

# Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection

Spring has returned with warmer days and magnificent signs of new life. At this time of year, Christians are doubly blessed. We can watch as the grass greens, the days lengthen, and flowers begin to poke out of the ground and know that God, the creator of the universe, has faithfully returned spring to the world. We can also rejoice in the greater miracle of new life that's been given to humanity because of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross.

It's so important for first- and second-graders to learn about Jesus and his sacrifice. No other event in Christianity is more important. Yet it's hard for children to understand death—and it's harder still to understand the Resurrection. These lessons will teach children the basics of our faith: that Jesus never did anything wrong, that he knows all about us and died for our sins, and that he came back to life and went to heaven. Above all, these lessons will help children learn to know and love Jesus, the Son of God.

## Five Lessons on Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection

Lesson	Bible Point	Page	Bible Basis
<b>1</b>	Jesus wants us to remember him.	15	Luke 22:7-20
<b>2</b>	Jesus knows all about us.	25	Mark 14:27-31, 66-72
<b>3</b>	Jesus never did anything wrong.	35	Mark 15:2-15
<b>4</b>	Jesus died for our sins.	47	Mark 15:15-39
<b>5</b>	Jesus came back to life and went to heaven.	57	Mark 16:1-20

## The Signal

During the lessons on Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection, your signal to get kids back together during activities will be clapping your hands three times. Have children respond by clapping their hands three times as they stop talking and focus their attention on you.

Explain this signal before the lesson begins. Tell children that it's important to respond to this signal quickly so the class can do as many fun activities as possible.

## The Fidget Buster

When your students are too antsy to pay attention to the lesson, use this fidget buster to get the wiggles out.

Form two groups: the Ducks and the Chicks. Have the Ducks crouch on one side of the room and the Chicks crouch on the other side. Have all the Ducks and Chicks wrap their hands around their knees and pretend they're still in their eggs. When you say, "Time to hatch!" the Ducks and Chicks unwrap their arms but stay crouched as they waddle around the room. Have the Ducks try to tag the Chicks and the Chicks try to tag the Ducks. When someone is tagged, he or she joins the other team. Let children waddle around the room for a few minutes, quacking and chirping. Then say: **now let's all waddle back to our lesson.**

## The Time Stuffer

The Time Stuffer for the five lessons on Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection is an Easter puzzle. Make several photocopies of the "Easter Puzzle" handout (p. 13), and put them on a table along with markers and scissors.

When children come to class early or finish an activity before the others, have them draw a picture of something they remember about Easter in one of the sections of the puzzle. They might choose to draw biblical events or family memories. After all the sections of their puzzles are filled in, have children cut their puzzles apart and give them to friends or family members to put together. Have them talk with their friends or family members about their Easter memories.

## Digging Into the Bible



Every lesson in each four- or five-week module focuses on a key Bible verse that ties in to the Bible Point of the lesson. In addition, each lesson points to a related activity in the *Hands-On Bible*, to further illustrate your Bible teaching with fun and action. Since kids tend to remember only 10 percent of what they hear but recall 90 percent of what they do, working in a *Hands-On Bible* experience with each lesson is another great way to get them to remember what they've learned long after class has ended.

## Remembering God's Word

This module's key Bible verses will help children understand that Jesus was sinless yet gave his life for the forgiveness of our sins. Have fun using these ideas any time during the lessons on Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection.



If your class isn't easily divisible into teams of four, form some teams with two or three children and have some children run more than one leg of the race.

### ■ Carrying Relay

Write the following verse, **Romans 5:8**, on four pieces of paper as follows:

Paper 1: God showed his great love for us

Paper 2: by sending Christ to die for us

Paper 3: while we were still sinners.

Paper 4: **Romans 5:8**

You'll need one set of Scripture papers for every four children.

Have kids form teams of four. Line up the teams on one side of the room for a relay race. For each team, place a set of Scripture papers, in order, on the opposite side of the room.

Before the game starts, go over the verse with the children. Point to the words on the papers as you read them to help beginning readers recognize the words. Stand near the papers to give reading help to the children.

