



Jesus Endures the Cross

Matthew 27:26–66



LESSON GOAL

Students will worship Jesus Christ for dying for sin and giving access to God.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to:

- Describe how Jesus was mocked.
- Explain the crucifixion.
- Identify the events after Jesus' death.
- Explain the importance of Jesus' death.

KEY VERSE

“And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.” —*Matthew 27:50–51a*

APPLICATION

- Praise Jesus for suffering and dying for sin.
- Trust Jesus for the forgiveness of sin.
- Thank Jesus for making access to God.

NEXT WEEK

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ
Matthew 28

Symbol Key



Craft



Memory Verse



Object Lesson



Game



Visual Aid



Activity



Q & A



Work Sheet



2 Grade Level

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:

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.

- _____
- _____

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 that review and apply the truths of the Bible lesson.

Bible Background

Introduction

The nation of Israel had long awaited their promised Messiah and King. Christ was the fulfillment of that messianic prophecy. In chapters 21–23 of Matthew, Jesus is presented and rejected as the Messiah. In chapter 26, Matthew focuses on the rejection of Jesus as the Messiah. The religious leaders had rejected Jesus as the Messiah, the nation had rejected Him as their King, and even His disciples had abandoned Him. Chapter 27:26–56 is the culmination of God’s wrath being poured out on His Son for the sins of the world. In this chapter, three major events take place. Jesus is mocked; Jesus is crucified; and Jesus dies.

The events of the crucifixion occurred between the hours of 6:00 A.M. and 3:00 P.M., climaxing with Christ’s death. At 6:00, on Friday morning, Jesus was bound and brought to the governor, Pilate, to be tried. Pilate tried Jesus but found no reason to sentence Him to death. Wanting to please the people, Pilate freed Barabbas, a man convicted of robbery and murder. Barabbas was an evil and dangerous thief, but thieves were not normally crucified. Crucifixion was saved for the very worst individuals. It is likely that the two criminals who were crucified with Jesus were cohorts of Barabbas.

The King’s Mocking (Matt. 27:26–31)

From 6:00 A.M. until 9:00 A.M. Jesus was scourged, mocked, beaten, and then taken to Golgotha. Scourging was the use of a whip made of braided leather strands. These strands contained pieces of sharp metal or bone. The person being scourged was tied to a post and struck with the whip. At times, scourging could expose the internal organs and the scourging alone could be fatal. Once this was completed to the satisfaction of the executioner, Jesus was taken to the Praetorium. This was where Pilate resided while in Jerusalem. During this time, Pilate was assigned a “garrison” of about 600 soldiers. While Jesus was in the Praetorium, the soldiers brought the garrison around to watch the mocking (Matt. 27:27). They stripped off His clothes and placed one of the guard’s purple/scarlet military cloaks on Him (27:28). They made a crown of thorns and placed it on His head and a reed in His hand. He was mocked, spat on, and then beaten. This was in fulfillment of the prophecy in Isaiah 50:6 that reads, “I gave My back to those who struck Me, and My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting.”

The King’s Crucifixion (Matt. 27:31–44)

At about 9:00 A.M. He was led to Golgotha, the “Place of a Skull.” The word “Calvary” also comes from the word “Calvaria” in Latin, meaning “skull.” It is thought that Golgotha was a skull-shaped hill. Jesus could not carry His cross (weighing in excess of 200 lbs.) all the way to Golgotha. Instead, the Roman soldiers forced a man named Simon, from Cyrene of Northern Africa, to carry the cross for Him. Upon reaching Golgotha, Jesus was offered wine containing myrrh.

Myrrh was a narcotic that would deaden pain. Although He was thirsty, He did not drink it. He needed to be fully alert to complete His final work on the cross.

Jesus was then crucified. Crucifixion was a form of punishment that had been passed down to the Romans from the Persians, Phoenicians, and Carthaginians. The Romans had perfected this form of torture. Crucifixion was often lengthy, with the victim hanging on the cross for days before dying. They would also experience exhaustion, dehydration, traumatic fever, and then suffocation. Often the crucified person was attached to the cross with ropes, but in Jesus' case nails attached Him to the cross through the wrists and another through the instep or the Achilles tendon. It is estimated that the Romans crucified 30,000 men in Israel.

