

**Bible Point** ▶

# Jesus gives us new life.

## Bible Verse

Believing in Jesus makes me a new person (adapted from 2 Corinthians 5:17).

## Growing Closer to Jesus

- Children will
- find out that Jesus was punished for something he didn't do,
  - understand that Jesus rose from the dead,
  - learn that Jesus can forgive their sins, and
  - discover that new life means we can live with God forever.

## Teacher Enrichment

### Bible Basis

#### ■ Jesus dies on the cross.

**Mark  
15:25-38**



To understand the timing of the events in today's passage, one simply needs to know that Jewish timekeeping was based on a daylight to dusk system. Thus, the first daylight was the first hour—for us about 6 a.m. Using this time frame, Jesus was crucified around 9 a.m. (Mark 15:25), darkness came over the earth at about noon (Mark 15:33), and Jesus died at about 3 p.m. (Mark 15:34).

During Jesus' death on the cross, somehow the relationship between Jesus and the Father was broken—leaving Jesus alone against Satan and the power of death. It's interesting to note, however, that those despairing words of Jesus come from the beginning of Psalm 22, a psalm that begins with David's despair over God seeming far away and ends with the promise of victory and the proclamation of God's righteousness to future generations—like ours!

### Prayer

- Read Psalm 22:1-2, 22-31.
- What does Jesus' crucifixion really mean to you?
- How can you best share that meaning with your preschoolers?
- Pray: God, this lesson is so important. Please help me teach it effectively to my preschoolers, who...

## Before the Lesson

- Collect the necessary items for the activities you plan to use, referring to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies listed on the chart.
- Make photocopies of the "Today I Learned..." handout (at the end of this lesson) to send home with your children.
- Pray for the children in your class 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 Time</b>	<b>Welcome!</b> —Receive name tags and be greeted by the teacher.	Butterfly name tags from Lesson 1, washable markers, scissors, safety pins or tape	
<b>Let's Get Started</b>  Direct children to one or more of the optional activities until everyone arrives.	<b>Option 1: Royal Robes</b> —Make robes fit for a king or queen, and learn that Jesus was a king.	Paper grocery bags, scissors, purple crepe paper, glue sticks	
	<b>Option 2: Sensory Center</b> —Feel and smell objects that were part of Jesus' crucifixion.	Nail in a plastic bottle, rough board, wreath, cotton ball soaked in vinegar	
	<b>Option 3: Garden Mural</b> —Add trees and grass to the garden where Jesus prayed.	Garden mural from Lesson 6, green construction paper, cardboard, glue sticks, tape, scissors, stapler	
	<b>Pick-Up Time</b> —Sing a song as they pick up toys and gather for Bible Story Time.	CD player	
<b>Bible Story Time</b>	<b>Setting the Stage</b> —Make a cross out of blocks, and talk about the bad things people do.	Masking tape, blocks	
	<b>Bible Song and Prayer Time</b> —Sing a song, bring out the Bible, and pray together.	Bible, CD player	
	<b>Hear and Tell the Bible Story</b> —Listen to the story of Jesus' death and resurrection.	Bible, "robes" and sensory items from Options 1 and 2, garden mural from Option 3, block cross	
	<b>Do the Bible Story</b> —Do an action rhyme that tells why Jesus died.	Bible	
<b>Closing</b>  	<b>Taking the Blame</b> —Teach Whiskers about forgiveness.		
	<b>A Heart of Love</b> —Turn the block cross into a heart, and learn that Jesus died because he loves us.	Block cross from "Setting the Stage," masking tape outline of a heart	

\*See the end of this lesson for extra-time ideas and supplies.

