



# The Son of Man Is Crucified

*Luke 22:47–53, 23:26–49*



## LESSON GOAL

Students will thank Jesus Christ for dying on the cross as a substitute for sinners.

## BIBLE TRUTHS

- Judas betrayed Jesus to the Jewish leaders.
- Jesus was killed as punishment for believers' sin.
- Some people trusted Jesus, and others rejected Him.

## KEY VERSE

“Then he said to Jesus, ‘Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom!’ And Jesus said to him, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise’”  
(Luke 23:42–43).

## APPLICATION

- Repent of not trusting Jesus.
- Love those who try to hurt you, as Jesus did.
- Thank Jesus for dying for sinners.
- See that repentant faith in Jesus is the only way to heaven.

## NEXT WEEK

The Son of Man Is Resurrected  
Read Luke 23:50–24:53.

### Symbol Key



Craft



Finger Play



Memory Verse



Object Lesson



Game



Visual Aid



Center



Activity



Q & A



Age Group

4

# Teacher Planning Sheet

## PREPARE

**Objectives/Truths** to cover this week

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

### Personal Application

*As a result of my study in this passage, God wants me to*

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

*Three ways students need to apply this passage are*

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

### Materials Needed

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## POINT

*Choose from various ideas to point students to the coming Bible lesson.*

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

## PROCLAIM

*Choose from various ideas to proclaim the Bible lesson.*

### Presentation Ideas

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

### Praise/Music Ideas

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

## PRACTICE

*Choose ideas to help review and apply today's lesson.*

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

## PREPARE WITH THE TRUTH

*“Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul... You shall teach them to your children” (Deuteronomy 11:18–19).*

Please take time to prepare your mind and heart to accurately handle the truths of God’s Word (2 Tim. 2:15). Read through the Bible background and study the truths contained in this lesson. Crucial background information is included here to aid you in understanding the Scripture.

### Bible Background

#### Introduction

After praying in the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus was confronted by Judas and a large group of people. The group that came with Judas was not a small non-religious mob of common people who hated Jesus. Putting the four Gospels together, it is clear that this was a well-planned attack by a well-armed group of religious leaders, temple officers, elders, scribes, servants, Sanhedrin representatives, and Pharisees. (The group disagreed theologically but were united in their hatred of Christ.) With them was “a multitude” of people and a Roman cohort or battalion (traditionally 600 men). The Jewish leaders were afraid of the majority of people who favored Jesus and were embarrassed by Him whenever they tried to accuse Him in public. So, rather than a broad-daylight operation, they secretly seized him late at night. (Matthew 26, Mark 14, and John 18 fill in the details of the occasion.)

A kiss was a special sign of affection between family members and close friends, and it was also a sign of a disciple’s honor, devotion, and appreciation of his beloved teacher. This pretended friendship was an appalling hypocrisy by Judas, especially in light of his close association with Jesus for three years (reminiscent of Proverbs 27:6). To be around Jesus and learn so much and then to turn against Him was the worst possible kind of betrayal (Luke 22:22).

In an attempt to defend Christ, Peter attacked the high priest’s servant with a small sword (John 18:10), apparently going for the head but only cutting off the servant’s ear. Any man missing appendages would be barred from serving in the sanctuary, so even in His arrest, Christ’s compassion was remarkable. He stopped to heal one of His attackers! This, along with the fact that Jesus commanded his disciples to cease, should have shown the Roman soldiers that Jesus was no military revolutionary, which He was accused of being. But this undeniable miracle had no effect on the observers. Man’s opposition to Christ is a matter of the heart, rather than of the mind or of a lack of evidence. John identifies the slave as Malchus, and Luke is the only one who records the healing. This was a miracle. It is very different from those today who claim to be biblical “healers.” Jesus could restore body parts, and the miracle was not dependent on faith in Christ by the one being healed.