Say: **During the relay, the first person in each line will run to the other side of the room and take the top paper. He or she will read what the paper says, and then the person will carry it to the next person. The second person will run across the room, read the second paper, and then carry it and the first paper back to the next person. Continue until you have read all four papers and they have been carried back to the starting line.**

Congratulate everyone on their participation. Have the children sit down to catch their breath.

Say: **Each of you carried something in this relay. Jesus also carried something for us. He carried our sins. That means Jesus carried the bad things we do. Jesus did that because he loves us and wants to forgive us. Jesus carried our sins so we can live for what's right instead of what's wrong.**

Ask: • **What wrong things do we do sometimes?** (Disobey; lie; cheat; steal; sometimes we're mean or unkind.)

• **What right things can we do instead?** (Obey; tell the truth; always do our own work; treat others fairly and kindly.)

Say: **Jesus carried our sins so we would stop living for what's wrong and start living for what's right. Let's ask him to help us do what's right.**

Pray: **Jesus, we thank you for carrying our sins to the cross with you and dying for us. Help us know the right things to do so that we can please you by living for what's right. In your name, amen.**

## ■ **Red Light, Green Light**

Read **1 Peter 2:22** to the children: “[Jesus] never sinned, nor ever deceived anyone.” Have them repeat the verse after you.

Then give each child a sheet of green construction paper and a sheet of red construction paper. Help the children glue, staple, or tape their sheets of paper back to back.

Say: **The red side of this paper stands for “stop,” just as a traffic light or a stop sign does. The green side stands for “go.” I’ll read some situations aloud, and you’ll decide if each one is a wrong thing to do or a good thing to do. If it’s wrong, hold up the red side of your paper. If it’s good, hold up the green side. Ready? Here we go.**

- **Situation 1: You’re playing at your best friend’s house. Your mom told you to be home by four o’clock so you could get ready for dinner. Your friend’s mom tells you that you need to leave now to get home on time. You’ve almost finished with the game you and your friend are playing, so you decide to finish it before you go home.**

- **Situation 2: Today is your little sister’s birthday, and you want to buy her a present. Her favorite kind of candy costs 55 cents. You only have 50 cents. You decide to take the candy from the store now and give it to your sister at her party today. You’ll take the money to the store tomorrow.**

- **Situation 3: Your next-door neighbor fell and broke his leg. You notice that dead leaves from last fall have blown in and covered up all the new flowers in his front yard. You decide to clean all the leaves out of the flower bed, and you go to ask him if it’s OK with him for you to work in his yard.**

After you’ve read all three situations and the children have had time to decide if they’re good things or bad things to do, ask:

