

Use Week of:

Easter • Session 2

Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection

BIBLE PASSAGE:

Matthew 26–28; 1 Corinthians 15

STORY POINT:

Jesus gives us life with God forever.

KEY PASSAGE:

John 3:30

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Why did Jesus become human? Jesus became human to rescue sinners.



INTRODUCE THE STORY
(15–20 MINUTES)
PAGE 78



TEACH THE STORY
(10–15 MINUTES)
PAGE 80



EXPERIENCE THE STORY
(20–25 MINUTES)
PAGE 82



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LEADER Bible Study

Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection are essential to the Christian faith. If we teach Jesus as a respected teacher and miracle-worker who claimed to be the Messiah and who was crucified on the cross—but who was not resurrected—then we are teaching the Jesus of Judaism. If we teach Jesus as a wise teacher and prophet who ascended into heaven—but who was not crucified—then we are teaching the Jesus of Islam.

Jesus' purpose for coming to earth was to save us from our sins. (Matt. 1:21) Jesus came to die to show God's love to us (Rom. 5:7-8) so that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16) Jesus came to die so that we would be forgiven. (Eph. 1:7) Jesus came to die to bring us to God. (1 Pet. 3:18)

Jesus died on the cross to satisfy the wrath of God toward sin. His resurrection proved that God was satisfied with Jesus' sacrifice. If Jesus had died but not been raised up, He would have been like military leaders who died without a throne. (Acts 5:33-37) But Jesus conquered death, just as He said He would. (John 2:19-21) If there was no resurrection, Paul says, our faith would be worthless. We would be dead in our sins. (1 Cor. 15:17)

But Jesus' resurrection gives us hope for our resurrection. The same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead will raise our bodies to life. (Rom. 8:11)

Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection are not the end of the story, but the center of it. As you teach preschoolers this Bible story, emphasize the gospel: the good news of who Jesus is and what He has done. We do not worship a dead Savior. Jesus is alive! There is hope for sinners. Jesus' resurrection gives believers the promise of new life. "For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive" (1 Cor. 15:22).

The BIBLE Story

Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection

Matthew 26–28; 1 Corinthians 15

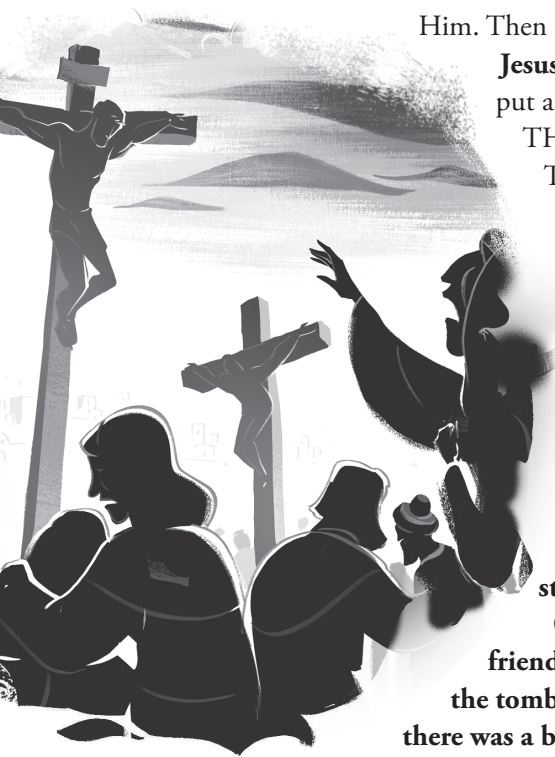
An angry crowd took Jesus away to the religious leaders. They wanted to find a reason to kill Jesus, **but Jesus had done nothing wrong.** They took him to Pilate, the governor. Pilate's soldiers made a crown of thorns and put it on Jesus' head. They put a purple robe around Him and pretended to bow down to Him. Then they **led Jesus away.**

Jesus was nailed to a cross. They put a sign above Jesus' head that said: **THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS.** **Two criminals were put on crosses next to Jesus.**

Darkness covered the land. Jesus cried out, "My God, My God, why have You abandoned Me?" **Jesus died and was buried in a tomb.** **A large stone was rolled in front of the tomb, and Pilate's soldiers guarded the tomb so that no one would steal Jesus' body.**

On the third day, two of Jesus' friends, both named Mary, went to the tomb. They were very sad. **Suddenly there was a big earthquake as an angel came down from heaven. The angel rolled away the stone and sat on it. The guards fainted.**

The angel spoke to the women, "Do not be afraid! Jesus is not here! He has risen from the dead, just as He said He would."



