

Jesus is Redeemer: The Crucifixion

Bible Verse

Christ died once for our sins. An innocent person died for those who are guilty. (1 Peter 3:18)

Teacher Enrichment

This is the fifth lesson in the *Who Do You Say I Am: Jesus' Life* series. This series follows the moments from Jesus' life which will be depicted on the stained glass windows in the new chapel. Each week will explore how those moments define different aspects of Jesus and our relationship with Him.

Jesus is our Redeemer. The dictionary defines redeem as “to free from what distresses or harms” and “to atone for” or “to offset the bad effect of.” Jesus became our redeemer by paying the ultimate price and dying on the cross. Because of Jesus' sacrifice, we are free from sin, our punishment is cleared and forgiveness is received. Jesus fulfills every definition of redeemer. As humans, we are all sinners, but through Jesus, we are redeemed.

In this lesson children will learn that when Jesus died on the cross, He took the punishment for our sins. They will understand that while choices do have consequences here on earth, Jesus's sacrifice means our sins are always forgiven by God.

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, I Love Jesus coloring page – 1 per child
 - Cross papers – 1 per child
 - God sign
 - Foam crosses – 1 per child
 - Decorative foam stickers
 - Decorative jewels
 - Hole punch
 - Yarn or ribbon
- ◆ Place an arrival activity at each place on the table.

Welcome

SUPPLIES: Sign In sheet, Joy & Concern cards, Time & Talent cards, Attendance chart, stickers, pens, I Love Jesus coloring page, crayons

- ◆ 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 **I Love Jesus coloring page**.
- ◆ 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

- ◆ The Children's Worship Leader will direct your class to come to 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 107.
- ◆ 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 107.

The Lesson

SUPPLIES: God sign, cross papers, foam crosses, foam stickers, jewels, hole punch, yarn or ribbon, markers

- ◆ Gather all the children in a circle on the carpet. As you are able, sit on the floor with them or use a chair as part of the circle.

SAY: Today in Children's Worship we learned Jesus died so our sins can be forgiven. Who can tell me what sin is? (*When we make a bad choice; when we make a choice God does not like*)

SAY: None of us wants to sin, but we are all human and humans do not always do what is right. Sometimes we sin. Let's play a game to understand what happens when we sin.

- ◆ Have the children stand in a row directly in front of you, the leader. Hold the sign that says God.

SAY: Right now we are all close to God. We've made good choices and we are doing what God wants. Let's see what happens when we sin.

- ◆ Read out each of the "sins" below.
- ◆ Each time you read one, have the children take a step backwards.
- ◆ Say things like "Oh no, we keep getting further away from God."
 - Told a lie
 - Teased a friend
 - Did not listen to your parents
 - Took a toy from your sister or brother
 - Pushed a classmate

SAY: Wow, after all of those sins we aren't so close to God anymore. Do you like being far away from God? I don't! You might be wondering how you can get close to God again; how you can get back over here.

- ◆ Have your assistant hand each child a cross paper.

SAY: Remember what we learned in Children's Worship? Jesus took the punishment for all of our sins! **(Tell children to take a step forward)** Jesus died on the cross so our sins can be forgiven! **(Tell children to take a step forward)** Jesus is our redeemer! **(Tell children to take a step forward)** Jesus is the way we get close to God! **(Tell children to take a step forward)**

Children should be back to standing in a row right in front of you and the God sign.

SAY: The cross is a symbol of Jesus dying so our sins can be forgiven. The cross you have in your hand means you are forgiven! Sometimes we sin and make choices God does not like and those sins move us farther away from God. But Jesus took the punishment for us and because of the cross, we are forgiven and get to move all the way back over here close to God! I'm so thankful that Jesus helped us.

SAY: Today we will make a craft to help us remember that Jesus died so our sins can be forgiven.

- ◆ Show children the sample craft.
- ◆ Provide each child with a foam cross.
- ◆ Make foam stickers and jewels available to the class.
- ◆ Direct children to decorate their cross using stickers, jewels and markers.

- ◆ When complete, children may opt to add a loop of ribbon. Assist children by adding a hole punch and tying a loop of ribbon.

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.

God,
Thank you for sending your son, Jesus, to earth. We are grateful that Jesus took the punishment for our sins. Forgive us when we sin.
Amen
- ◆ If time remains before parents arrive, encourage children to return to their I Love Jesus coloring page 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!