#### Personal Violence or Vengeance Is Not the Way

Many people would say that Jesus’ actions in these events were consistent with His teaching that personal retaliation or vengeance is sinful (Matt. 5:9–12, 38–44; 6:12–15; Rom. 12:17). Jesus did not forbid all self-defense (cf. Luke 22:36–38) or war in certain situations (Rom. 13). However, when personally wronged or persecuted, a believer is not to return evil for evil, but is to love and pray for those who hurt him (Luke 23:34). Peter later learned this lesson (1 Peter 2:19–23). The details of Christ’s trials were illegal and unjust in many ways, and the events that followed unfolded late Thursday night and beyond midnight into Friday morning.

### **The Road to the Cross (Luke 23:26–31)**

The focus of this lesson moves past the mocking, false accusations and appearances before Roman authorities, who reluctantly agreed to set guilty murderer Barabbas free in exchange for the innocent Jesus. Many believe that the two criminals crucified next to our Lord were partners in crime with Barabbas, since it was not uncommon for associated criminals to suffer together. As a nation conquered by Rome, the Jews did not have authority to conduct their own trials and executions, which explains their involvement with the Roman authorities, who were responsible to carry out justice.

Not everyone in the scene was hostile and calling for Jesus' blood. The Romans did not mind putting Jews to death, but they were more concerned with a Jewish uprising. Verse 27 says that the crowd following Jesus included mourning and wailing women, a typical Jewish scene surrounding death of a loved one. Simon, apparently a Jewish pilgrim from Cyrene (modern Libya in North Africa), was asked to carry the crossbeam, apparently because Jesus was too weak from His scourging. This is another testimony of Jesus' full humanity. His response to the lamenting women in Luke 23:28–32 is a prophecy and warning, foreshadowing a far worse judgment for those who rejected the Messiah. Crucifixion was a brutal death of slow torture and eventual death by extreme dehydration, exhaustion, traumatic fever, or suffocation (especially when the legs were broken). Victims were nailed through the wrists and feet and were sometimes left on the cross for days as naked disgraces to be eaten by birds of prey or wild beasts. They were left hanging as vivid warnings to other would-be criminals or insurrectionists.

"The unusual position made every movement painful; the lacerated veins and crushed tendons throbbed with incessant anguish; the wounds, inflamed by exposure...the arteries—especially at the head and stomach—became swollen and oppressed with surcharged blood...one thing is clear, the first century executions were not like the modern ones, for they did not seek a quick, painless death nor the preservation of any measure of dignity for the criminal. On the contrary, they sought an agonizing torture which completely humiliated him... At this point another phenomenon occurs. As the arms fatigue, great waves of cramps sweep over the muscles knotting them in deep, relentless, throbbing pain. With these cramps comes the inability to push Himself upward. Hanging by his arms, the pectoral muscles are paralyzed and intercostal muscles are unable to act. Air can be drawn into the lungs but cannot be exhaled. Jesus fights to raise Himself in order to get even one short breath...then agony begins. A deep crushing pain in the chest as the pericardium slowly fills with serum and begins to compress the heart. It is now almost over...the compressed heart is struggling to pump heavy thick, sluggish blood into the tissue. The tortured lungs are making a frantic effort to grasp in small gulps of air." (The MacArthur New Testament Commentary—Matthew 24–28, p. 255).

The thought of a Messiah cursed and suffering in such a way was unthinkable to Jews and was their biggest stumbling block.

### **Responses to Christ and the Cross (Luke 23:33–43)**

The first response we see in this passage is indifference. Some just looked on (Luke 23:35a), while others were focused on getting free clothes (23:34b). They didn't care and were oblivious that the greatest event in history was happening just a few yards away. They were thinking only of themselves and what they could get out of the situation, and their limited interest (if any) was self-seeking. They ignored Him.

A second response recorded in Luke 23:35–39 is ridicule. There were some who openly mocked Christ in a display of their hatred toward Him. Not every unbe-

liever outwardly displays these feelings, but both a blatant mocking of Christ and a silent rejection are a rejection of Christ and His gift of salvation. Jesus said, "Whoever is not for Me is against Me"; there is no neutral ground. Even those who recognize the truth (possibly those in 23:48–49) must take the final step, as the criminal on the cross did.