The women were so happy! Jesus was alive! They **left the tomb to tell Jesus' disciples the good news. Just then, Jesus greeted them. The women worshiped Him. Jesus said, "Do not be afraid. Tell My brothers to go to Galilee. They will see Me there."**

Jesus appeared to Peter and then to His other disciples. Then Jesus appeared to more than 500 people who followed Him. **Many people saw with their own eyes that Jesus is alive!**

Christ Connection: The most important thing that ever happened is that Jesus died and was raised from the dead. We can believe that Jesus is alive! When we turn from sin and trust in Jesus, we have hope and new life. Jesus brings forgiveness and life with God forever.

Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Draw pictures:** Sketch symbols as you tell the Bible story—a question mark for Jesus' trial, a cross for His death, a rising sun for His resurrection, and so on.
- **Use lighting effects:** Begin the Bible story with lights dimmed. Raise the lights when telling of Jesus' resurrection.

INTRODUCE the Story



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BIBLE PASSAGE: Matthew 26–28; 1 Corinthians 15

STORY POINT: Jesus gives us life with God forever.

KEY PASSAGE: John 3:30

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why did Jesus become human? Jesus became human to rescue sinners.

Welcome time

- "He Came Into the World" song
- offering basket
- Allergy Alert
- favorite toys related to the Bible story theme

Play a theme song in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow your church's security procedures. Set an offering basket near the door to collect at an appropriate time. Post an allergy alert, if necessary. Set out a few favorite theme-related toys, such as puzzles and blocks.

Activity page

- "Who Fits Where?" activity page, 1 per child
- crayons or markers

Invite preschoolers to draw a line matching the people on the bottom to the scene they belong in on the top.

SAY • Jesus died on the cross and was buried in a tomb.

A large stone was rolled in front of the tomb, and soldiers stood guard. On the third day, two women went to the tomb. Suddenly an angel came down from heaven, rolled away the stone, and sat on it. Jesus was alive! The women saw Jesus and bowed at His feet to worship Him. You can use these pictures to tell this good news story to your family and friends!

LOW PREP

- paper (optional)
- crayons or markers (optional)

Name important things

Encourage children to name important things that have happened to them. Prompt as needed to be sure they include their own births, births of siblings, starting school,

changing babysitters, playing on a ball team, and so forth. Consider encouraging children to choose one of those important things to draw.

SAY • We celebrate important things that happen in our lives. You might have a birthday cake or even a party to celebrate the day you were born. Today is Easter. Easter is the day we celebrate the most important thing that ever happened: Jesus died and was raised from the dead.

Tip: Be prepared to respond with tenderness and grace if a child tells about a serious situation.

Find a doll

Hide a small doll somewhere in the room. Encourage children to find the doll. Choose a child to hide the doll again for the rest of the group to find. Repeat several times.

· small doll

SAY • When someone hid the doll, we had to look for it. We found the doll right where the person who hid the doll left it. Two women in our Bible story today went to Jesus' tomb because that was where a man named Joseph had put Him. But when the women arrived, Jesus was gone! Listen to the Bible story to hear the wonderful surprise Jesus had in store for His friends!

Transition to teach the story

To gain the attention of all the preschoolers to move them to Bible study, show the countdown video, turn the lights off and on, or clap a simple rhythm for the children to copy. Encourage the preschoolers to high-five one another as they arrive in the Bible study area. Comment that in today's Bible story the people heard exciting news!