Christ's crucifixion took place from 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.. Before noon those who were passing by mocked Jesus, as did the chief priests, scribes, and elders. They insulted Him by repeating what the false witnesses had said as He was on trial before the religious leaders and Caiaphas. It is likely that some of these people may have even followed Him, seeing His miracles and hearing His words. Now they hurled abuse at Him and wagged their heads in mockery. Although they had likely heard or even seen the miraculous things that He had done, they wanted Him to perform another miracle. They said, "If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross" (27:40). Although they said that they would believe that He was the Son of God if He came down from the cross, not even an amazing miracle like that would have changed their minds. They had seen Him heal the sick and even raise the dead. Their hearts were unwilling to believe the truth that God incarnate was in their presence.

The King's Death (Matt. 27:45–56)

Between noon and 3:00 P.M. there was darkness over the land. This could not have been an eclipse. The Jews used a lunar calendar and the Passover was always on a full moon. This was supernatural darkness. This darkness was a mark of divine judgment (Is. 5:30; 13:10–11; Joel 2:1,2; Amos 5:20; Zeph. 1:14,15; Matt. 8:12; 22:13; 25:30). At 3:00 Jesus called out, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani" (Matt. 27:46). These words were the fulfillment of the prophecy written in Psalm 22:1 which reads, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? Why are You so far from helping Me, and from the words of My groaning?" The wrath of God was being poured out on Christ as the sin-bearer. The eternal punishment of the wrath of God for all the sins of those who would believe were poured out onto Jesus Christ. Human minds cannot fathom the magnitude of this judgment. With His last breath Jesus cried out in a loud voice and voluntarily gave up His spirit.

Christ's death had earth-shaking results. Even in His death, nature groaned as the earth quaked and rocks split open. "Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split, and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many" (Matt. 27:51–53). The first miraculous event that occurred upon Christ's death was the veil of the temple being torn in two. Inside the temple there were two rooms. The first was the Holy Place, where the priests would enter and burn incense and place the showbread. The second room was called the Holy of Holies. A six-inch thick veil separated this place from the Holy Place. The priests could only enter this place once a year. In Solomon's time, this was the place where the presence of God dwelled. Only the high priest could enter this place. The tearing of the veil was a beautiful symbol, by God's hand that showed that His presence was now open to all as a result of Christ's sacrificial death. Another result of Jesus' death was an earthquake where rocks split open. The earth itself was physically affected by this event. God's power over death was

also visibly evident in the resurrection of saints. Men and women who had been dead came out of their tombs. These renowned people walked into Jerusalem and were a testimony to Christ's power in life and death.

Upon seeing these events, the centurion and those who stood by were amazed and said, "Truly this was the Son of God!" (Matt. 27:54). This man that they had likely beaten had died like no other individual they had ever seen. They had no doubt heard rumors of His claims, and because of the events that surrounded His death, they came to the right conclusion: that Jesus truly was the Son of God. Their response, confession, and fear were a profession of their faith.

The King's Burial (Matt. 27:57–66)

After Jesus' death it was required that He be taken down off the cross before 6:00 that night for the Passover. In order to end the life quickly of those who were still alive, the soldiers broke the legs of the two thieves on either side of Christ. When they came to Christ they realized that He was already dead. One of the soldiers pierced His heart with a spear. Out of the wound came both blood and water. This was a sign that Jesus' body was in fact dead. This was in fulfillment of Psalm 34:20, "He guards all his bones; not one of them is broken."

Isaiah 53:9 prophesied that the Messiah would die with the wicked but be buried with the rich in His death. In fulfillment of the prophecy a rich man named Joseph from Arimathea went to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. Pilate gave him permission and Joseph took Jesus' body and laid it in his own new tomb. Joseph rolled a large stone in front of the tomb to seal it.

Even after His death the religious leaders were afraid of what might come of Jesus. They said that they remembered Jesus' words that He would rise again on the third day. They then asked that Pilate might give them permission to secure the grave until after the third day. They were afraid that the disciples might come and take the body, making it look like Jesus' predictions of His resurrection were true, so they sealed the stone and set Roman guards to watch over the tomb.

Application

Jesus came to earth to save sinners. God planned that His Son would die to pay for sin. Jesus was tried, tortured, and killed. His divine power and authority were seen not only in His life but also in His death. Today, you have seen the King. You have seen that He loved the world enough to be mocked, tortured, and killed, "that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). Believe His words and actions. Receive the gift He offers.

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

Why did the religious leaders want Jesus to die?

They did not like Jesus' message of salvation. They did not want to believe that He was the Messiah and Son of God.

