our cries are answered, and each of us lives in the reality that we are saved now and for eternity. There is an ongoing reality to God’s salvation—once and for all and yet daily and forever, we are saved. The certainty we have is based solely on what God in Christ has done and continues to do for us. No one or nothing can change that reality. It is important to point your child to Christ and His work on the cross as the assurance of their salvation. Fix their eyes on Jesus by frequently reminding them of the forgiveness, life, and salvation that is theirs through Baptism.**

Jesus entered Jerusalem, not as the King most of the people wanted, but as King of all to bring eternal, spiritual peace for all nations (Zechariah 9:9–10).

Jesus rode into Jerusalem to die. Look at the cross to see the one and only reason that God sent His Son, Jesus, to earth.

Encourage discussion and sharing about the Lent/Holy Week and Easter traditions that each family observes and how these help the children learn about Christ’s suffering, death, and resurrection.

Say **There are some suggestions and ideas on this week’s Family**



Page to help you reinforce today's lesson and prepare your little one for the events of Holy Week.



Move from the table back to your Singing Circle area. Play or hum "Hosanna! Hosanna!" (CD 30) while everyone comes together.

Say **We're in our Singing Circle again, ready to say good-bye.**

4 Closing

10 minutes

Songs and Prayers

Ask **Who is our Savior and King? Yes, Jesus is!**

Say Show the toddler Bible. **Today we heard how Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, and all the people praised Him with their shouts of Hosanna!**

Pray **Let's fold our hands and thank Jesus for being our Savior and King. You can say the prayer words after I say them.**

**Dear Jesus,*
Thank You for loving us,*
And for dying for our sins.*
Hosanna, Jesus!* We love You!*
In Jesus' name.* Amen.***

Teach the children and their parents this blessing from the Responsive Prayer liturgy.

Teacher: Let us bless the Lord.

Families: Thanks be to God.

Teacher: The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

Families: Amen.

Give each child an emerald frond to use and then to take home.



Sing "Hosanna! Hosanna!" (CD 30), "March On, Little Donkey" (CD 33), and "Now It's Time to Say Good-bye" (CD 21)

Say Good-bye

Be at each child's eye level as you say good-bye.

Say **Jesus loves you! He is your Savior and King!**

Take Homes

Family Page 1

Craft Page 1

Emerald frond

Paper palm branch craft

Bible Storybook (Family Kit)



Teacher Tip

Encourage parents to glean ideas from the Family Page to use throughout the week as they review, sing, and pray with their children.



Jesus and His Helpers Eat the Last Supper

Matthew 26:17–29; Mark 14:12–25; Luke 22:7–23; John 13:31–35

Key Point

God sent Jesus to die on the cross to take away all our sins. Jesus reminds us to love one another as He loves us.

Connections

Bible Words

Christ has been raised from the dead.
1 Corinthians 15:20

Faith Words

Jesus, Savior, body, blood, forgiveness of sins

Catechism

Apostles' Creed: Second Article
[I believe] in Jesus Christ, [God's] only Son,
our Lord . . .

Hymn

The Lamb (*LSB* 547; *HS98* 822)
All Glory, Laud, and Honor (*LSB* 442; *LW* 102)

Liturgy

Agnus Dei (*LSB*, p. 163; *LW*, p. 191)
Sanctus (*LSB*, p. 161; *LW*, pp. 148–49)

Materials Needed

1 Opening

Teacher
Tools

Nametags
Family Info Page
Lesson Focus Sign
Craft Page 2
Reproducible Page 2
Activity Page 2
CD

Other
Supplies

See "To Prepare"
instructions for each
Activity Center
Rhythm instruments,
ribbons, or scarves

2 God Speaks

Teacher
Tools

Poster 2
CD

Other
Supplies

Sprout puppet
Cup, plate, and wash-
cloth for Sprout
White cracker, matzo
(unleavened bread), or
Communion wafer
Toddler Bible
Poster of Jesus