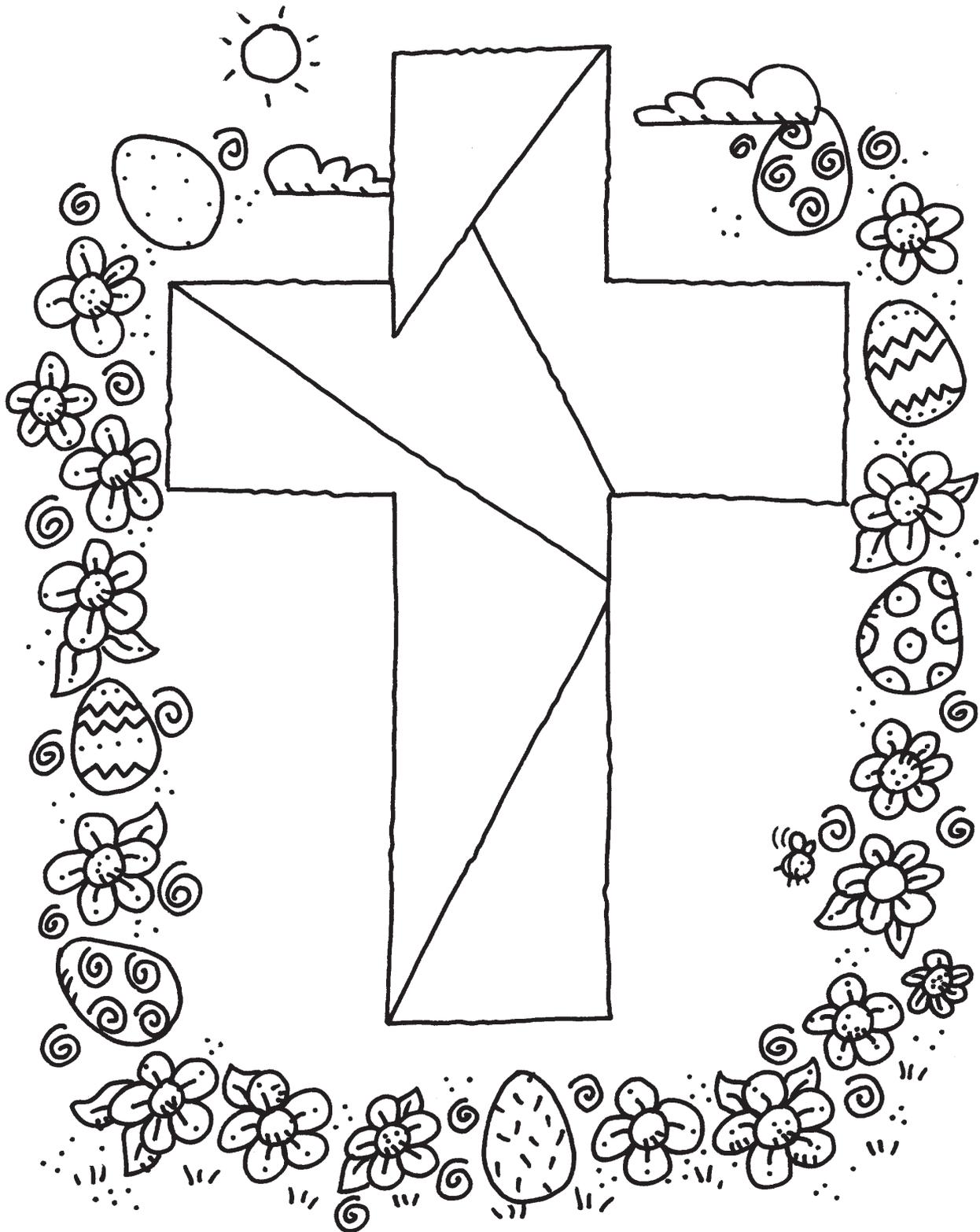
- **What’s one way you can please Jesus this week?** (I can obey my mom and dad; I can be nice to my baby brother; I can help my grandma with dinner.)

Read **1 Peter 2:22** again, and have the children say it with you. Say: **You have great ideas about what you can do to please Jesus. Jesus always did the right thing, and Jesus wants us to start doing what’s right every day, too. Let’s thank Jesus for carrying the wrong things we do to the cross so that we can live for what’s right.**

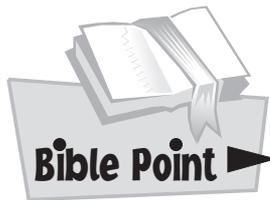
Pray: **Jesus, thank you for taking the wrong things we do—what we call our sins—to the cross with you. Thank you for forgiving us. We want to live for what’s right every day. Help us remember you, and help us remember to do right. Amen.**

# Easter Puzzle

Draw in each shape a picture of something you remember about Easter. It can be something you learned in church or something you do at home to celebrate Easter.







Bible Point ▶

# Jesus wants us to remember him.

## Bible Verse

“We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters” (1 John 3:16).

## Growing Closer to Jesus

Children will

- make reminders of what Jesus did,
- test their memories, and
- tie papers around their fingers and receive stamps on their hands as reminders of Jesus.

## Teacher Enrichment

### The Bible Basis

#### ■ Remember God's love.



**Luke  
22:7-20**

Passover was a meaningful celebration for Jews 2,000 years ago. But when Jesus celebrated Passover with his disciples the week before his death, he gave it even more significance. It was no longer just a meal to remember the Jews' escape from slavery. It became a celebration of the brand-new covenant that God made with all of humanity. From the celebration of the Last Supper until the present day, we've celebrated the Lord's Supper to remember God's plan to purify us and draw us into his presence as his children through the body and blood of Jesus. Through this celebration, we also renew our commitment to and confess our faith in Jesus Christ.