## Welcome Time

**SUPPLIES:** butterfly name tags from Lesson 1, washable markers, scissors, safety pins or tape

- Bend down and make eye contact with children as they arrive.
- Greet each child individually with an enthusiastic smile.
- Thank each child for coming to class today.
- As children arrive, ask them about last week's "Today I Learned..." discussion. Use questions like "What did you tell your family about Jesus' special meal with his followers?" or "What did you do to remember Jesus this week?"
- Say: **Today we're going to learn that ► *Jesus gives us new life.***
- Hand out the butterfly name tags children made during Lesson 1, and help children attach the name tags to their clothing. If some of the name tags were damaged or if children weren't in class that week, have them make new name tags using the photocopiable handout.
- Direct children to the Let's Get Started activities you've set up.

**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 throughout the lesson will help children remember it and apply it to their lives.



## Let's Get Started

Set up one or more of the following activities for children to do as they arrive. After you greet each child, invite him or her to choose an activity.

Circulate among the children to offer help as needed and direct children's conversation toward today's lesson. Ask questions such as "What do kings do?" or "What do kings wear?"

### ■ Option 1: Royal Robes

**SUPPLIES:** paper grocery bags, purple crepe paper, scissors, glue sticks

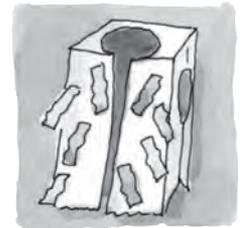
Before class, make "robes" from large paper grocery bags by cutting a slit up the middle and then cutting out a neck and armholes. Have children tear strips of purple crepe paper and glue the strips as decorations on their royal robes.

Have children put on their robes and walk around pretending to be kings and queens. Explain that today's Bible story is about Jesus, the most important king of all.

### ■ Option 2: Sensory Center

**SUPPLIES:** nail in a plastic bottle, rough board, wreath, cotton ball soaked in vinegar

Set up an area of the room with items for children to safely touch and smell. Include a large nail sealed inside a clear plastic bottle, a rough board, a simple wreath, and a cotton ball soaked in vinegar. Invite children to handle the items gently. Explain that each item is important in today's Bible story.



**teacher tips**

To be sure you have enough grocery bags, you may need to ask members of your congregation to bring some in for several weeks before this lesson. You can also purchase paper bags from the grocery store.

**teacher tips**

As children handle each item, explain what it is and how it relates to today's Bible story. Remind children that Jesus died to give us new life. If you don't have a wreath on hand, you can make one by twisting chenille wires together.



### teacher tips

If you have corrugated cardboard on hand, use it to make the tree trunks. Roll the cylinders so that the “bumpy” side is on the outside. This will create a bark-like texture for your trees.

## Option 3: Garden Mural

**SUPPLIES:** garden mural from Lesson 6, green construction paper, cardboard, glue sticks, tape, stapler, scissors

Have children add torn paper “grass” to the garden mural they began last week. Have them tear strips of green construction paper and tape or glue the strips to the bottom edge of the mural.

Roll the cardboard into cylinders, and then staple or tape the cylinders to the mural to create tree trunks. Have children crumple green paper and then open it. Staple or tape the crumpled paper to the top of the trees to form leaves. Remind children that Jesus prayed in a garden just before soldiers came to take him away.

When everyone has arrived and you’re ready to move on to Bible Story Time, encourage the children to finish what they’re doing and get ready to clean up.

## Pick-Up Time

**SUPPLIES:** CD player



Lead children in singing “Come Along With Me” with the CD (track 2) to the tune of “Come and Go With Me.” Encourage children to sing along as they help clean up the room.



SING

**Come along with me and pick up all our things,  
Pick up all our things,  
Pick up all our things.  
Come along with me and pick up all our things  
So our room will be clean.**

*(Repeat 2x.)*

## Bible Story Time

### Setting the Stage

**SUPPLIES:** masking tape, blocks



Before class, use masking tape to outline a cross on the floor. Then use the tape to make a heart outline that surrounds the cross. During “Setting the Stage,” children will fill in the cross outline with blocks. Children will use the heart outline during the closing activity.

Tell children you’ll shake the *clapper* to get their attention. Explain that when you shake it, the children are to stop what they’re doing and raise their hands. Practice this signal a few times. Encourage children to respond quickly so you’ll have time for all the fun activities you’ve planned.