The third response of unbelievers, captured only in Luke's Gospel, is saving faith. The criminal, who had earlier participated in the above stages of rejection (Mark 15:32), turned from his disbelief. Notice the content of his faith:

- He feared God (Luke 23:40).
- He recognized that he was a sinner deserving condemnation and punishment (23:41a).
- He recognized that Jesus was sinless (23:41b).
- He recognized that Jesus was Lord and King (23:42a).
- He recognized that Jesus alone had power to save him into His kingdom (23:42b).

He showed amazing confidence in Jesus; he saw Him dying on a cross and yet believed that He would come into His kingdom. The thief exercised great faith in asking Jesus to save him, because Christ on the cross did not look as though He was able to save anyone. The criminal did nothing to save himself. He had no good deeds, no baptism, church attendance, or charity, nor was he "religious" or better than others. Christ's promise of instant Paradise in Luke 23:43 refutes all kinds of false teachings.

This is one of the clearest portions of Scripture to show that salvation is purely by grace alone through genuine faith alone in the work of Christ alone rather than trusting in works or anything else to any degree. Our obedience is essential as an evidence of our transformation, but not as a means to earn it. Saving faith comes by God's Word alone (Rom. 10:17) and is for the glory of God alone.

## POINT TO THE TRUTH

*"Give ear, O my people, to my law; incline your ears to the words of my mouth" (Psalm 78:1).*

This section includes questions to review last week's lesson and ideas to prepare students for this week's lesson. Choose from the following ideas to point to the truths of this lesson.



### Review Questions

*Use these questions to review and reinforce key truths.*

What holiday did the Jews celebrate to remember what God had done in Egypt?  
*The Passover*

How did Jesus tell the disciples to find the room for the Passover supper?  
*Jesus told them to look for a man carrying a pitcher of water into a house and find the owner of the house. Then they were to tell him that the Teacher said, "Where is the guest room where I may eat the Passover with My disciples?" When they arrived, it was just as He had said.*

What did Jesus do and say when He and the disciples were eating dinner in the upper room?

*He took the bread and the wine and said that it represented His body, which would be broken for them, and His blood, which would be shed for them.*



### **Betrayed!**

Betrayal is when someone who claims to be your friend shows himself to be an enemy. His actions are all the more hurtful because you trusted him as a friend. This can be vividly demonstrated with a series of skits. Here are some scenarios that teachers could act out for the class:

- A child is doing something he shouldn't, but when caught, he blames a friend.
- A child meets up with some other children and then completely ignores his friend and excludes him from their games.
- A child gets new glasses, and his friend makes fun of him and even recruits other children to join in the teasing.
- A child lends his favorite toy to a friend who, out of jealousy, purposefully breaks it.



### **Betrayal Skit**

To illustrate the concept of betrayal to the students, have three leaders act out a scenario of betrayal. This could be someone talking behind another person's back, shifting the blame to another person, or some other kind of deceitful behavior.



### **Faith**

The gospel is an invitation for sinners to put their faith in Christ for the forgiveness of their sins. Faith must be grounded in the truth of God's Word. Many of your students will know and believe the facts about the death and resurrection of Christ, but this should not be equated with saving faith. Faith embraces the intellect, the emotions, and the will, causing a change of attitude and behavior. You can illustrate this for the students by placing a chair in front of the class. The students know that a chair is sturdy and can hold their weight, but faith is demonstrated when they choose to sit down and place their full weight on the chair. Faith in Christ means trusting completely and only in Him to forgive our sins and teach us how to live for God. We cannot have one foot still on the ground to support us. We have to give our lives completely to Christ.