3 We Live

Teacher
Tools

Family Page 2
CD

Other
Supplies

Water or juice
Un sliced loaf of bread
Bibles

4 Closing

Teacher
Tools

Art foam craft
CD

Student
Stuff

Bible Storybook

Other
Supplies

Toddler Bible

1 Opening

30 minutes

Teacher Tip

The renowned master violin teacher Shinichi Suzuki emphasized the importance of his young students repeatedly listening to music they were learning to play. Doing so increases the child's ability to learn new songs in a relatively short period of time. Encourage parents to play their Family CD at play, at bedtime, and in the car.

Welcome

To Prepare: Print out the following from the Teacher CD—nametag for each family member, Family Info Page for each family, and the Lesson Focus Sign.

Smile and greet parents and children by name as they come into class.

Have new families complete a Family Info Page.

Point out the main theme for today on the Lesson Focus Sign, and explain that parents will want to reinforce the Bible truth with their children.

Encourage parents to spend time with their children at one or more of the Activity Centers, focusing on Jesus, our Savior and King, who died for our sins.

Activity Centers

Rice

To Prepare: Vinyl tablecloth; plastic pan; dry rice; scoops and cups; plastic toy people, plastic donkey; fabric cut into 3 × 3-inch pieces; green paper palm branches; small plastic cups and plates.

Review the Palm Sunday story as you use the listed items in the rice pan.

Say **God loves us so much that He sent Jesus to be our Savior. On Palm Sunday, Jesus rode a donkey into the city. Many people sang and shouted, “Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!” Hosanna means “Save now!” They placed their coats and blankets on the road to show their love for Jesus. Jesus was getting ready to go to the cross, where He would die for all our sins.**

Discover a small cup and small plate in the rice pan.

Say **Today we'll hear a Bible story about Jesus and His friends eating the Last Supper together.**

Art

To Prepare: Craft Page 2 (Teacher CD); cross and heart stickers; art foam heart shape; Reproducible Page 2 (Teacher CD); magnetic strips.

Duplicate Craft Page 2. Children can scribble-color the page using chunky crayons or washable markers. Have parents print their children's names on the page. Point to Jesus.

Say **Jesus is telling His friends that this is the Last Supper together. Soon He will die on the cross to take away all our sins. Add a cross sticker. Jesus reminded His friends to love one another as He loved them. Add a heart sticker.**

Use Reproducible Page 2 to duplicate the cross, chalice, and wafer shapes. Cut them out ahead of time. Have families use glue sticks to attach the paper cross, wafer, and chalice shapes to a large heart precut from art foam.

Say **God loves us so much that He kept His promise to send Jesus as our Savior. Jesus told His friends at the Last Supper to eat the bread and drink the wine to remember that He gave His body and blood to save all people from sin. He reminds us to**



love each other as He loves us. Attach a short magnet strip to put the art project on your refrigerator.

Play Dough

To Prepare: Play dough; child-size rolling pins, cookie cutter shapes—cross, people, heart.

Say **Jesus loves us so much that He died on the cross for the sins of all people.**

Discovery

To Prepare: Bean seeds or grass seed; Activity Page 2 (Teacher CD); damp paper towel; spring flowering bulbs; potting soil; containers.

Families can look at seeds and bulbs as they talk about those gifts God gives us to help make our world beautiful and to show things that are new and alive. Plant the seeds with the children.

Say **The seeds and bulbs aren't very pretty now, are they? We can plant the bulbs in the potting soil and give them water, put them in a sunny place, and see them grow. We can put the grass and bean seeds between wet paper towels (or in potting soil), give them sprinkles of water, and see how they sprout. God is so good! He gives new life!**

Print Activity Page 2 on 11 × 17-inch paper and laminate, if possible. Parents can help their children draw a line with their finger (or with a wipe-off crayon or marker) from the pictures showing actions needing love and forgiveness to the center picture of Jesus and the cross in the heart.