Traditions remind us of important events. We take time to celebrate holidays that enrich our lives and provide links to our past. These events teach children about things that have shaped our history, our culture, and our lives. No holiday is more important to teach our children about than Easter. In teaching children to remember Jesus, we're teaching them the most basic part of our faith because Jesus' life, death, and resurrection offer us joyous new life that can be found nowhere else. Use this lesson to teach children to remember Jesus no matter what.

Other Scriptures used in this lesson are Deuteronomy 4:9a; Jeremiah 15:16; and Isaiah 49:15b-16a.

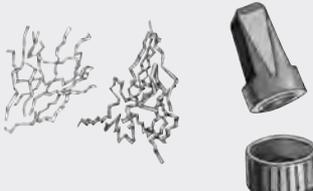
### Prayer

- Read Psalm 8:1-2.
- In what ways do children and infants tell of God's strength and silence those who oppose him? As adults, what can we learn by this example?
- Pray: Lord, open my eyes and my heart to the messages of your strength from the children in my ministry. Lead me to a new understanding of...

## Before the Lesson

- Collect items for the activities you plan to use, referring to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies listed in the chart.
- Make photocopies of the “Growing Together” handout (at the end of this lesson) to send home with your children.
- Pray for your students and for God’s direction in teaching the lesson.

## This Lesson at a Glance

	What Children Will Do	Classroom Supplies	Learning Lab Supplies
<b>Welcome</b>	<del><b>Welcome!</b>—Receive a warm welcome from the teacher, and make name tags.</del>	<del>“New Life Name Tags” (p. 24), scissors, markers, tape or safety pins</del>	
<b>Attention Grabber</b>	<b>Memory</b> —Recognize which of 10 items has been taken from a grouping, and talk about the kinds of things that are important to remember.	Child-sized scissors, glue bottle, paper clip, pencil, crayon, eraser, marker, stapler <b>use art supply items</b>	
<b>Bible Exploration &amp; Application</b>	<b>Passover Remembrance</b> —Listen to the story of the Last Supper as recorded in Luke 22:7-20, and discover what the bread and the cup remind people of.	Bible, CD player	
	<b>Cracker Pictures</b> —Make remembrances of Jesus with crackers, hear Jeremiah 15:16, and eat a snack.	Bible, paper towels, snack mix, grapes <b>grapes provided. use goldfish for crackers</b>	
	<b>Add-an-Action</b> —Play a game in which they keep adding actions to ones they’ve already learned, hear Deuteronomy 4:9a, and talk about how to remember Jesus.	Bible	
<b>Closing</b> 	<b>Colorful Reminders</b> —Wrap paper strips around their fingers to remind them of Jesus, hear Isaiah 49:15b-16a, and find out that God promises to remember them.	Bible, tape	

## Welcome

**SUPPLIES:** “New Life Name Tags” (p. 24), scissors, markers, tape or safety pins

- Greet each child individually with an enthusiastic smile.
- Thank each child for coming to class today.
- Say: **Today we're going to learn that ► Jesus wants us to remember him.**
- Help children make name tags. Photocopy the “New Life Name Tags,” and follow the instructions. Help children write their names and attach the name tags to their clothing.
- Tell children that the signal you'll use during this lesson is clapping your hands three times. Ask children to respond by clapping their hands three times as they stop talking and focus their attention on you. Rehearse the signal with the children, telling them to respond quickly so they'll have plenty of time for all the fun activities planned for this lesson.



**BIBLE POINT**



Some possible answers are given after each question to help you serve as a guide when children struggle with a question. Use these only to facilitate a discussion. Resist the temptation to give the answers after a few moments of silence and struggling. Children learn best when they are given the opportunity to discover for themselves.

## Attention Grabber

■ **Memory** use art supply items plus learning lab items

**SUPPLIES:** child-sized scissors, glue bottle, paper clip, pencil, crayon, eraser, marker, stapler



Gather children in a circle. Say: **Today we're going to talk about remembering. Look at all these different items we want to remember.**

Place the following classroom and Learning Lab items on the floor:

- child-sized scissors,
- a glue bottle,
- a paper clip,
- a pencil,
- a crayon,
- an eraser,
- a marker,
- a stapler,
- a colorful egg, and
- the treasure chest.