Ask: • **What did you make or do when you came to class today?** (Made a purple robe; touched and smelled things; made grass and trees in the garden.)

Say: **Some of you made royal robes, some of you touched and smelled things, and some of you added to our garden mural. All of you were learning important things about today's Bible story. Our Bible story begins with a king in a garden and ends with some of the objects you touched and smelled. Before we find out exactly what happened, we need to make one more thing.**

Point out the cross shape on the floor. Say: **There's also a cross in our story. Let's make a big cross by filling in this shape with blocks.**

Help children work together to fill in the cross with blocks. While children are working, say: **The reason there's a cross in our story is that people sometimes do bad things. As we make our cross, you can tell me about bad things that people do.**

Encourage children to mention telling lies, disobeying parents, hurting others, saying bad words, and stealing.

When the cross is completed, have children sit around it. Say: **Today we made a cross because our story is about a king who died on a cross. The king took the punishment for the wrong things that other people did.**

- Ask: • **Have you ever done anything wrong?** (Yes; no; sometimes.)
- **How do you feel when you do something wrong?** (I feel bad; sorry; sometimes I cry.)
  - **How do your parents feel when you do something wrong?** (Mad; sad.)

Say: **When we do wrong things, it makes our parents sad. It makes God sad. But the king on the cross took the punishment for the wrong things we've done. We can be happy because Jesus was the king who died on the cross. Jesus died so we can have new life. Let's hear our Bible story and find out what happened the day Jesus died on the cross.**



Before class you may want to lay all your blocks on the floor in a cross-shape and then tape the outline around them. This will assure a custom fit!

## ■ Bible Song and Prayer Time

SUPPLIES: Bible, CD player



tracks 3, 4

Say: **Now it's time to choose a Bible person to bring me the Bible marked with today's Bible story. As we sing our Bible song, we'll pass around our special Bible. The person who's holding the Bible when the music stops will be our Bible person today.**

Lead children in singing "I'm So Glad for the Bible" with the CD (track 3) to the tune of "Give Me Oil in My Lamp." As you sing, pass around the special Bible.



I'm so glad for the Bible.	Let me hear 'bout God's love—
Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'.	Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'.
I'm so glad for God's book today.	Let me hear 'bout God's love for me.
I'm so glad for the Bible.	Let me hear 'bout God's love—
Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'—	Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'.
Keep me learnin' all about his way.	Let's shine the light for all to see.

(Repeat first verse.)

When the music stops, invite the child who's holding the Bible to bring it to you. Stamp the child's hand with the *cross and crown stamp*, and thank the child for bringing you the Bible. Then stamp the other children's hands. As they come up to you to get their hands stamped, take time to show them the Bible and explain to them that the Bible is God's Word for them.

Say: **I'm thankful for** [name of child who brought the Bible], **and I'm thankful for everyone in our class today. Let's thank God together for all our friends in this class.**

Lead children in singing "I'm So Glad We're Together" with the *CD* (track 4) to the tune of "Give Me Oil in My Lamp."



**I'm so glad we're together.  
Keep us prayin', prayin', prayin'.  
I'm so glad we're all here today.  
I'm so glad we're together.  
Keep us prayin', prayin', prayin'—  
Prayin' for each other every day.**

Lead children in folding their hands and bowing their heads as you continue to sing.

**Thank you, Lord, for each one.  
Keep me thankful, thankful, thankful.  
Thank you for everyone who's here.  
Thank you, Lord, for each one.  
Keep me thankful, thankful, thankful—  
Thankful for our friends both far and near.**

## ■ Hear and Tell the Bible Story

*SUPPLIES: Bible, "robes" and sensory items from Options 1 and 2, garden mural from Option 3, block cross*



Gather children near the garden mural. Open your Bible to **Mark 15:25-38**, and show it to the children. Say: **Our Bible story comes from the book of Mark in the Bible. Our Bible Big Book shows us pictures of our Bible story.**

Bring out the *Bible Big Book: The Miracle of Easter*, and open it to page 1. Say: **Point to the animal Jesus asked his disciples to find.** Let children point to the donkey. Then turn to pages 2 and 3. **Point to what the people waved when they saw Jesus.** Let children point to the branches. **Point to what people laid in the road for Jesus' donkey to walk on.** Let children point to the coats in the road.