Say **Jesus loves and forgives us!**

Pretend

To Prepare: Flowers; candle; cross; purple cloth for altar; Bible for altar; scarves or ribbons; dolls and stuffed animals; large building blocks; plastic cups and plates; Teacher CD.

Set a table with cups and plates. Pretend to eat a meal together.

Say **Jesus ate the Last Supper with His friends. He broke the bread and shared it, and He poured each person some wine to drink. We'll hear about it in our Bible story.**

Review the Palm Sunday Bible story. Use building blocks to create a road. Place dolls and stuffed animals along the way to represent them watching a parade. Pretend to watch Jesus riding on a donkey along the road. Sing "Hosanna! Hosanna!" (CD 30) or say "Praise and thank You, Jesus!" together. Wave ribbons or scarves.

Place a purple cloth on the altar. Help children arrange the flowers, Bible, candle, and cross on the altar. Pretend to sing, pray, and listen to God's Word.

Sing Say or sing these words to the tune "Here We Go 'Round the Mulberry Bush." **This is the way we say hello . . . This is the way we praise our King . . . on a Sunday morning!**

Say **Jesus gives us forgiveness and life in His Word and in our Baptism. He offers forgiveness at His altar.**

Books and Puzzles

Provide simple puzzles as well as age-appropriate books showing and telling the Holy Week and Easter stories. Be careful in choosing books that have illustrations





Teacher Tip

Concordia Publishing House offers a wonderful selection of appropriate books at www.cph.org.

appropriate for very young children. While it is appropriate and necessary for little ones to learn that God's great love for them was manifested on the cross at Jesus' death, it is not necessary or helpful to use books that contain overly gruesome or gory depictions of His death. However, be careful not to overcompensate and make our Lord's death a sweet event. It was awful, it was gruesome, and it was and is for *you*. This is why we do not shy away from exposing the youngest of children to the image of their Savior on the cross. In time they see this image as the greatest expression of God's love for them.

Transition

Give a two-minute alert to finish the Activity Centers and put things away. Sing "Let's Clean Up" (CD 18–19) or another cleanup song and move to the Singing Circle.



Singing Circle

Choose songs from the CD to fit today's Lesson Focus. Repeat the songs often. Have children and grown-ups choose rhythm instruments or "praisers" (ribbons, bell bracelets or scarves) to use as they sing and move to the music.

Celebrate a child's birthday or Baptism birthday.

Make time for the following songs today:

Sing Luther's Morning Prayer

Second Article

1 Corinthians 15:20

All Glory, Laud, and Honor (parents sing stanzas; children sing refrain)

The Lamb (parents sing stanzas; children sing refrain)

Agnus Dei (teach the version your church uses)

Sanctus (teach the version your church uses)

Hosanna! Hosanna!

March On, Little Donkey

Do You Know Who Died for Me

2 God Speaks

10 minutes



Come to the Worship Center

Play "Hosanna! Hosanna!" (CD 30) and "1 Corinthians 15:20" (CD 48) several times as everyone gathers at the worship and storytelling area. Begin your storytelling time with "Luther's Morning Prayer" (CD 54).

Have children sit to get ready to hear today's Bible story.

Say Thank you for being ready to listen! Let's begin by making the sign of the cross. Say the words with me:

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



Introducing God's Word

Sprout appears carrying a small plastic cup, plastic plate, and washcloth.

Sprout: Hi, everybody! I like to hear you singing!

Teacher: We sing to thank and praise Jesus for His love. Because Jesus tells us in His Word that He loves us so much, we want to tell Jesus how much we love Him! What did you bring today, Sprout?

Sprout: I brought these things you might need for your Bible storytelling.

Teacher: Thank you! Please stay and hear the story, okay?