### **What Is a Kiss?**

Ask the students whom they kiss (parents and grandparents, for example.). Why do they kiss someone? Explain that during Jesus' time, a kiss was a very special sign of affection. It was a way to show love, just as it is today. It was also a way that a student showed his dedication to his teacher. That is why Judas's kiss was so despicable. To betray Jesus, he used a sign of faithfulness.



### **Crucifixion**

Crucifixion is putting someone to death on a cross. During a crucifixion, a criminal was given a cross to carry to his execution point. Then he was nailed or tied to the cross, with his arms outstretched. The cross was dropped into a hole so that it would stand upright, and this drop caused excruciating pain for the one being crucified. Crucifixion was viewed as a punishment of disgrace. It was the most painful death known to the Romans and was reserved for outlaws and slaves. In fact, it was thought to be so cruel and inhumane that, according to Roman law, it was illegal to crucify a Roman citizen.

## PROCLAIM THE TRUTH

*“Telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and His strength and His wonderful works that He has done” (Psalm 78:4).*

This section includes the Bible lesson, lesson questions, and praise and worship ideas. Song suggestions are included that you can use to proclaim your worship to God. Use the lesson questions to check the students’ understanding. This section also includes various presentation ideas to use during the teaching time. Read the Bible passage several times before you read these pages. All teaching should be done directly from the Bible.

### Bible Lesson

Our Bible lesson today is about the most important lesson we could ever learn. It tells us the reason we come to church. Sometimes we think we come to church to sing songs or see our friends, but we come to church to hear the Word of God. The Word of God tells us about how Jesus died for the sins of all who would believe in Him.

Our story today takes place right after the disciples celebrated the Passover with Jesus. During this Passover, Jesus changed its meaning from remembering what God had done for the nation of Israel to remembering what Jesus was about to do on the cross.

During the Passover meal, Jesus told His disciples that one of them would betray Him. To betray someone means to pretend to be someone’s friend but then to treat them like an enemy. There was a disciple who pretended to be Jesus’ friend and then betrayed Jesus to the Jewish leaders. This man’s name was Judas Iscariot. He wasn’t a true follower of Jesus. He had been pretending to be a believer and a follower, but he really was not. When the time came, he did just what Jesus said he would. While sitting at the table in the upper room, Jesus said, “Behold, the hand of My betrayer is with Me on the table” (Luke 22:21). Judas knew who Jesus was talking about. He knew what he had already done to make this happen. No one but Jesus and Judas who it was, but they all would soon see Judas work his awful plan.

From the room where they celebrated the Passover meal, Jesus and a few of His disciples went to the garden of Gethsemane. There, on the Mount of Olives, Jesus went to pray to the Father in heaven. He asked the disciples to watch and pray from a short distance away. Jesus went away and prayed, asking the Father, “Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done” (Luke 22:42). Jesus was asking the Father if there was any other way to pay the price, but if not, He was willing to do what He was asked to do by the Father.

When Jesus returned to where the disciples were, He found them sound asleep. While He was talking to them, a crowd of people came into the garden, with Judas leading them. Jesus said to Judas, “Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?” (Luke 22:48). Judas was giving Jesus to the enemy, the Jewish authorities, to be killed. Jesus knew what was happening and didn’t fight them at all, but Peter was very upset. He took a sword and cut off the ear of a servant who was there. Jesus told him to stop. He healed the man’s ear right there in the garden! It was one more miracle for all the people to see who Jesus really was, but it made no difference. They arrested Jesus and took him into town to the high priest, Caiaphas. There Jesus was condemned. Caiaphas said that it was good to have one man die

for the people (John 18:14). He thought that if they put Jesus to death, it would bring some peace to the people. From there, Jesus was taken to Pilate. Pilate could not find any fault or reason to put Jesus to death, but the people were so angry that they yelled to have Him crucified. In order to keep the people quiet, Pilate finally gave in and sentenced Jesus to death, but he also released from prison a condemned man and set him free. Pilate let the murderer go free and put an innocent man to death. Although this might not make sense to us, the Bible tells us that it was the plan of the Father for Jesus to die. Jesus was perfect; He had never committed any sins, never done anything wrong. He lived a perfect life, so He was the only one who could be a true sacrifice for people's sins.

