

Good Friday

Luke 23:33-36, 44-45; John 19:17-30; Matthew 27:51-52, 54

Learning Objectives

1. The children will recall the events surrounding Jesus' final hours.
2. The children will be able to explain that because of Jesus' death, complete reconciliation between man and God became possible.

Memory Verse:

"At that moment the temple curtain was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook. The rocks split."

--Matthew 27:51 (NIRV)

Getting Started

The Worst Day – Sharing Activity

Share the homework about the worst day of their life. Be prepared to share your own "worst day". If you think that your "story" was bad, let's find out what Jesus had to endure in today's lesson.

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions

Message:

Jesus died for me.

Luke 23

³³ The soldiers brought them to the place called The Skull. There they nailed Jesus to the cross. He hung between the two criminals. One was on his right and one was on his left.

³⁴ Jesus said, "Father, forgive them. They don't know what they are doing." The soldiers divided up his clothes by casting lots.

³⁵ The people stood there watching. The rulers even made fun of Jesus. They said, "He saved others. Let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One."

³⁶ The soldiers also came up and poked fun at him. They offered him wine vinegar.

Jesus Dies

⁴⁴ It was now about noon. The whole land was covered with darkness until three o'clock. ⁴⁵ The sun had stopped shining. The temple curtain was torn in two.

John 19

¹⁷ He had to carry his own cross. He went out to a place called The Skull. In the Aramaic language it was called Golgotha. ¹⁸ There they nailed Jesus to the cross. Two other men were crucified with him. One was on each side of him. Jesus was in the middle.

¹⁹ Pilate had a notice prepared. It was fastened to the cross. It read, ~Jesus of Nazareth, the king of the Jews. = ²⁰ Many of the Jews read the sign. The place where Jesus was crucified was near the city. The sign was written in the Aramaic, Latin and Greek languages.

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions - Continued

²¹ The chief priests of the Jews argued with Pilate. They said, "Do not write 'The King of the Jews.' Write that this man claimed to be king of the Jews."

²² Pilate answered, "I have written what I have written."

²³ When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes. They divided them into four parts. Each soldier got one part. Jesus' long, inner robe was left. It did not have any seams. It was made out of one piece of cloth from top to bottom.

²⁴ "Let's not tear it," they said to one another. "Let's cast lots to see who will get it."

This happened so that Scripture would come true. It says,

"They divided up my clothes among them."

They cast lots for what I was wearing." — *(Psalm 22:18)*

So that is what the soldiers did.

²⁵ Jesus' mother stood near his cross. So did his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.

²⁶ Jesus saw his mother there. He also saw the disciple he loved standing nearby. Jesus said to his mother, "Dear woman, here is your son." ²⁷ He said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, the disciple took her into his home.

Jesus Dies

²⁸ Later Jesus said, "I am thirsty." He knew that everything was now finished. He knew that what Scripture said must come true. ²⁹ A jar of wine vinegar was there. So they soaked a sponge in it. They put the sponge on a stem of the hyssop plant. Then they lifted it up to Jesus' lips.

³⁰ After Jesus drank he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and died.

Matthew

⁵¹ At that moment the temple curtain was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook. The rocks split. ⁵² Tombs broke open. The bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life.

⁵⁴ The Roman commander and those guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened. They were terrified. They exclaimed, "He was surely the Son of God!"

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is Jesus' death so important to us? *(God sent His son Jesus to die for our sins because He loved us so much. Where sin had separated us from God, Jesus' death became a bridge back to God. Discuss.)*
2. How did people treat Jesus while he was on the cross? *(He was insulted and mocked.)*
3. What specific things happened as Jesus' death came near and then finally happened? *(Curtain tore, earthquake, stones cracked, etc.)*
4. Why do you think all these things happened? *(Discuss.)*
5. How do you feel knowing that Jesus died for you? *(Talk about it together.)*
6. How can we live our lives differently because of thinking about Jesus' sacrifice? *(We are so grateful, humbled by His suffering, we want to live to be worthy of His sacrifice, etc. Discuss together.)*

Application to Real Life

"Father, Forgive Them" Craft Activity

For this activity, you will need for each child: 5 small craft sticks, a sheet with the figures and Bible verse, background card stock paper, sand colored construction paper, crayons or markers or colored pencils, and glue or double-sided tape.

Before class cut the craft sticks to make 1 large cross (4 1/4" x 2") and 2 small crosses (3" x 1 3/4"). Glue the crosses together.