· countdown video (optional)

TEACH the Story



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BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why did Jesus become human? Jesus became human to rescue sinners.

Introduce the Bible story

- Bible
- bookmark
- Giant Timeline

Place a bookmark at Matthew 26 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Reverently display the open Bible.

SAY • The Bible is God's Word, and it is always true. Our story today is from the Book of Matthew.

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

Watch or tell the Bible story

- Story Point Poster
- "Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection" video (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster

Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling tips. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

SAY • The most important thing that ever happened is that Jesus died and was raised from the dead. Many people saw with their own eyes that Jesus was alive, like the two women both named Mary, Peter, the rest of Jesus' disciples, and then more than 500 people who followed Him. Jesus is still alive today. We can believe that Jesus is alive! When we turn from sin and trust in Jesus, we have hope and new life. **Jesus gives us life with God forever.**

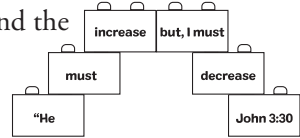
Practice the key passage

Before the session, write each word of the key passage on a piece of tape on an interlocking block. Place the key passage marker at John 3:30. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage aloud. Stack the blocks in an ascending and descending stair step pattern to illustrate the verse. Say each word as you add block. Guide children to say the key passage using the motions you created in the first session.

- tape
- marker
- large interlocking blocks
- Bible
- Key Passage Marker
- Key Passage Poster
- “He Must Increase (John 3:30)” song
- “He Came Into the World” song

SAY • *He* in our key passage is Jesus. The most important thing that ever happened is that Jesus died and was raised from the dead! Jesus is most important of all!

Sing the key passage song, “He Must Increase,” and the theme song, “He Came Into the World.”



Learn the big picture question

SAY • Our big picture question is, *Why did Jesus become human? Jesus became human to rescue sinners.*

Because Jesus never sinned, He could die on the cross to take the punishment we deserve for our sin. When we trust in Jesus, God forgives us for our sin.

- Big Picture Question Poster



Missions moment

SAY • Jesus is the reason missionaries go all over the world. They want to obey God and take the good news about Jesus to all people, even those who are very hard to reach. Missionaries do hard things so others can hear about Jesus and have life with God forever. Let’s watch a video about the gospel.

- “The Gospel” video

Play “The Gospel” missions video.

Pray and transition to experience the story

EXPERIENCE the Story



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BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why did Jesus become human? Jesus became human to rescue sinners.

LOW PREP

Sing a song

Lead preschoolers in singing the following lyrics to the tune of “London Bridge Is Falling Down.”

“Jesus died for you and me, you and me, you and me.
Jesus died for you and me, He loves you and me.
Jesus rose up from the grave, from the grave, from the
grave.
Jesus rose up from the grave, He loves you and me.”

SAY • Great singing! When people believe that Jesus died for their sin, and rose again from the grave, they are saved from sin! **Jesus gives us life with God forever.**

LOW PREP

Decide true or untrue

Direct children to hold their thumbs up if what you say about the Bible story is true and down if what you say is not true. Use the statements below or create your own.

- Jesus never sinned. (*up*)
- Jesus was put on a cross. (*up*)
- Six criminals were put on crosses next to Jesus. (*down, two criminals*)
- Jesus was buried in a tomb. (*up*)
- A large door was locked on the tomb. (*down, a large stone was in front of the tomb*)

- Two women named Ava went to the tomb (*down, Mary*)
- The angel said, “Do not be afraid! Jesus is not here! He has risen from the dead.” (*up*)
- The women saw Jesus and worshiped Him. (*up*)
- Three people saw Jesus alive. (*down, over 500*)

SAY • Good job remembering! The most important thing that ever happened is that Jesus died and was raised from the dead. We can believe that Jesus is alive! When we turn from sin and trust in Him, **Jesus gives us life with God forever.**

Make resurrection rolls

This recipe is for eight children. Adjust measurements as needed. Preheat a toaster oven to the temperature indicated on the tube of crescent rolls. Melt the butter in the microwave. Mix the cinnamon and sugar in a bowl. Open the rolls and separate the triangles. Give each child a triangle. Dip a marshmallow in the butter and set it on the pointed end of a child’s dough. Encourage him to sprinkle the sugar mixture on his marshmallow. Help children wrap their dough around their marshmallow and pinch the edges tightly. Place the balls of dough on a cookie sheet. Ask an adult to bake the rolls according to the directions on the package. Remove from the oven and serve at snack time.