It was awful to see how they treated Jesus. After beating Him, spitting on Him, and putting a crown of thorns on His head, they gave Him a heavy cross to carry on His back up the hill to where they were going to put Him to death. Jesus wasn't the only person being crucified that day. The soldiers also crucified two men who were criminals. They had broken the laws and deserved to die. They had heard of Jesus, and one of them, as he was hanging there on the cross, said to Jesus, "If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us" (Luke 23:39). Jesus could have done that, but it was not in the Father's plan. The other man on the cross said, "Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong" (Luke 23:40–41). He then said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom." Jesus, in this hour of great suffering, showed mercy to this man. He said, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise" (Luke 23:43). Because this man trusted in Jesus and knew He was truly the Son of God, Jesus forgave him and took him to heaven that very day. How wonderful that day was for that man! Even though he had lived a sinful life on earth, Jesus forgave him, and he would spend eternity with Jesus in heaven.

We, too, must believe that Jesus is the Son of God and that He died on the cross for man's sins. We must ask Him to forgive us, just like the thief on the cross did. We are told that Jesus promises to forgive all our sins and give us eternal life if we trust Him as our Savior and repent of our sin. We will not always be here on earth, but we can live forever with Him in heaven.



## Lesson Questions

What did Jesus ask the disciples to do as He went to pray to His Father?  
*Jesus asked the disciples to pray so that they would not enter temptation.*

What did Jesus ask the Father when He prayed?  
*He asked if there was any way that He might be able to obey God without having to suffer and die. But He also said that it was not His desire but the will of the Father that He would obey.*

What did Jesus find when He returned to the disciples?  
*He found them asleep. He again told them to get up and pray that they would not enter temptation.*

After Jesus woke the disciples, who entered the garden?  
*Judas, who was followed by a group of people. The group was made up of religious leaders, temple officers, elders, scribes, servants, Sanhedrin representatives, Pharisees, and a Roman cohort or battalion (about 600 soldiers).*



How did Judas show the religious leaders which man was Jesus?  
*Judas went up to Jesus and kissed Him on the cheek.*

Where did the religious leaders take Jesus after leaving the garden?  
*They took Him before the high priest and then to Pilate to be tried.*

Who was crucified with Jesus?  
*Beside Jesus, on His left and right, were two criminals.*

What happened before and as Jesus was dying?  
*From the sixth hour until the ninth hour, there was darkness over the land. The veil in the temple tore from top to bottom. Just before Jesus died, He cried, "Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit."*

How did the Jewish leaders react to Jesus' death?  
*They believed that they had conquered Jesus by putting Him to death.*

## Presentation Ideas



### A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards

Use appropriate A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards with the lesson.



### Betty Lukens Flannelgraph

Use appropriate flannelgraph pieces with the lesson.



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### How Do You Respond?

As you talk about the events of Christ's trial and crucifixion, highlight various ways people responded to Christ by drawing various items and pictures from a bag. For instance, a theater mask could represent betrayal; a sword could depict defense or vengeance; a laughing face could represent mocking; an angry face or fists could represent hatred; a question mark or bored face could depict indifference; and a U-turn sign could indicate repentance. The students also could act out these various attitudes with their expressions and postures. Close the lesson by asking the students what their response is to Jesus Christ.



### The Reality of Crucifixion

While telling the story, use objects such as a torch, a whip (or whip-like object), a crown of thorns, and six-inch nails (from a hardware store). These objects will help the students to see the reality of what happened.



### Sounds of the Crucifixion

To involve the students in the lesson, hold up signs that prompt them to respond to the unfolding events. This is similar to a live studio audience being prompted to respond. Signs could include: a hooting owl for nighttime; a kiss for betrayal; shuffling feet for soldiers; cracking for whipping; weeping for women; groaning for carrying the cross; and knocking for nailing to the cross.



