

The Death and Resurrection of Jesus

Bible Verse

The angel said to the women, “Don’t be afraid! I know you are looking for Jesus, who was nailed to a cross. He isn’t here! God has raised him to life, just as Jesus said he would. (Matthew 28:5-6)

Teacher Enrichment

This is the sixth and last lesson in the *LENT* series which explores the last days of Jesus’ life. Understanding the events leading up to and including Jesus dying on the cross helps us grasp the magnitude of Jesus’ sacrifice for us. As we prepare to celebrate Jesus’ resurrection at Easter, each week will examine the significance of an event and the actions of the people involved.

Jesus has been sentenced to death. But why did this have to happen? Many followers were asking the same question. If Jesus was the son of God, why did He need to die? Couldn’t God send legions of angels to rescue Him? Couldn’t Jesus perform a miracle and save Himself? The answer lies in our own humanity. Jesus, who had done nothing wrong, suffered the ultimate punishment, death, so that each and every one of us could be forgiven for our sins. This is the core of Christianity. We are saved because Jesus died. Learning that Jesus died can be sad for children, but helping them understand the reason brings joy and thankfulness to the story. And the story does not end there. Jesus’ resurrection shows that nothing, not even death, could defeat Jesus. The despair of Good Friday turns to joy on Easter morning as the angel tells Mary “He is not here. He is risen.” The next words give direction to us all: “Go and tell the others.”

This lesson will teach children that Jesus died so that we could be forgiven for our sins and that nothing, not even death, can defeat God’s love. Children will understand to be thankful for Jesus’ sacrifice and to rejoice in Jesus’ resurrection.

Before Class Begins

- ◆ Place the Sign In sheet and a pen where parents can see it upon arrival.
- ◆ Place the Joy & Concern cards, Time & Talent cards and pens where students can see them upon arrival.
- ◆ Check that you have supplies for this lesson:
 - Arrival Activity, Cross & Resurrection activity sheet – 1 per child
- ◆ Place an arrival activity at each place on the table.

Welcome

SUPPLIES: Sign In sheet, Joy & Concern cards, Time & Talent cards, Attendance chart, stickers, Peter activity sheet, pencils/pens

- ◆ Greet each child individually as they arrive. Introduce yourself by name.
- ◆ Help children find or add their name on the attendance chart. Provide each child with a sticker to place in today's column on the attendance chart.
- ◆ Encourage children to complete a Joy or Concern card if they have a particular joy or concern they would like to express. Collect completed Joy & Concern cards.
- ◆ Encourage children to complete a Time or Talent offering card if they gave their time to God or used their talents to serve God or others during the previous week. Children should keep their own completed Time and Talent cards.
- ◆ If children bring monetary offering, they should keep it with them.
- ◆ Direct children to complete their **Cross & Resurrection activity sheet**.
- ◆ Encourage conversation among the children and with you! Get to know the children in your classroom by asking about their week including school, activities and families. Introduce new children to each other and encourage friendships.

Children's Worship

SUPPLIES: Sign In sheet, Joy & Concern cards, Time & Talent cards

- ◆ Arrive at Ruth Hall at 9:20 or 11:05.
- ◆ Bring the Sign In sheet and completed Joy & Concern cards to Ruth Hall. Hand the Joy & Concern cards to the Children's Worship leader as you arrive.

- ◆ Have children bring their completed Time & Talent cards and any monetary offering.
- ◆ If additional children arrive while in Ruth Hall, have parents complete the Sign In sheet and remind parents that pickup is in Room 110.
- ◆ Encourage children to participate in Children’s Worship and provide re-direction if necessary.
- ◆ Assist the Children’s Worship leader as needed.
- ◆ At the conclusion of Children’s Worship, have children line up and return to Room 110.

The Lesson

SUPPLIES: Contact paper, Tissue paper squares, blue tape, scissors

SAY: Today we learned about Jesus’ death and resurrection. Jesus died on the cross so that all of our sins could be forgiven! It is a sad part of our faith that Jesus had to die, but we can be joyous because after three days, Jesus rose from the dead.

SAY: We are going to make a craft today that represents both parts of this story. (**Show sample craft**). The cross reminds us of Jesus’ death. We remember that Jesus was willing to take the ultimate punishment – death – so that each of us could be forgiven for our mistakes. The colors in the middle are bright and joyful. They remind us that Jesus was not defeated by the cross or death. We remember Jesus’ resurrection!

- ◆ Show children the sample craft.
- ◆ Give each child one sheet of contact paper. Unpeel the backing and place the contact paper on the table sticky side up. Use small pieces of blue tape to attach the corners of the contact paper to the table.
- ◆ Make construction paper strips available to children.
- ◆ Direct children to cut construction paper strips into correct sizes and attach them to the contact paper creating an outline of a cross.
- ◆ Make tissue paper squares available to children.
- ◆ Using one square at a time, direct children to attach tissue paper squares to the contact paper inside the cross outline. Remind children that the entire area should be covered with tissue paper. Overlapping the tissue paper is recommended.
- ◆ When their cross is complete, help children cover it with a second piece of contact paper so all materials are contained within the two pieces.

- ◆ Direct children to cut around the outside of their cross, trimming the excess contact paper, but leaving an inch or so of contact paper around the edges.

Closing

- ◆ Lead the children in a closing prayer. You may say your own prayer, ask one of the children to say a prayer or use the one below.
Dear God,
Thank you for sacrificing your only son so that our sins could be forgiven. We rejoice in Jesus' resurrection and return to life!
Amen
- ◆ If time remains before parents arrive, encourage children to return to their Cross & Resurrection activity sheet if they did not complete it. Also encourage conversation between children and with you. This is another opportunity to build relationships with the children in your classroom!