**teacher tips**

It's important to say the Bible Point just as it's written in each activity. Repeating the Bible Point over and over will help children remember it and apply it to their lives.



Have the children study the items for about 30 seconds. Then have the children turn away from the items. Choose a volunteer to quietly take away one item from the center of the circle and hide it in the *treasure chest*. Then have the children turn around and see if they can identify which item is missing. If you'd like to make the game harder, rearrange the remaining items after one has been taken away. When the children have guessed which item is missing, return the item to the center of the circle, and play again. After several rounds of play, ask:

- **Was this game easy or hard? Explain.** (It was easy because I'm good at remembering; it was easy to remember some items like the egg, but I forgot things like the crayon; it was hard because there was so much to remember.)

- **What kinds of things are important to remember?** (My phone number and address; my name; how to get home; how to spell; my birthday; the rules; Jesus.)

Say: **We need to remember lots of things—our names, our phone numbers, how to spell and read, and when our birthdays are. But there's one person we should remember no matter what. He's the most important person ever. ▶ Jesus wants us to remember him, and today we're going to have fun remembering him.**

Put the Learning Lab items away.

## Bible Exploration & Application

### Passover Remembrance

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, CD player



track 14

Cue the *CD* to track 14, "Passover Remembrance." Have the children sit in a circle.

Open your Bible to **Luke 22:7-20**, and show the passage to the children. Say: **Even though this story is on the CD, it's really from the Bible. Listen carefully to this story. Whenever you hear the word *remember* or *remembered*, tap your head and then put your hand on your heart, to show that we remember with our heads and our hearts.** Have kids practice this motion. **Ready? Here we go.**

Start the *CD*, and listen to the story. When the story is over, turn off the *CD* and ask:

- **What do you remember about the story?** (That people ate lamb at Passover; that Jesus was going to be sacrificed like the lamb; that Jesus said it was important to remember him.)

- **What do you think John and the other disciples remembered about Jesus?** (That Jesus was going to die for them; that because Jesus died, they could go to heaven.)

- **What would have happened if the disciples had forgotten about Jesus?** (They wouldn't have told other people about him; they would have forgotten to obey him; they would have forgotten to love Jesus.)

Say: **People celebrated Passover to remember what had happened a long time before Jesus was born. When we celebrate the Lord's Supper at our church, we do it to remember what happened to Jesus a long time ago. Traditions help us remember important things. Jesus knew it was important for the disciples and for us to always remember that he came to earth for us.**


**teacher tips**

If students answer an open-ended question with responses such as "I don't know" or "I'm not sure," encourage them to dig deeper by saying, "Pretend you do know" or "Take a guess anyway." Stimulate further discussion with such questions as "What else could that mean?" or "What other ideas come to your mind?"

► ***Jesus wants us to remember him***, and he wants us to know how much God loves us. Let's have a snack that'll help us remember Jesus.



## ■ Cracker Pictures

grapes provided. use goldfish as crackers

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, paper towels, snack mix, grapes

Give each child a handful of snack mix and a paper towel. Have the children arrange the cracker pieces on their paper towels into pictures that show something they remember about Jesus. For example, they might create a picture of the cross, Jesus in the manger, or Jesus helping someone. When the pictures are finished, give each child a few grapes. Have each child tell what his or her picture is about. Then ask:

- **Where did you learn all these things about Jesus?** (From the Bible; church.)

Say: **We learn about Jesus from church, from good teachers, and from the Bible. Listen to what one man did with what he learned about God.** Read **Jeremiah 15:16** from an easy-to-understand version. Then say: **As you eat your snack, think about your picture and what you remember about Jesus.** Have the children eat their snack mix and grapes. Give them about 30 seconds of quiet time to think about Jesus. Then ask:

- **You each made a picture of something you remember about Jesus. Why is what your picture showed an important thing to know about Jesus?** (It reminded me that Jesus made miracles happen; my picture showed that Jesus loves kids.)

- **What if we were to forget that Jesus performed miracles or that Jesus died on the cross for us or that Jesus loves us? Why would that be bad?** (Because Jesus wants us to remember him; it would be bad because Jesus has done things for us; it would be bad because we can't be friends with Jesus if we forget him.)