Who anointed Jesus with oil, and why was this done?

Mary anointed Jesus with oil. It was done in preparation for His burial.

Which disciple betrayed Jesus?

Judas betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver.

What did Judas do as a sign of his betrayal?

Judas gave Jesus a kiss. A kiss is a sign of love and affection, but Judas did not love Jesus. He only pretended to.

What did it mean for Judas to betray Jesus?

Judas' betrayal meant that he was rejecting Jesus as Savior and Lord.

Was it an easy thing for Jesus to be crucified for our sins?

No. It was very difficult thing for the God-man to take the punishments for sin. He sought God's help by going to Him in prayer.



The Substitute

Impart to the children that Christ's death is the substitutionary atonement for our sins. Do this by helping them to understand the concept of a substitute. Explain various everyday scenarios that involve a substitute. For example, if their teacher is ill, they may have a substitute teacher for that day. If a member of their sports team gets injured, a substitute will fill in for him and take his place. An activity would also be useful. Ask them to pin something onto the wall, higher than what they can reach. Tell them that if they are unable to do it themselves, they may ask anyone to do it for them. They will most likely ask one of the teachers. The teacher is their substitute! A substitute is someone who does something which you are unable to do, in your place and on your behalf.



Access to God: Part 1

Bring in a first aid kit or box of Band-Aids. Have a few students stand in front of a locked door. Tell them that inside the door is a first-aid kit. Have several of the children try to open the door. When a door is locked, a person needs a key to get in. Ask them what they would do if there was an emergency and they needed to get the first aid kit. They will likely say that they need a key. We all have an emergency. We are all sick with sin. Plus, our very sickness keeps us from getting to God. The good news is that Jesus' death paid for sin and gives a believer access to God. In today's

lesson, we are going to see a great curtain ripped in the temple. This curtain separated man from God in the temple. Once this curtain ripped, it was a sign that all men could have access to God. Jesus death is the key to our access to God.



Big Sin, Big Punishment: Why Jesus Had to Die

Guide students through the following discussion. If a man steals a car what should happen to him? He should go to jail. If a man steals the president's car, what should happen to him? He should go to jail even longer. The president is a very important man and has a very important job. If someone commits a crime against the president, he gets a very large punishment. If we try to steal something from God, what kind of punishment should we get? Answer: A huge punishment—even eternity in hell. When we sin, we are stealing glory from God to keep for ourselves. Because God is infinitely great and holy, any sin we commit is infinitely great. This is why Jesus needed to die for sin. Only God's Son could pay a big enough penalty to cover our sin.



Sinfulness of Sin

In the past two lessons, we have seen many different people sin against Jesus. Ask children what sinful actions of Bible characters they remember from previous lessons. Examples might include the money changers in the temple, the priests and Pharisees rejecting Jesus, Judas betraying Jesus, Peter denying Jesus, and the disciples falling asleep and not praying with Jesus. Ask the children if those sins need to be punished. Today, we will learn about Jesus dying as punishment for sin.



News of the Cross

Materials: newspaper, construction paper, glue, scissors, hand wipes

Directions: Have each child cut strips of newspaper. Then, use them to form the shape of a cross on construction paper. Hands may get dirty from the newspaper print so be sure to distribute hand wipes afterward.



The Cross Wall Mural

Using butcher paper on the wall, outline a large cross on a hill. Have the students decorate the butcher paper to look like Golgotha by using paints and other objects to cover the cross outline. Use this as a background during the lesson time to illustrate when Jesus was nailed to the cross. At the appropriate point in the lesson hang a sign over the top of the cross that reads, "This is Jesus, King of the Jews." This illustration can also be used in next week's lesson.



The Tomb Wall Mural

Using butcher paper, create a rocky mountain with a tomb opening. Have the children create the mountain gluing crumpled paper bags, natural colored paper pieces or by using paint. During the lesson when Jesus is buried, "role" a large paper stone across the opening of the tomb. When setting up this mural for next weeks lesson "role" the stone away and leave it open to remind the students that Jesus is risen. This illustration can also be used in next week's lesson.



Walking to Golgotha

Review last week's lesson by using last week's props and murals. Walk the students from place to place that Jesus went the day of His death. After the review of the events studied last week, describe to the children the walk to Golgotha. Show them a crown of thorns and talk about how Jesus was mocked, beaten, and a

crown of thorns was placed on His head. If possible, walk by another teacher to play the role of Simon from Cyrene and have him join the walk.