Ask: • **What did the people shout when Jesus went by?** ("Praise God!")

• **Why did the people love Jesus?** (Because he did really good things; because he was God's Son.)

Turn to page 4. Say: **Point to what Jesus and his friends ate at their special meal.** Let children point to the bread in the picture.

Ask: • **What did Jesus want his friends to remember when they ate their special meal?** (How much he loved them; he wanted them to remember him.)

Show children page 5. Say: **After Jesus and his friends ate their special meal, they went to a garden. It was very cool and pleasant in the garden that night. Let's take a deep breath and smell the pretend flowers.** Take a deep breath. **Don't they smell good? Jesus went to the garden to pray. Jesus was sad because he would soon die on the cross. He asked his friends to pray with him, but his friends were tired and they kept falling asleep. Show me what you look like when you're falling asleep.** Pause for children to yawn and lie down.

Continue: **While his friends slept, Jesus went on praying. Twice Jesus woke up his friends, and both times they fell asleep again! Then Jesus woke up his friends a third time. This time there were soldiers coming into the garden. The soldiers arrested Jesus and took him away.**

**Jesus' disciples were scared and sad. Show me what you look like when you're scared.** Pause and let children show you their scared faces.

**The soldiers took Jesus to their leaders. The leaders took Jesus to the governor and said, "This man is bad; he must be killed."**

**The governor's name was Pilate. He had to decide if Jesus had done anything wrong. He asked Jesus lots of questions and found out that Jesus hadn't done anything wrong.**

**"Shall I let Jesus go?" Pilate asked.**

**"No!" shouted the people. The leaders had told lies about Jesus so the people in the crowd would be mad at him.**

**Pilate was sad because he knew Jesus was a good man who hadn't done anything wrong. But Pilate was afraid of the angry crowd. So he told the soldiers to take Jesus and put him on a cross.**

Ask children to move to the cross area. If you used Options 1 and 2, gather the royal robes and the sensory items.

Hold up the wreath and a robe, and say: **The soldiers were mean to Jesus. They put a crown of thorns on his head and made him wear a robe. They made fun of Jesus because they didn't believe he was really a king. Then they put him on a cross. When Jesus was thirsty, the mean people gave him sour vinegar to drink.** Have children sniff the cotton ball soaked in vinegar.

Ask: • **Would you like to drink vinegar?** (No; it smells yucky.)

Turn to page 6, and say: **When Jesus was on the cross, some of the people were mean because they didn't love Jesus.** Point to the mean people. **But some of the people were sad. They loved Jesus. They knew that Jesus hadn't done anything wrong.** Point to the sad people.

Close the *Bible Big Book*, and say: **Show me your sad faces. Oh my, you look really, really sad. Jesus' friends took his body and laid it in a cave called a tomb. They all cried.**

**But guess what—Jesus' friends didn't stay sad because something very special happened. Wipe off your sad faces, and draw a smile on your face.** Pause. **On the third day after Jesus died, he came to life again. And Jesus is still alive today. He is our king, and he lives with God in heaven. And the best news is that because Jesus died and rose again, ► Jesus gives us new life!** Let's learn a finger play to help us remember what happened in our story.



◀ BIBLE POINT

## ■ Do the Bible Story

**SUPPLIES:** Bible

Have children act out this action rhyme with you. Say the first line and do the motions. Then have children repeat the line and the motions.