Say: **Christians all over the world eat pieces of bread and drink grape juice or wine to help them remember Jesus.** ► ***Jesus wants us to remember him***. Remembering all the special things he did when he was here on earth helps us remember how much he loves us. It also reminds us how much we love Jesus and how much we want to please him. Let's learn more about remembering Jesus.



### Bible Insight

The act of delivering Israel from Egyptian bondage, the Passover, anticipated Jesus' death, which delivered people from the bondage of sin. The full significance of the Passover was completed in Jesus' death and resurrection.



## ■ Add-an-Action

**SUPPLIES:** Bible

Sit on the floor in a circle with the children. Say: **Let's test your memories. I'll call out an action, and then all of you will do it. Then I'll call out another action. You'll do that action and then do the first action I called out. Then I'll call out another action, and you'll do that action, then the second action I called out, and then the first action. Let's try it.**

Demonstrate how this game works. First call out: **Clap three times.** Have the children clap three times. Then call out: **Pat your head.** Have the children pat their heads and then clap three times. Then call out: **Pull your nose.** Have the children pull their noses, pat their heads, and then clap three times.

After demonstrating these first three actions, go through the whole list. Have the children help each other when they forget which action to do. Keep practicing until the children can do all of the actions without any prompting. If kids try it for three or

four minutes and still can't do it, or if you sense they're getting frustrated, skip to the discussion.

- Clap three times.
- Pat your head.
- Pull your nose.
- Wave both hands.
- Make a silly face.
- Say "hello."
- Say "goodbye."
- Slap your knees twice.
- Tug on your ears.
- Stick out your tongue.
- Make muscles.
- Look to your left.
- Look to your right.

Have the children remain in the circle.

Ask: • **Was this game easier at the beginning or at the end? Explain.** (At the beginning, because there was less to remember; at the end, because we'd practiced enough to know it all.)

• **What helped you remember what to do in this game?** (I watched Tracy because she remembered all the actions; I said the actions over and over in my head.)

Say: **There was a lot to remember in this game. In real life, people do all kinds of things to help them remember what's important. Some people write notes or tie strings around their fingers.**

Ask: • **What kinds of things do you do to help you remember important things?** (I ask my mom to help me remember; I put my soccer uniform by the door to remind me that I have to go to practice; I put things on the kitchen counter so I see them during breakfast.)

Say: **Listen to what the Bible says about remembering the things God tells us.** Read **Deuteronomy 4:9a.**

Ask: • **What can you do to remember what you know about Jesus?** (I can put pictures in my room; I can put my Bible where I can see it; I can learn Bible verses and make up songs to go with them.)

Say: **The Bible tells us a lot about Jesus, and everything is important for us to remember. In the game we played, each time you learned a new action you had to add it to all the actions you already knew. It's the same with Jesus: We can keep learning more and more about Jesus. And Jesus wants us to remember him. Let's find out how to keep from forgetting it all.**

Ask: • **What did you learn today?** (I learned that I should remember Jesus; I learned that we share the Lord's Supper to remember Jesus.)

Say: **We've learned today that Jesus wants us to remember him. We want to remember Jesus because of the wonderful things he's done for us.**



### BIBLE POINT ►

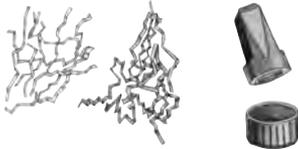


### BIBLE POINT ►

# Closing

## Colorful Reminders

SUPPLIES: Bible, tape



Form pairs. Give each child one or two pieces of *crinkle paper* and a small piece of tape. Say: **Many people tie strings around their fingers to help them remember important things. Help your partner wrap the crinkle paper around his or her finger and tape it.**

**Then think about one important thing you'd like to remember about Jesus, and tell your partner what it is.**

Give children a minute or two to wrap the paper around their partners' fingers and share ideas.

Say: **You all have good memories of all that Jesus has done for us. I have some good news to share with you. It's good for us to remember what God has done for us, but God makes a promise to remember us, too. Listen to God's promise in the Bible.** Read this version of Isaiah 49:15b-16a: **"I would not forget you! See, I have written your name on the palms of my hands."**

Ask: • **What do you think God remembers about you?** (That he loves me; how old I am; who's in my family; what I look like.)