SAY • We rolled up our marshmallows and sealed them up tight, but after our rolls baked, the marshmallows were gone! Jesus’ body was sealed up tight in the tomb, but when the stone was rolled away, Jesus was gone. Our marshmallows just melted, but Jesus really did come back to life! When we trust in Him, **Jesus gives us life with God forever.**

- toaster oven (adult use)
- microwave (adult use)
- tube of crescent rolls, 8 count
- butter, ¼ cup
- sugar, 2 tablespoons
- cinnamon, 2 tablespoons
- marshmallows, 8
- baking sheet
- bowls
- plastic spoons

Tip: Set a dough triangle on a piece of parchment paper for each child.

Weigh rocks

- large rocks
- balance scale

Tip: If a balance scale is unavailable, look online for directions on how to make a simple scale from a coat hanger.

Provide several large rocks and a beginner's balance scale. Encourage children to compare the size and weight of the rocks.

SAY • Big rocks are heavy, aren't they? How much do you think a rock as big as a door would weigh? Could you move it? In our Bible story today, the women who went to Jesus' tomb saw an angel come down from heaven. The angel rolled away the stone and sat on it. The angel told them the good news that Jesus was alive! ***Why did Jesus become human? Jesus became human to rescue sinners.*** When we turn from sin and trust in Jesus, we have forgiveness and hope. **Jesus gives us life with God forever.**



Decorate a missions flower pot

- small clay flower pots, 1 per child
- stickers
- markers
- coins

Tip: Consider asking parents and/or church members to donate travel-size toiletry items for a mission project included in Unit 20, Session 3.

Tell preschoolers about how your church gives to global missions. Give each child a small clay flower pot to decorate with stickers and markers. Explain that children can use their flower pot to collect money for missions. Give each child a few coins to get them started collecting.

SAY • You can take your flower pot home and use it to collect money for missions. Giving our money is a way we can help missionaries. The money we give helps with things like food, places to live, ways to get around, and Bibles in different languages. When God's people give even a little, God uses it to do a lot! **Jesus gives us life with God forever.** God wants all people to hear this good news!

Snack and review

Play the countdown video to signal the end of activities. Wash hands and gather preschoolers for snack time. Pray, thanking God for the snack.

Serve the resurrection rolls the children prepared for snack. Notice the marshmallow is gone, and the “tomb” is empty. Comment that the women were so happy to hear that Jesus was alive. Remind preschoolers that **Jesus gives us life with God forever**. When we turn from sin and trust in Jesus, we have hope and new life.

Show the Bible story picture as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

1. What had Jesus done wrong? (*nothing*)
2. What was rolled in front of the tomb? (*a large stone*)
3. Who went to Jesus’ tomb on the third day? (*two of Jesus’ friends, both named Mary*)
4. What made the women happy at the tomb? (*Jesus had risen. He was alive!*)
5. What did Jesus tell the women to do? (*tell His friends to go to Galilee to meet Him*)
6. ***Why did Jesus become human? Jesus became human to rescue sinners.***

Transition

When preschoolers finish their snack, they may color the Bible story coloring page, play a simple game to practice the key passage or big picture question, or sing along to the key passage or theme song.

If parents are picking up their children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Distribute the preschool big picture cards for families.

- countdown video (optional)
- Allergy Alert
- paper cups and napkins
- snack food
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster

- Bible Story Coloring Page
- crayons
- Key Passage Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- “He Must Increase (John 3:30)” song
- “He Came Into the World” song
- Big Picture Cards for Families: Babies, Toddlers, and Preschoolers