Ongoing Big Book

During the resurrection lessons, create a big book with one new page a day. Project the coloring pages to the wall using an overhead projector. Trace the picture onto poster board. Have the students color the pictures and then put them into the book. Use the Big Book to review all of the lessons on Resurrection Sunday. (Note: Some copy centers can also enlarge copies onto poster board.)

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 alongside the teaching time. Read the Bible passage several times before you read these pages. All teaching should be done right from the Bible.

Bible Lesson

Passage Outline

The Trial before the Sanhedrin (Matt. 26:57–68)

Peter's Denial (Matt. 26:69–75)

Judas' Remorse and Death (Matt. 27:1–10)

The Trial before Pilate (Matt. 27:11–26)

Reading of the Text

Read Matthew 26:57–27:26

Introduction

What is your biggest need? Is it food, clothing, or education? No, your biggest need is forgiveness. Because we sin, we are separated from a just and Holy God. Not only that, but we are worthy of death and punishment in hell. What can we do about our sin? Nothing! We need someone to help us take away our sin. This is why Jesus came to earth. A few weeks ago, we learned that Jesus came into Jerusalem riding on a young donkey. The crowds treated Him like the promised Messiah. The Jewish leaders were not happy about all this. They plotted with Judas to how they might arrest Him and put Him to death. In this week's lesson, we are going to see the people of Israel put Jesus to death by crucifying Him. Everything that happened to Jesus was under God's control. Matthew 26:1–2 says, "Now it came to pass, when Jesus had finished all these sayings, that He said to His disciples, 'You know that after two days is the Passover, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified.'" This was God's time for Jesus to die on the cross.



Lead-off Questions (LOQs)

LOQ: What was the first thing that happened to Jesus after the trial?

Answer: Matthew 27:26 says, "Then [Pilate] released Barabbas to [the people of Israel]; and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered Him to be crucified." To scourge Jesus, the Romans used a whip consisting of several strands of leather attached to a wooden handle. Each strand had a bit of metal or bone attached to the end of it. Jesus was bound to a post, and the officer struck His back with the whip so that it would hurt very much. For Jesus to be scourged meant that He had to suffer greatly.

LOQ: What happened to Jesus after His trial?

Answer: The soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and the soldiers came around, stripped Him of His clothes and put a scarlet robe on Him. Then they made a crown of thorns, put it on His head and put a reed in His right hand. Next they spat on Him, struck Him on the head, and mocked Him.

LOQ: What were the soldiers doing when they placed a crown of thorns on Jesus' head?

Answer: The soldier's were mocking Him. Matthew 27:29-30 says, "When they had twisted a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand. And they bowed the knee before Him and mocked Him, saying, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' Then they spat on Him, and took the reed and struck Him on the head." The Roman officers put a crown that was made of thorns upon Jesus' head. This had to hurt His head because they were sharp. Although they were mocking Him that He was the King of the Jews, Jesus was willing to endure it and suffer because He was being obedient to God's will for Him to die on the cross for believers' sins.

LOQ: On their way to the cross who did they find to carry the cross for Jesus?

Answer: They found a man named Simon who was from Cyrene. Jesus was not strong enough to carry the cross so Simon carried it for Him.

LOQ: Where did they take Jesus to?

Answer: They took Jesus to a place called Golgotha which means "Place of a Skull."

LOQ: What did they give Jesus to drink?

Answer: They gave Him something called sour wine mingled with gall. This was like medicine that would make Jesus' pain not so bad during the crucifixion. Jesus did not drink the wine with the medicine.

LOQ: What did the guards do to Jesus?

Answer: They nailed Jesus to a cross and placed the cross upright into a hole. Then they watched over him.

LOQ: What did the sign say that they placed over Jesus' head?

Answer: It said, "This is Jesus the King of the Jews."

LOQ: Who were crucified there with Jesus?

Answer: There were two men crucified with Jesus. They were both robbers and one was crucified on His right and the other on His left.

LOQ: What did the people say and do who were passing by Jesus?

Answer: They were wagging their heads and mocking Jesus by saying that Jesus had said that He would destroy the temple and build it in 3 days. Then they said that He claimed to save others but couldn't save Himself. Then they told Him that if He truly was the King of Israel that He should come down from the cross and they would believe Him.

LOQ: What happened when Jesus died?