**One sad day my Jesus died.** (*Rub eyes.*)  
**They put his body in a tomb.** (*Pretend to lay something down.*)  
**Jesus' friends just cried and cried.** (*Rub eyes.*)  
**Their sad hearts were full of gloom.** (*Put hands over heart.*)

**Three days later, at first light** (*hold up three fingers*),  
**Three women came to Jesus' grave.** (*Walk fingers across palm.*)  
**An angel dressed in shining white** (*look surprised*)  
**Pointed to the empty cave.** (*Point and shake head.*)

**The women's hearts were filled with fear.** (*Put hands over heart.*)  
**But then the angel spoke and said** (*put hands around mouth*),  
**"You will not find Jesus here."** (*Shake head.*)  
**"He has risen from the dead!"** (*Raise hands, palms up.*)

**Let's all cheer for Easter day.** (*Clap.*)  
**Jesus, we believe in you!** (*Fold hands and look up.*)  
**Now we can live in heaven—hooray!** (*Wave arms overhead.*)  
**For Jesus gives us life that's new!** (*Hug yourself.*)

Go through the rhyme two or three times. Then say: **It was a sad day when Jesus died. But we're happy at Easter because Jesus rose again! Jesus died to take the punishment for the bad things we've done. If we believe in Jesus, we can live in heaven someday. That's why we celebrate at Easter time.**

Show children the Bible verse, **2 Corinthians 5:17**, and have children repeat the adapted verse with you: ► **Believing in Jesus makes me a new person.**

**BIBLE VERSE** ►

## Closing

### ■ Taking the Blame

**SUPPLIES:** none

Bring out Whiskers the Mouse, and go through the following puppet script. When you finish the script, put Whiskers away and out of sight.





**Whiskers:** (*Distressed*) Ohhh! I'm so mad! I'm so mad!

**Teacher:** Why, Whiskers? What's the matter?

**Whiskers:** Oh, that Joey! I'm so mad at him.

**Teacher:** Why? What did your cousin Joey do?

**Whiskers:** He got me in trouble, that's what he did!

**Teacher:** Maybe we can help you if you tell us about it, Whiskers.

**Whiskers:** Well, my cousin Joey and I were playing at his house. His little brother was asleep. Joey thought it would be funny to wake him up. I told him not to do it, but he did it anyway. Joey put on a cat mask and got up on his brother's bed and started meowing.

**Teacher:** That was mean, wasn't it?

**Whiskers:** It sure was! Then his little brother woke up and started screaming. Joey dropped the mask and ran away. I was trying to make him feel better when my mom came in. She saw the mask and thought I was the one who scared him. I had to sit in timeout for a long time.

**Teacher:** Oh, that's awful, Whiskers. But it reminds me of something that happened in our Bible story today. Children, do you remember hearing about someone who was punished for something he didn't do? Why don't you tell Whiskers about it?

**Whiskers:** Yeah! I'd like to know what happened.

*(Lead the children in telling Whiskers that Jesus didn't do anything wrong and that he died for the wrong things we have done.)*

**Whiskers:** That doesn't seem fair.

**Teacher:** No, Whiskers. It wasn't fair. But Jesus came alive again, and he's alive today.

**Whiskers:** Oh, good! If he's alive, then he can get back at those mean people who punished him. I'd sure like to get back at Joey.

**Teacher:** Oh, but Jesus didn't get back at them. He forgave them.

**Whiskers:** Forgave them? That sounds hard. I don't know if I can forgive Joey. I'm still mad at him.

**Teacher:** It's hard to forgive sometimes. But Jesus forgave us. Jesus even wants us to live with him forever in heaven. ► *Jesus gives us new life* when he forgives us.

**Whiskers:** Well, if Jesus can forgive me for the bad things I do, maybe I can forgive my cousin Joey.

**Teacher:** Now you're talking, Whiskers! I'm sure that's exactly what Jesus wants you to do. I'm proud of you.

**Whiskers:** I'd better go forgive him right now. I want Jesus to be proud of me, too. See you later, children!

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Say: **Sometimes it's hard to forgive people who are mean to us, but Jesus forgave people who were mean. Jesus forgave us when he died for our sins. Because he forgives us, he wants us to forgive others.**

Ask: • **What can you do to show someone that you forgive them?** (Talk to them, help them do something.) **It's important to forgive people who are mean to us, just like Jesus forgives us for the things we do wrong.**



## ■ *A Heart of Love*

**SUPPLIES:** block cross, masking tape outline of the heart

Gather children around the block cross they made during the “Setting the Stage” activity. Say: **Jesus died on the cross because he loves us. Jesus wants to give us new life. Let's make our block cross into a heart to show that Jesus loves us.**

Have the children put the blocks from the cross onto the masking tape outline of the heart. When the heart is finished, have the children sit in a circle around it.