Use the *stamper* to stamp the back of the children's hands to help them remember that God promises never to forget them. Say: **God loves you so much that he will always remember you. Let's thank God.**

Pray: **God, thank you for your promise to remember us. We know that you'll take care of us always. We know, too, that it's important for us to remember Jesus and all the good things he's done for us. We remember that...** Go around the circle, and have children say what their *crinkle paper* will help them remember about Jesus. Then say: **In Jesus' name, amen.**



If your *stamper* dries out, add one drop of water to it.



Say: **The most wonderful thing Jesus did for us is that he gave up his life for us. Our Bible verse is from 1 John 3:16: ► "We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters." Jesus gave us the promise of life with him in heaven, and he also showed us the true way to live. "Giving up our lives" doesn't mean that we have to die for each other—it also means living for each other, doing good for each other.**

Ask: • **What are some ways we can do good for each other?** (Be nice to each other; help each other; pray for each other.)

• **Who can you do good for this coming week?** (My mother; my friend; my older neighbor.)

### ◀ BIBLE VERSE

## HANDS-ON BIBLE

Set out white and colored poster board, red construction paper, scissors, marker, glue, and a basket or bag. Say: **Our Bible verse, 1 John 3:16, says something very important about how we should live. “We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters.”** Have children open their *Hands-On Bibles* to the “God Is Love” activity near **1 John 3:16**. Have children work together on the project, and keep it in your room throughout the quarter, if possible. Each week, encourage children to commit to showing God’s love to at least two people before the next class. Encourage them to be specific. For example, instead of saying, “I’ll help my mom,” the child might say, “I’ll set the table for my mom tomorrow.”



### Growing closer to Jesus extends beyond the classroom.

Photocopy the “Growing Together” handout (at the end of this lesson) for this week, and send it home with your children. Encourage children and parents to use the handout to plan meaningful activities on this week’s topic. Follow up the “Growing Together” activities next week by asking children what their families did together.

# Growing Together

**Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection I:**  
Jesus wants us to remember him.

## Bible Story

Remember God's love.  
(Luke 22:7-20)

## Key Verse

"We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters"  
(1 John 3:16).

## In Touch

Today your child learned that it's important to remember Jesus and what he's done for us. The children learned that the Lord's Supper is a time to remember Jesus' sacrifice for us. They also learned that we remember Jesus by doing what he's asked us to do. Use these activities to help your child remember Jesus this week.

## "Honey Do" List

Make a special "honey do" list for you and your child. Together illustrate or write five or six things each of you will remember to do this week. Include things that will help your family remember Jesus, such as praying together before leaving the house in the morning or setting an extra place at the table to remind you that Jesus is always with you. Post the list where you'll both see it. At the end of the week, congratulate each other for remembering to do the tasks on the list.

## Spring Calendar

Help your child design a calendar for the month. Choose a picture or draw one that reminds you of March. Then create a space for each day of the month. Have your child keep track of spring as it emerges by writing down important events such as the day the first robin appears, the day the first daffodils bloom, and the day the last bit of snow melts. Talk about how spring is when new life appears and how spring is a reminder of the new life that Jesus brought when he died on the cross.



## Orange Floats



Serve this refreshing orange float to help you remember that death couldn't keep its hold on Jesus. Put a scoop of orange sherbet in a glass of orange juice. Push the sherbet down, and it'll rise to the top again. Talk about how Jesus rose from the grave—he couldn't be held down. Enjoy the drink as you remember Jesus' victory.

## Drawing

Help develop your child's visual memory. Draw a series of lines and shapes on 3x5 cards. Flash a card quickly to give your child a brief glimpse of it. Then have him or her draw it from memory. Experiment with regular shapes and different colors. When your child has mastered those, draw multiple shapes on each card. Talk about the importance of learning how to remember things.

# new Life Name Tags

Photocopy this page, and cut the name tags on the dashed lines.  
Have children color their name tags and write their names on the lines.

▶ **Jesús Brings** •  
• **New Life** ▶

▶ **Jesús Brings** •  
• **New Life** ▶

▶ **Jesús Brings** •  
• **New Life** ▶

▶ **Jesús Brings** •  
• **New Life** ▶