Answer: From the 6th hour to the 9th hour (from noon to 3:00) there was darkness. Then Jesus cried out "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" Then Jesus cried out in a loud voice and died. At that moment the veil in the temple that blocks the Most Holy Place was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth began to quake, rocks were split opened

LOQ: What did the centurion say when he saw these things?

Answer: He said, "Truly this was the Son of God!" And he feared God greatly.

LOQ: Who buried Jesus?

Answer: A man named Joseph who was from Arimathea and who was a disciple of Jesus went to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. Then he took Jesus' body and put it in his own new tomb and rolled a large stone against the door of the tomb.

LOQ: What were the Pharisees and chief priests afraid of?

Answer: They knew that Jesus had claimed that He would rise from the dead in three days and they were afraid that the disciples would come and take away His body, making it look like it had truly happened.

LOQ: What did Pilate say when the religious leaders asked how they could keep the disciples from stealing Jesus' body?

Answer: Pilate told the religious leaders to go and secure the tomb and use the guards to guard it. So they put a seal on the tomb and set a guard to watch it.

Summary

There were significant events that took place before and after Jesus was crucified on the cross. It is important that we remember all of these so that we will never forget what Jesus did for us. As we read the account of Jesus' crucifixion, we may think that it was all because of the Jewish people and their hatred for Jesus. But we cannot forget that God had planned for all of these events to happen just as it was stated in Matthew 27. God is always in control of everything. Jesus died so that we could have forgiveness. Romans 5:8 says, "But God demonstrates His own love towards us, it that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Application

Many things happened when Jesus died on the cross. But all of them were for one purpose and for one reason only – that Jesus would pay the price for sin. Jesus died and rose again so that we could receive salvation. You can receive salvation by repenting of your sins and believing in the Lord Jesus for salvation. Jesus can forgive you of your sin because of what He did on the cross. Follow the examples of the centurion. He acknowledged that Jesus truly is the Son of God.

Presentation Ideas



A Beka Book® Flash-A-Cards®

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



Betty Lukens Flannel Graph

Use appropriate flannel graph pieces with the lesson.



The Events of the Crucifixion

Visual props can be very effective in helping communicate and concrete the various events of Jesus' death. Set up three areas in your classroom with different teaching aids. Divide the children into groups, and have each group spend some time being taught at each setup. Some examples include:

Table 1: Lay out a whip, purple/scarlet fabric, long sharp thorns. Using these items, tell the children the events recorded in Matthew 27:26–31.

Table 2: Vinegar, garments of clothing, long spikes, pictures of criminals, and a cross can all help illustrate the events of Matthew 27:32–44.

Table 3: If possible, take the second group into a separate room and switch off the lights for part of the story-telling time. You can also have a cup of vinegar, torn purple cloth and small rock available to complete the story as in Matthew 27:45–54.



Praising or Mocking

Make two signs before the lesson. One saying "Mocking" and the other saying "Praising." Before the lesson define what these words mean, especially in regards to God and Jesus. Throughout the lesson, ask children to identify whether people are praising or mocking Jesus (note: there is no one who praises Him in the lesson today). Did Jesus deserving praising or mocking?



Access to God: Part 2

Put up two large sheets across a door in the classroom. Have them meet in the middle. Tell students as you begin the lesson that these represent the veil in the temple. The veil inside the temple separated the priests from the presence of God in a room called the Holy of Holies. The high priest could go into the Holy of Holies only once a year. No one but the priests could go into the temple. The veil in the temple was six inches thick and was 30 feet wide. The veil was a visible symbol that man was separated from God. The moment Jesus died, there was a great earthquake. God split the curtain of the temple right down the middle. At the appropriate time in the lesson, split the two sheets like God did in the temple. This symbolized that all people now had access to God, not just priests.

Praise and Worship

Jesus Paid It All

Old Rugged Cross

Lord, I Lift Your Name on High

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 that review and apply the truths of the Bible lesson.



"Jesus Died for Sin"

Materials: nine-inch paper plates, brown construction paper, green and red tissue paper, glue, scissors

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. To make the crosses, provide children with brown construction paper strips, three-fourths of an inch wide and four inches long for the upright strip, and two and a half inches for the cross bar. They will need three of each size (for three crosses). Attach the two-and-a-half-inch strip perpendicular over the four-inch strip to form a cross. Glue the crosses to the plate as shown in the "Jesus Died for Sin" example page. With green tissue paper, cut or tear pieces to glue on for grass on inside center of the plate. Tear red paper and glue to the middle cross. Talk about Jesus dying on the cross to take the punishment for our sins.