Now say the action rhyme "Open Them, Close Them" (CD 22) or "Two Little Eyes" (CD 26). Open your toddler Bible, and make sure to tell the children that what you are going to teach them today comes from God's holy Word, the Bible, and lay the open Bible down near you. Sing "Written Down" (CD 27) or "Alleluia, Lord, to Whom Shall We Go?" (CD 58) to focus on the Bible story as God's gift to us.

Telling God's Word

To Prepare: Have the cup, plate, and washcloth ready. Also have a white cracker or piece of matzo (unleavened bread) ready.

Hang Poster 2, or place it on an easel close to you. Point to the poster.

Say **Jesus knew it was almost time for Him to die on the cross, just as His heavenly Father wanted Him to do for all people.**

Jesus invited all His helpers and friends to eat the Last Supper with Him. Point to Jesus and His friends on the poster.

Now we'll pretend we are Jesus' friends on that night. Let's start at our door, just like we're going to dinner at someone's house. Have everyone go away from your storytelling area.

Let's come into the big room where Jesus has the Last Supper ready. Walk back to the storytelling area and sit. **It's good to see You, Jesus! Thank You for inviting us to Your supper.**

Let's pretend to eat. Maybe Jesus had roasted lamb, fruit such as grapes and figs, and cheese. This is so good! Supper is delicious. Thank You, Jesus! It's good to be with You.

Soon supper was over. Then Jesus held up the bread, thanked God for it, and broke it into pieces for each of His friends to eat. He said, "Take this and eat it. This is My body, given for you. Do this to remember Me." Show children a white cracker or a piece of matzo on the plate Sprout brought.

Then Jesus held the cup of wine. He thanked God for it. And then He said, "Take a drink. This is My blood. I want You do this often to remember Me." Show the cup that Sprout brought.

Jesus washed His friends' feet to show them He loved them. Show the washcloth. **Then Jesus reminded them, "Love each other just as I have loved you."**

Point to the Poster of Jesus. **God kept His promise and sent us a Savior. Jesus would soon die on the cross to save all people from their sins. Jesus loves us, and He has saved us from our sins! He wants us to love each other as He loves us.**



Teacher Tip

In a world where children are bombarded with make-believe and fairy tales, cartoon images and stories that are untrue, it is important to frequently point out that God's Word is real and true and that they can find it in His book, the Bible. Underscore that what you are teaching them is not just a nice story, but rather something true that their Father in heaven wants them to know and remember.



Continue Sprout's dialogue with the teacher to apply today's lesson:

Sprout: I heard the pastor say those words in church! "Take eat. Take drink. Do this often to remember Me."

Teacher: That's right, Sprout! During Holy Communion, the pastor says those words and gives Jesus' body and blood in the bread and wine to the people who believe Jesus is our Savior.

Sprout: I like to remember that!

Teacher: Boys and girls can walk to the Communion rail with their parents. Do you do that, boys and girls? The pastor makes a cross on your forehead and blesses you to remind you of your Baptism.

Sprout: What a special reminder of God's love and forgiveness!

Teacher: Thanks for coming today, Sprout!

Say **Now let's fold our hands and thank God for giving us Jesus.**



**It's time to sit still now
And bow our heads to pray.
We fold our hands and close our eyes.
God listens as we pray:**

Pray **Heavenly Father,*
Thank You for Jesus*
And for His meal and His love.*
We know You love us.* We love You too.*
In Jesus' name we pray.* Amen.***



Liturgy Link

As you move from the prayer to Snack Time, listen to the Palm Sunday and Holy Week songs and the Bible words. Take time to sing and learn one of the Liturgy Links for today, "Agnus Dei" (CD 56–57) or "Sanctus" (CD 59–60). (Note that two versions of each song are recorded. Teach the version your church uses.)

3 We Live

10 minutes

Snack Time

Provide wet wipes for parents to clean the children's hands. Sing "Thank You, God, for This Food" (CD 25) or "Come, Lord Jesus" (CD 1) as children fold their hands. Provide a drink. Have parents or children help give out plates and napkins.