### Taking Home a Lamb, Part 2

(Continued from Lesson 1.) Hopefully all of the students have brought their stuffed lambs back. You may want to have a few extra in case some forget. At the end of



today's lesson, collect all of the lambs and place them in a sealed box. This box should be left until Resurrection Sunday. Explain to the students that after Jesus died, He was put into a tomb that was sealed for three days.

### **In the Dark**

Describe what it might have been like for darkness to have been over the land for three hours. Turn out the lights and sit in the dark for three minutes. Ask the students what they might have thought if it became completely dark outside for three hours in the middle of the day.

## **Praise and Worship**

*ABCDEFG*

*Create in Me a Clean Heart*

*God Is So Good*

*Nothing but the Blood of Jesus*

*Praise the Name of Jesus*

*The Wise Man and Foolish Man*



### **Jesus' Payment for Sins**

Before the dawning of the day,  
*(Hold arms in an arc overhead to indicate the sun.)*

While sleeping His disciples lay,  
*(Place hands under head as though sleeping.)*

Inside the garden Jesus kneeled,  
*(Kneel.)*

Prepared to do the Father's will.  
*(Bow head; nod.)*

Soon Judas and a mob arrived  
*(March in place.)*

To seize and sentence Christ to die.  
*(Point outward angrily.)*

Before the day would see its end,  
*(Tap wrist.)*

He'd give His life to pay for sin.  
*(Hold hands out, palms up, as though offering something.)*

The scared disciples ran in fear.  
*(Run in place, with frightened look on face.)*

While others chose to mock and sneer.  
*(Wag finger, with scornful look on face.)*

Still others trusted and believed.  
*(Place hand over heart; nod head.)*

And what will your reaction be?  
(Point outward.)

## PRACTICE THE TRUTH

*“That they may set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments” (Psalm 78:7).*

Choose ideas from this section to review and apply the truths of the Bible lesson.



### Making a Cross

Materials: wooden craft sticks, brown markers or crayons, glue

Directions: Give each student two craft sticks to color brown and then glue together in the shape of a cross. Explain what a cross was used for and why Jesus was hung on a cross.



### “Jesus Died for Sin”

Materials: “Jesus Died for Sin” example page, nine-inch paper plates, brown and red construction-paper strips (some  $\frac{3}{4} \times 4$  inches and some  $\frac{3}{4} \times 2$  inches), crayons, scissors, red and green tissue paper

Directions: Before class time, cut a paper plate along the inside rim, halfway around the plate, and fold the cut section forward. Write “Jesus Died for Sin” along the bottom rim. (See the “Jesus Died for Sin” example page.) You will need to make one plate for each student. During class, give each student a prepared paper plate, along with three construction-paper strips of each size. Have them create three crosses, using the shorter pieces for the crossbeams. All three crosses can be brown, or the students could make the center cross red and the other two crosses brown. Help the students glue the crosses to their plates, as shown on the example page. Then they can cut or tear pieces of green tissue paper to glue on the center of the plate as grass. They can also glue red tissue-paper pieces on the center cross. Talk about Jesus dying on the cross to take the punishment for our sins.