Treasure Hunt Review

Hide pictures representing parts of the Bible lesson around the room (soldier, sad face, crown of thorns, three crosses, empty tomb, and the heavenly kingdom). Add to them enough papers with "memory verse" written on them so that there is one paper hidden for each child in the class. Once they have found a "treasure," they can sit on their chairs. Ask the child with the picture of a soldier to stand. He gets to tell what the soldier had to do with the lesson today. Occasionally, ask those with a verse card to stand, and everyone gets to say the verse with them. Continue doing this until the whole lesson has been reviewed and the verse said several times.



"The Cross Words"

Have the students use this worksheet to find the words in the puzzle that are represented in Christ's death on the cross.



Cross Bookmark

Materials: craft sticks, poster board or cardboard, cardstock paper with crosses already printed on them, beads, sequins, tissue paper, crayons, markers, stamping supplies, stickers, pom poms, clear contact paper, glue, scissors

Directions: Give the students an opportunity to be creative and make a cross to be used as a bookmark. You might provide for them a variety of materials so they can each come up with something unique. Have them write the memory verse on the back of the bookmark.



"Jesus is crucified"

Use this worksheet to reinforce the key truths of this week's lesson. It is located at the back of this lesson.



2
3

Small Group Activity: "Good Friday"

Use this worksheet to reinforce the key truths of this week's lesson. It is located at the back of this lesson.

Coloring Pages

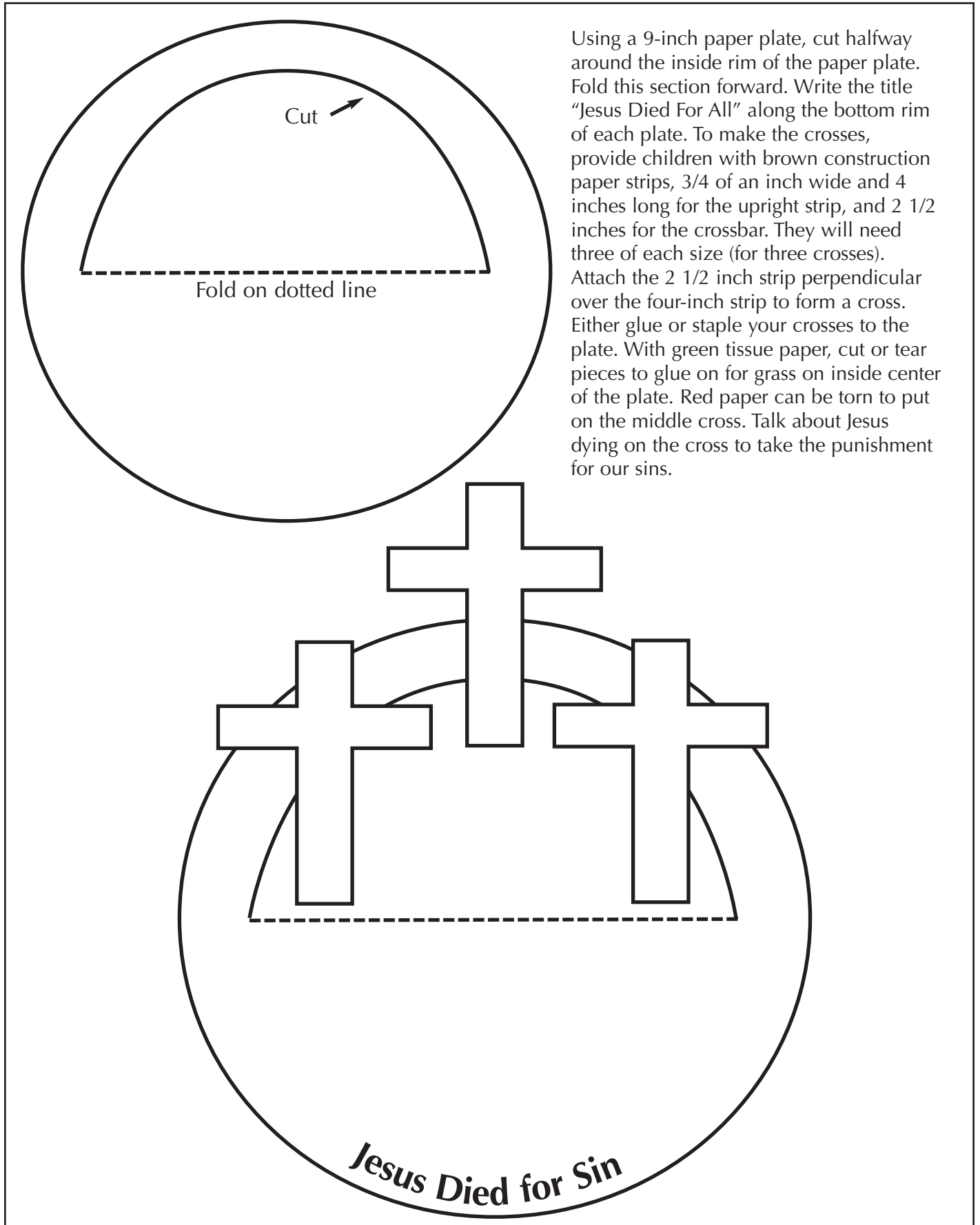
Give each child a copy of the coloring sheets at the back of this lesson. He/she can color the pages in class or take them home to color.