Parents may help cut the loaf of bread or break off pieces as you pass the loaf.

Say **Jesus shared His Last Supper with His friends. He gave them the bread and wine. Jesus wants us to remember that on the cross He gave His body and blood to give us forgiveness of our sins. Jesus loves us so much!**

Growing through God's Word—Parent Talk

Love One Another

If you have a team leader, he or she may take the children to an area of the room to have a short playtime or to hear additional storybooks related to the Lord's Supper. Provide Bibles and Family Page 2 as a short discussion guide.

Say **Your child is learning that God our Father sent Jesus to earth to grow up and die for the sins of all people. God kept His**



promise to send a Savior because all people needed one! Our catechism, written by Martin Luther, makes it clear that we cannot save ourselves. We confess: “I believe in Jesus Christ . . . who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death.” Scripture tells us that there is no greater love than when a man lays down his life for a friend. This is the love of God toward you! God loves you more than anyone else loves you. He loves you more than you love yourself. God’s love makes it possible for you to love your neighbor.

Before Jesus died on the cross, He invited His disciples to eat a Passover meal—the Last Supper—with Him in the Upper Room. Passover is the name of an entire festival time that included the Feast of Unleavened Bread. When the Israelites fled Egypt, they left quickly without time to bake leavened (raised with yeast) bread (see Exodus 12:34). After the first cup of wine was blessed, each participant washed his hands. It may have been at this time that Jesus washed His disciples’ feet (John 13:1–15), showing and telling them, “Love one another.” Washing feet was an act of servitude.

Read Matthew 26:26–29. Jesus instituted the New Testament covenant meal—that which we partake of today when we eat His body and drink His blood at Holy Communion. In the new covenant at the Last Supper, Jesus fulfilled the prophecy of Jeremiah 31:34: “I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

As the Passover strengthened the people of Israel in the Old Testament, so the Lord’s Supper gives Christians hope on the pilgrimage to the heavenly home Jesus prepares for us. In the Lord’s Supper, we realize already that for which we hope: “taste and see that the LORD is good!” (Psalm 34:8; 1 Peter 2:3).

Encourage a time of discussion about the benefits of the Lord’s Supper and ways to help children grow in their understanding of this means of God’s grace.

Say **There are some suggestions and ideas on this week’s Family Page to help you reinforce today’s lesson.**



Move from the table back to your Singing Circle area. Play or hum “Hosanna! Hosanna!” (CD 30) while everyone comes together.

Say **We’re in our Singing Circle again, ready to say good-bye.**

4 Closing

10 minutes

Songs and Prayers

Ask **Who invited His friends to eat supper with Him?**

Say Show the toddler Bible. **Today we heard that Jesus invited His**



friends to eat the Last Supper with Him. He was getting ready to die on the cross for all our sins. Show the art foam craft from the Art Activity Center. **Jesus loves us so much! He gave His body** (point to the wafer shape) **and His blood** (point to the chalice shape) **when He died on the cross. Because He did this for us on the cross** (point to the cross), **we have forgiveness of all our sins. That makes us Jesus' happy friends!**

Pray **Let's fold our hands and thank Jesus for being our Savior and King. You can say the prayer words after I say them.**

**Dear Jesus,*
Thank You for loving us,*
For dying for our sins.*
We love You!*In Your name we pray.* Amen.***

Teach the children and their parents this blessing.

Teacher: **Let us bless the Lord.**

Families: Thanks be to God.

Teacher: **The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.**

Families: Amen.

Sing "Now It's Time to Say Good-bye" (CD 21)



Say Good-bye

Say a personal good-bye to each child and his or her parent(s).

Say **Jesus loves you! He is your Savior and Friend!**

Take Homes

Family Page 2

Craft Page 2

Art foam craft

Bible Storybook (Family Kit)



Teacher Tip

Encourage parents to use the ideas found in the Family Page throughout the week as they review, sing, and pray with their children.