### Coloring Pages

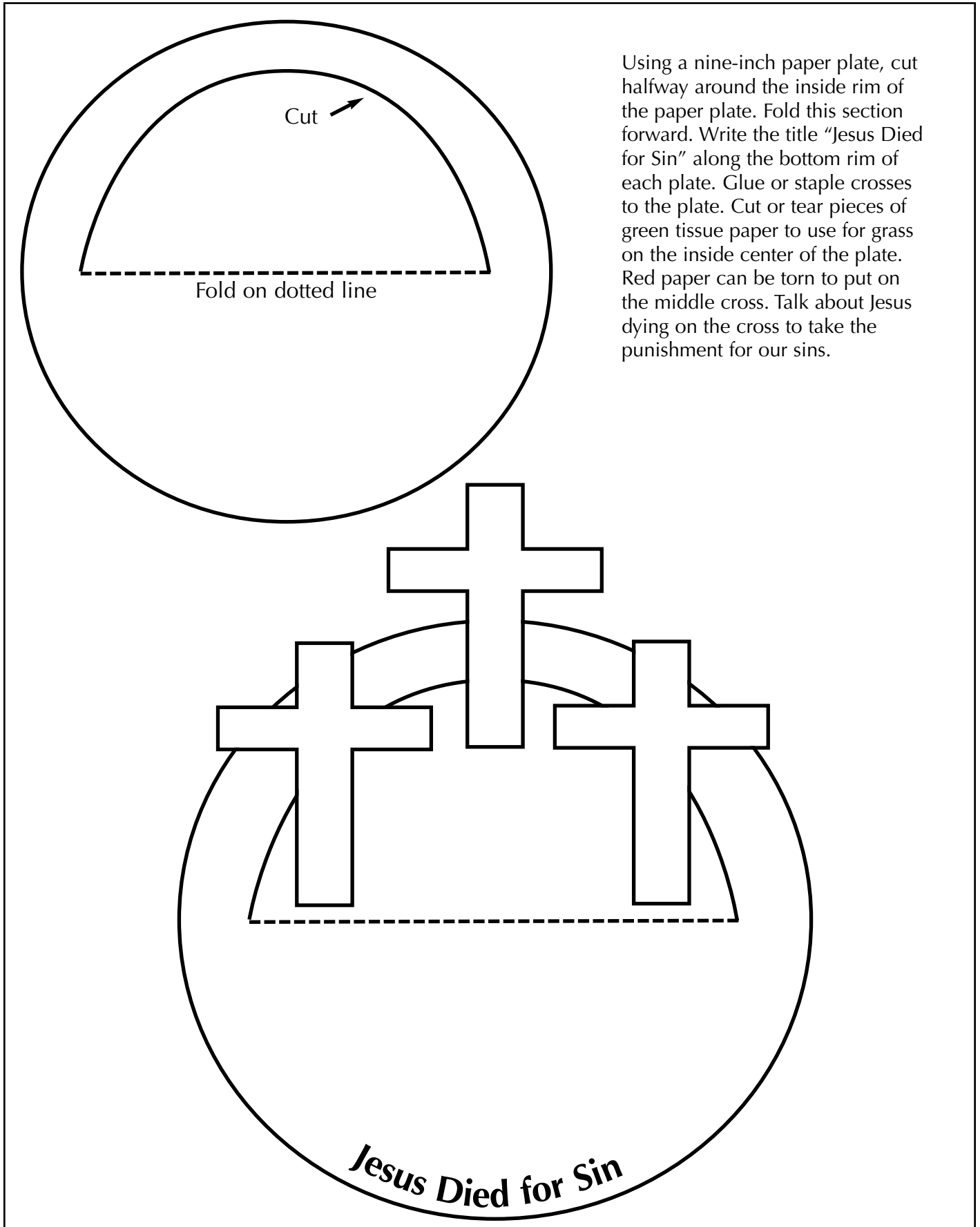
Give each student the coloring sheets from the back of the lesson. Students can color the pages in class or at home.



### MEMORY VERSE

“Then he said to Jesus, ‘Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom!’ And Jesus said to him, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise’” (Luke 23:42–43).

# Jesus Died for Sin



Using a nine-inch paper plate, cut halfway around the inside rim of the paper plate. Fold this section forward. Write the title "Jesus Died for Sin" along the bottom rim of each plate. Glue or staple crosses to the plate. Cut or tear pieces of green tissue paper to use for grass on the inside center of the plate. Red paper can be torn to put on the middle cross. Talk about Jesus dying on the cross to take the punishment for our sins.



**“Jesus said to him, ‘Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?’”  
(Luke 22:48).**



**“And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, ‘Father, into your hands I commit My spirit.’ Having said this, He breathed His last” (Luke 23:46).**