

## **THE CRUCIFIXION**

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Matthew 26:36-27:66; John 18:1–19:42

**STORY POINT:** Jesus died on the cross to save people from sin.

**MEMORY VERSE:** Isaiah 53:5

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** Why was it necessary for Christ, the Redeemer, to die? Christ died willingly in our place to deliver us from the power and penalty of sin and bring us back to God.

### **PARENT DEVOTIONAL**

God's law for the people was plain. Read Deuteronomy 6:5. But God's people, and all people, have broken the law. We have loved other things more than we love God. That is sin.

Jesus' purpose for coming to earth was to save us from our sin. (Matt. 1:21) Why did Jesus have to die? Why couldn't He just say, "You are forgiven"? God is just and requires due payment for sin. To simply forgive sin without requiring a payment would be unjust. According to God's Word, the payment of sin is death. (Rom. 6:23) But not only is God just, He is also loving. That is why Jesus was willing to die in our place.

Jesus came to live and die to show God's love to us (Rom. 5:7-8) so that whoever believes in Him might not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16) Jesus came to die so that we would be forgiven. (Eph. 1:7) Jesus came to die to bring us to God. (1 Pet. 3:18)

Jesus died on the cross to satisfy the wrath of God toward sin. Jesus' resurrection proved that God was satisfied with Jesus' sacrifice, and forgiveness and life are found in Him. (See 1 Cor. 15:17.) If Jesus had died but not been raised up, He would have been like military leaders who died without a throne. (Acts 5:33-37) But Jesus conquered death, just as He said He would. (John 2:19-21)

Jesus' resurrection gives us hope for our resurrection. (Rom. 6:5) Romans 8:11 says that the same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead will raise our bodies to life.

Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection are not the end of the story, but the center of it. Everything that was written about Jesus in the Old Testament and spoken by the prophets was coming true. As you teach kids this Bible story, emphasize the gospel: the good news of who Jesus is and what He has done.

# 1.5-5 YEAR BIBLE STORY + DISCUSSION QUESTIONS + ACTIVITY

## WORSHIP

We have been singing this song in Sunday School and focusing on memorizing John 3:16 together.

“John 3:16” song and video by The Rizers. Watch and sing the song with the kids. There are no hand motions. Clap, wave and dance with your family. (This is the correct link, the wrong link was up last week, sorry about that!)

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k2iHNzNjkJw>)

## BIBLE VERSE

**Let's read this special bible verse and continue to memorize it! This verse tells us how much God loves us and what Jesus has done for us! Let's read it together and then we will continue to learn about about the life of Jesus**

John 3:16:

“For God so Loved the World that he gave his only son that we shall not perish but have everlasting life.”

## BIBLE STORY

### The Crucifixion

**Guess what? It's April, annnnd Easter is NEXT Sunday! Can you believe it? Crazy right? We have been learning so much about Jesus and all the events that happened to him right before he died including, Mary washing his feet, Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey, the last supper - where Jesus ate passover with his friends - , and also (what we learned last week) Jesus praying in the garden. All those events had led us to Jesus being arrested. Let's read what happens next.....**

**Read pages from the Jesus Storybook Bible pgs 302-309 OR the paraphrased version below.**

‘So you're a King, are you?’ The Roman soldiers jeered. “Then you'll need a crown and a robe. “ They gave Jesus a crown made out of thorns. And put a purple robe on him, and pretended to bow down to him. “Your Majesty!” they said.

They whipped him. And spat on him. They didn't understand that this was the prince of Life, the King of heaven and earth, who had come to rescue them. The Soldiers made him a sign - “Our King” and nailed it to a wooden cross.

They walked uphill outside the city. Jesus carried the cross on his back. Jesus had never done anything wrong. But they were going to kill him the way criminals were killed.

They nailed Jesu to the cross.

“Father, forgive them,” Jesus gasped. “They don't understand what they're doing.”

“You say you've come to rescue us!” people shouted. “But you can't even rescue yourself!”

But they were wrong. Jesus could have rescued himself. A legion of angels would have flown to his side - if he'd called.

“If you were really the Son of God, you could just climb down off that cross!” they said,

And of course they were right. Jesus could have just climbed down. Actually, he could have just said a word and made it stop. Like when he healed that little girl and stilled the storm, and fed 5,000 people. But Jesus stayed.

You see, they didn't understand. It wasn't the nails that kept Jesus there. It was love.

“Papa?” Jesus cried, frantically searching the sky.

“Papa? where are you? don't leave me!”

And for the first time - and the last- when he spoke, nothing happened. just a horrible, endless silence. God didn't answer. He turned away from his boy.

Tears rolled down Jesus' face. The face of the one who would wipe away every tear from every eye.

Even though it was midday, a dreadful darkness covered the face of the world. The sun could not shine. The earth trembled and quaked. The great mountains shook. Rocks split in two. Until it seemed that the whole world would break. That creation itself would tear apart. The full force of the storm of God's fierce anger at sin was coming down. On his own Son. Instead of his people. It was the only way God could destroy sin, and not destroy his children whose hearts were filled with sin.

Then Jesus shouted out in a loud voice, "It is finished!"

And it was. He had done it, Jesus had rescued the whole world.

"Father!" Jesus cried. "I give you my life." And with a great sigh he let himself die.

Strange clouds and shadows filled the sky. Purple, orange, and black. Like a bruise.

Jesus' friends gently carried Jesus. They laid Jesus in a new tomb carved out of rock.

How did Jesus die? What had gone wrong? What did it mean? They didn't know anything anymore.

Except they did know their hearts were breaking.

"That's the end of Jesus," the Leaders said.

But, just to be sure, they sent strong soldiers to guard the tomb. They hauled a huge stone in front of the door to the tomb. So that no one could get in.

Or out.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**Ask the following questions and discuss:**

- What did the Roman soldiers put on Jesus? (Crown of thorns and purple robe)
- What happened when Jesus died? (There was an earthquake and the sky got dark; Matt. 27:51)
- Where did Jesus' friends take Jesus after he died? (Into a tomb carved out of stone, and the guards rolled a big stone in front of it)
- Could anyone get in or out of the tomb? (Nope)

Say: The crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus is the center of the gospel. We deserve to die because of our sin, but Jesus died in our place. We are forgiven only through Jesus. (Acts 4:12) Jesus died on the cross to save people from sin, and He is alive.

## CRAFT

Paid in Full

### Supplies

1. Colored paper
  - a. One piece cut in a cross shape
  - b. One whole piece
2. Glue (or tape)
3. Paint (or markers)
4. Scissors

### Directions:

1. Have your kiddos pick a colored paper they want to put their craft on and another one to use to cut the cross out of.
2. Help your little crafters cut a cross out of a piece of paper. You can draw the outline and have them cut it out, or just do it for them.
3. Glue the cross onto the other piece of paper.

4. Put your child's hand in paint and put your child's handprint on top of the cross. If you don't want to use paint then trace their hand on another piece of paper and cut it out and paste it on the cross. (See attached photo)
5. Write "Paid in full" on the paper. Discuss what that means and how Jesus dying for us paid for our lives!