MEMORY VERSE

"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." —*Romans 5:8*

Jesus Died for Sin



Using a 9-inch paper plate, cut halfway around the inside rim of the paper plate. Fold this section forward. Write the title "Jesus Died For All" along the bottom rim of each plate. To make the crosses, provide children with brown construction paper strips, $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch wide and 4 inches long for the upright strip, and 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches for the crossbar. They will need three of each size (for three crosses). Attach the 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ inch strip perpendicular over the four-inch strip to form a cross. Either glue or staple your crosses to the plate. With green tissue paper, cut or tear pieces to glue on for grass on 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.

The Cross Words

	A	C	A	L	M	
	M	O	I	E	M	
	A	N	H	S	U	
	M	Q	I	L	T	
	S	U	S	E	J	
S	A	C	R	I	F	I
C	E	D	G	L	O	R
I	F	I	E	D		
F	I	N	I	S	H	E
D	R	E	D	E	M	P
T	I	O	N	E		
M	U	E	I	N	N	O
C	E	N	T	L	S	I
N	L	E	S	S		
S	U	B	S	T	I	T
U	T	E	A	B	S	L
A	M	B	I	R		
	K	A	B	E	T	
	I	C	K	G	N	
	L	O	V	E	E	
	L	M	Z	N	M	
	Q	P	O	T	L	
	L	A	N	L	L	
	W	S	V	E	I	
	W	S	M	L	F	
	K	I	L	O	L	
	D	O	N	A	U	
	I	N	V	G	F	

- Sacrifice**
- Finished**
- Redemption**
- Substitute**
- Calm**
- Fulfillment**
- Kill**
- Lamb**
- Glorified**
- Jesus**
- Compassion**
- Sinless**
- Conquer**

Jesus *is* Crucified



Matthew 27

Name _____

1. In Matthew 27:26 instead of releasing Jesus, Pilate released _____.

2. The soldiers placed a crown of _____ on Jesus' head.

3. True or False: The soldiers mocked, beat, and spat upon Jesus.

4. Simon of Cyrene carried the _____ for Jesus.

5. What did they do to Jesus in v. 35? _____

6. Fill in the blanks with what Jesus said in Matthew 27:46.

“My _____, My God, why have You _____ Me.”

7. What happened when Jesus died?

a. there was an earthquake

b. the veil of the temple was torn in two

c. the rocks were split

d. all of the above

8. The centurion in Matthew 27:54 said “Truly this was the _____ of God.”

9. Why did Jesus Christ die on the cross? _____

Good Friday

The day Christ died! He suffered on the cross, yet Christians call the day Good Friday. Do you know why? Solve the code below to solve the answer.

6	15	18	7	15	4	19	15				
12	15	22	ed	20	8	5	23	15	18	12	4
20	8	1	20	8	5	7	1	22	5		
8	9	19	15	14	12	25					
2	5	7	15	tt	5	14	19	15	14		

Code: 1=a, 2=b, 3=c, 4=d, 5=e, 6=f, 7=g, 8=h, 9=i, 10=j, 11=k, 12=l, 13=m, 14=n, 15=o, 16=p, 17=q, 18=r, 19=s, 20=t, 21=u, 22=v, 23=w, 24=x, 25=y, 26=z

Can you write the rest of the verse from memory? _____

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Describe how Jesus suffered on the day of His crucifixion.