Copy the sheet with the figures and Bible verse sign. Use the sign with the longer Bible verse.

Let this craft activity be a learning time for the children. Play solemn music in the background and ask them to work silently as they remember the events of the day and reflect on what Jesus did for us and our sins.

Memory Work Suggestions

5 minutes

1. Recite the memory verse.
2. Practice finding the memory verse and/or Bible text in their Bible!
3. Play a game to review an article of faith.
4. Allow a volunteer (child) to lead the class in an opening/closing prayer.
5. Retell the story of Good Friday in your own words.

Activity Ideas

Choose One Activity

Bible Time

Look in your Bibles in Matthew 27. Make a list of all the things that occurred as Jesus' death was approaching, and as it finally took place.

More food for thought

Imagine if you could predict the future? Wouldn't that be cool? What would you predict? (Discuss together.) What if someone told you (for example) the New York Mets were going to win the World Series in 2200? (Use an example that would connect with your students).

Did you know that Jesus' death was also predicted in the Old Testament of the Bible? Look in your Bible at Isaiah chapter 53. Read this chapter together. Remember, Isaiah was a prophet from the Old Testament. Who is he speaking about in this chapter? (Jesus).

"To the Cross" Game

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → Grade School → Games → "To the Cross"

You will need bean bags, construction paper, masking tape, a Bible, and the question sheet (see the above website) for this activity. Please see the above website for detailed instructions. Modify as needed or recruit additional volunteer participants.



Activity Ideas – Continued

Learn more about Crucifixion

In the Roman world, crucifixion was reserved for harsh criminals. Jesus was executed with such criminals on either side of him. You've seen pictures of crucifixion before, and heard about it, but let's review the facts of what would've happened that day:

Crucifixion

- His arms were stretched out on the beam which he had carried to the hill
- His wrists were pinned to the wood with a 5-7 inch long stake
- The placement of this stake was on a nerve called the median nerve, producing excruciating pain (by the way, excruciating was a word that was invented to describe the pain during crucifixion)
- Jesus was then hoisted onto a cross bar
- Jesus' feet were pierced into the vertical beam
- The stretching out of his body would have pulled both shoulders out of socket (this is prophesied in Psalm 22)
- Jesus would've slowly suffocated, unable to support his weight on the cross
- His beaten, exposed back would've scraped across the wood of the cross every time he attempted to rise for a breath

It might be hard to think about, let alone talk about. It's okay if you show emotion. Since this really happened, it should really affect us. It's important to know this so we know that Jesus did, in fact, die, and He died for us! ASK: How do you feel now, knowing all that Jesus had to endure on our behalf? (Discuss).

Journal

Who is the most important person in your life? Mom? A friend? A minister? How would your life change or be different if they died today? Write about it. Now think about how you feel after writing about it. That is how those close to the Lord Jesus may have felt in their hearts on the day He died.

Homework Ideas

- Read: **Matthew 28:1-8; Luke 24:13-49** (Easter).
- Learn the Memory Verse: *"They never stopped telling the good news that Jesus is the Christ."*
--Acts 5:42 (NIRV)
- Learn the _____ Article of Faith
- What is the current world population? What is the current United States population? Look up the information and write it down. Bring your findings to class to share.

Other Resources

<http://children.cccm.com/curriculum/> → Click on "NT Support Curriculum → See Page 8 for the lesson titled "Jesus is Crucified".

Take Home Page: Good Friday

Today I learned...

Today your child learned that **Jesus died for us**. The children recalled the events that occurred during Jesus' final hours and death on the cross. They also explored how Jesus' death made complete reconciliation between man and God possible.

Help me learn my memory verse...

*"At that moment the temple curtain was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook. The rocks split."
--Matthew 27:51 (NIRV)*

Ask me...

1. Why is Jesus' death so important for us?
2. Why do you think Jesus had to die?
3. In what ways should we live our lives differently, because of remembering what Jesus did for us?

Live Your Faith...

As a family, talk about and make a list of (with paper and pencil) anything you may have done this week that was NOT pleasing to God. Then take a giant eraser and erase everything on the list. (This will also work with a small dry erase board, marker and eraser.) Talk about how Jesus dying for us on Good Friday means that we get to have a fresh start through God's forgiveness and grace. Encourage and remind your family to ask and thank God for forgiveness each day when they pray to Him.