One by one, invite children to stand up in the circle and say to them: [Child's name], **Jesus died for you because he wants you to have new life.**

When all the children are standing in a circle around the heart, pray: **God, thank you for sending your Son, Jesus, to die for us. Thank you that he rose again, too. We praise you because we know that ► Jesus gives us new life. In Jesus' name, amen.**



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

Photocopy the “Today I Learned...” handout (at the end of this lesson) for this week, and send it home with the children. Encourage parents to use the handout to plan meaningful family activities to reinforce this week's topic.



## For Extra Time

If you have a long class time or want to add additional elements to your lesson, try one of the following activities.

### ■ **Lively Learning: New Life Today**



track 8

Lead children in singing “New With Jesus” (adapted from 2 Corinthians 5:17) on the CD (track 8) to the tune of “God Is So Good.” As the children sing, have them walk around the block heart. Each time they sing the word *new*, have them step out of the circle and hug a friend.



SING

**Believing in Jesus** (*point index finger to sky*),  
**Believing in Jesus** (*point index finger to sky*),  
**Believing in Jesus** (*point index finger to sky*)  
**Makes me really new.** (*Hug a friend.*)

**Jesus loves me** (*make fists and cross arms in front of body*),  
**Jesus loves me** (*make fists and cross arms in front of body*),  
**Jesus loves me** (*make fists and cross arms in front of body*),  
**And that makes me new.** (*Hug a friend.*)

(Repeat.)

### ■ **Make to Take: Mosaic Crosses**



Give each child a copy of the “Easter Cross” handout (p. 100). Set out colored paper scraps and glue sticks. Have children tear the scraps into small pieces and glue them inside the cross shape. Explain that Jesus died on the cross because he loves us. Remind children that  
 ► Jesus gives us new life.

### ■ **Treat to Eat: Kingly Crowns**

Give children each a round cookie, and help them spread marshmallow creme or creamy white frosting on it. Then show them how to stick colorful M&M’s candies or Skittles around the edge of the cookies so they look like jewels in a crown. Point out that Jesus is our heavenly king and that he died on the cross to give us new life.