Do you understand why the day Christ died was a good Friday even though He had to suffer? Explain your answer below.

If you do not understand the good news about Good Friday and you would like someone to explain it to you, talk to your parents or Sunday School teacher.

“For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures.”

—1 Corinthians 15:3

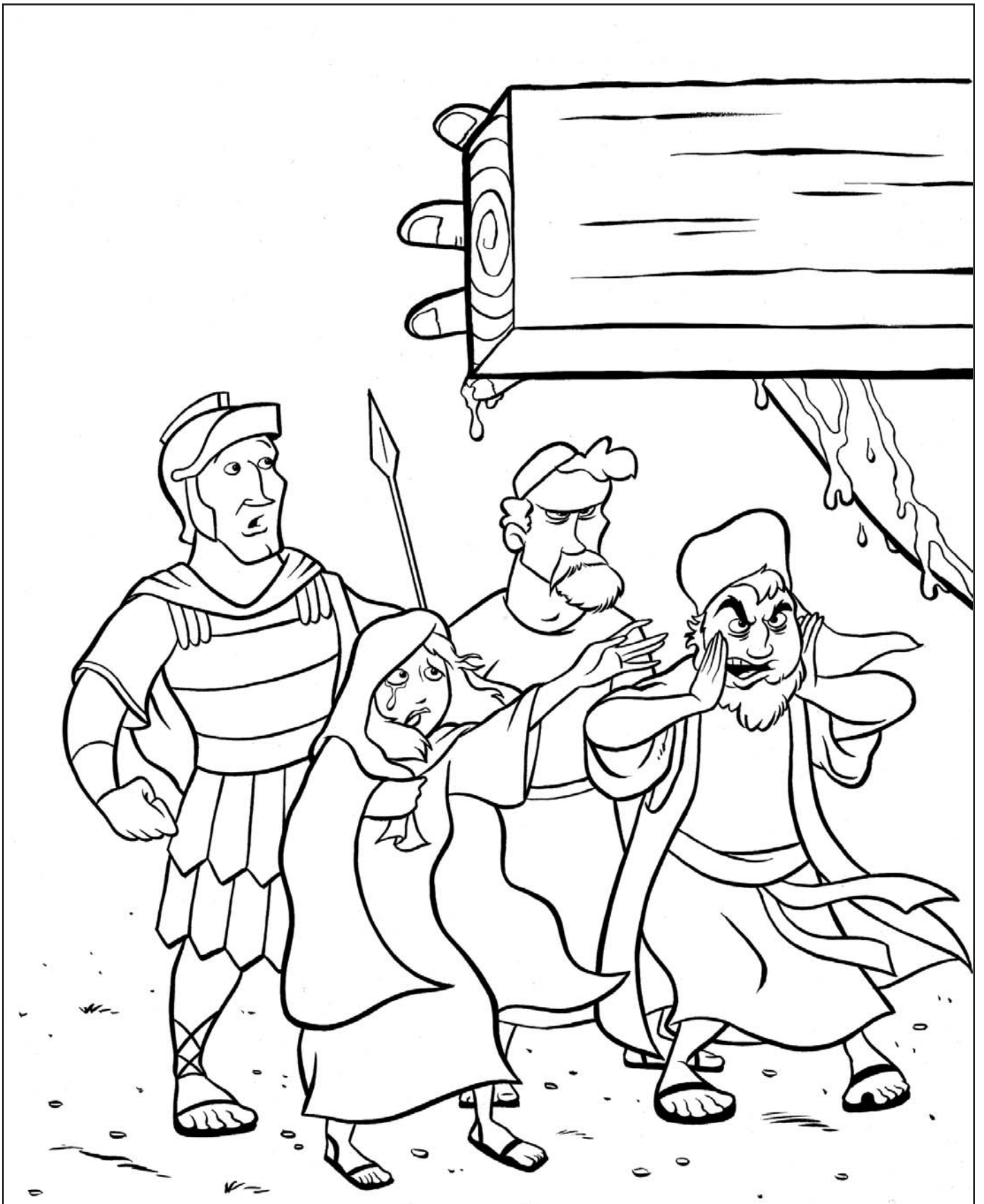
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“Likewise the chief priests also, mocking with the scribes and elders, said, ‘He saved others; Himself He cannot save. If He is the King of Israel, let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe Him.’” —Matthew 27:41–42