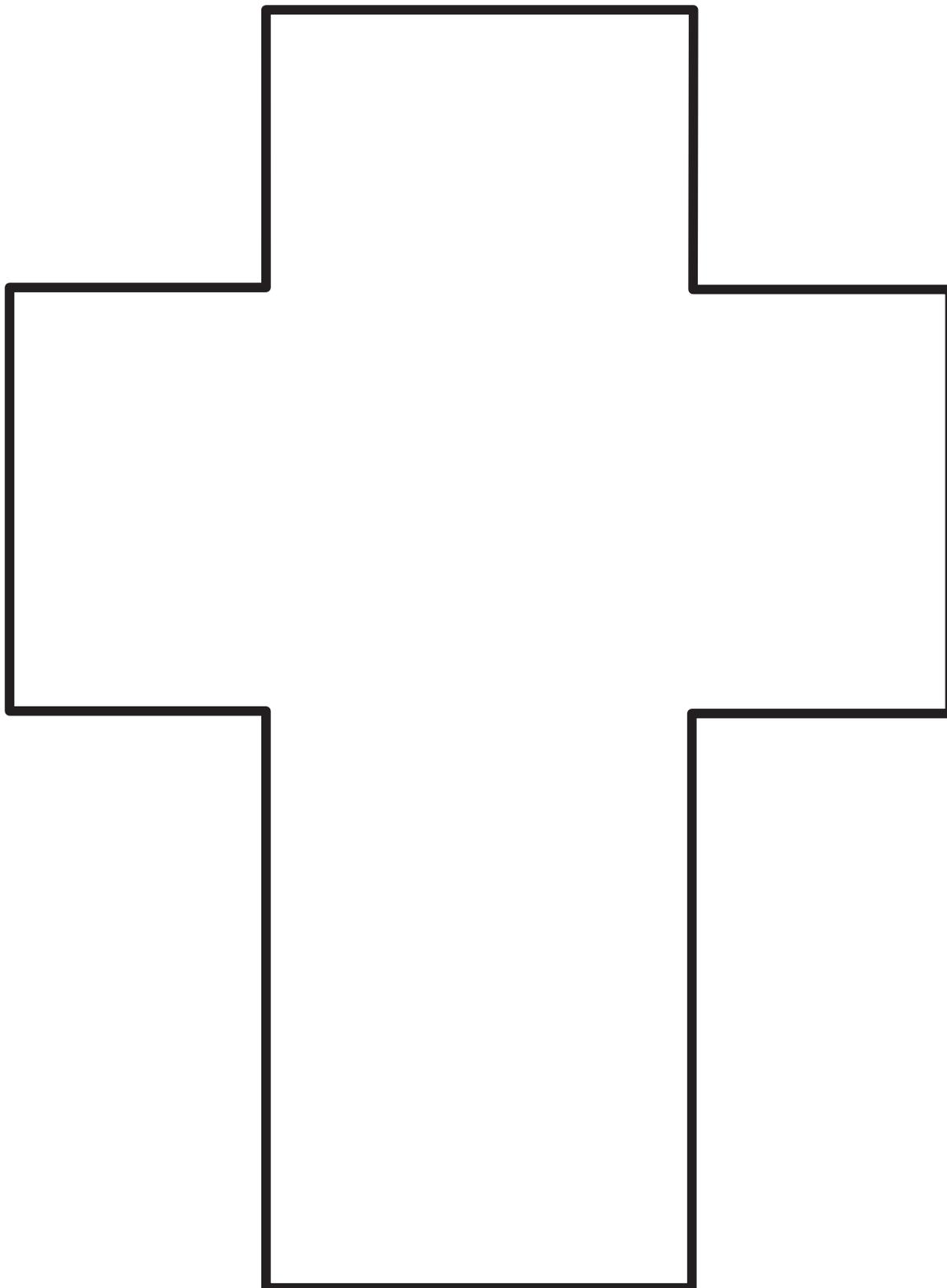


### ■ **Story Picture: Jesus Dies on the Cross**

Give each child a copy of the “Today I Learned...” handout. Set out blue washable markers, crayons, or blue-tinted glue. Have children put blue dots on Jesus’ followers faces to show their tears. As children work, review the details of today’s Bible story. Remind children that we don’t have to be sad at Easter because Jesus came to life again.

# Easter Cross

Photocopy the cross. You'll need one cross for each child.



# Today I learned... Jesus gives us new life.

**Lesson 7**  
Today your child learned that **JESUS GIVES US NEW LIFE.** Children discovered that we can be happy at Easter time because Jesus' death paid for our sins. They praised God for Jesus' death and resurrection.

## Help me learn this:

Believing in Jesus makes me a new person (adapted from 2 Corinthians 5:17).

## Ask me:

- Why did Jesus die?
- What happened after Jesus died?
- Why can we be happy at Easter time?

## Family Fun

- Sing "Jesus Gives New Life Today" to the tune of "This Old Man."

Jesus came.  
Praise his name!  
I will never be the same.  
Jesus died to take my sins away.  
Jesus gives new life today.  
  
Celebrate!  
Celebrate!  
Thank God for this special date!  
Jesus rose again on Easter day.  
Jesus gives new life today.

## Jesus Dies on the Cross (Mark 15:25-38)



