



Jesus is Our Rescuer – Last Supper & Crucifixion

Matthew 26

God Statement: Jesus Is Our Hope

KEY VERSE: “While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”
(Romans 5:8b, NIRV)

CHECK-IN

Classroom Teacher

(until 15 minutes after the start of each service)

As kids check-in, please have them wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before entering your classroom. Then they can participate in the various activities and games in your classroom. 10 minutes after the start of your service time, ask the kids to clean up their activities and toys so you can begin the Explore Activity at 15 minutes after the start of service.

MAKE: Letters to Compassion Child

(To be done during check-in, prior to Explore Activity)

As kids check-in, invite them to write letters to your Compassion Child to go with the Missions focus for this month – Compassion International.

Supplies: blank paper, markers/crayons

Directions: Encourage kids to color/decorate and write a special note for your Compassion child. Kids can write a Bible verse or a fun joke or share about themselves. Give Woodmen Kids staff member finished letters.

EXPLORE ACTIVITY

Classroom Teacher

(15 minutes)

The Explore Activity is a chance to get the kids thinking about the upcoming Bible story for the day. Encourage your kids to engage with the activity as they prepare for the lesson.

DISCUSS: Jesus is Our Hope

In today's lesson, we are going to learn about how Jesus is our Hope.

SAY:

What does it mean to rescue or save someone? *Let kids respond.* Have you ever saved someone? Have you ever been saved? *Let kids respond.* If we need rescuing or saving, it probably means that something bad has happened or that we can't fix the problem on our own. We need help. Today, we're going to learn about how Jesus is our rescuer! Why is Jesus our rescuer? Turn to the person next to you and tell them why you think Jesus is our rescuer.

We know that God is in control, right? And we know that God always has a plan and is a promise keeper, right? Well, Jesus rescuing us has always been a part of God's plan. Raise your hand if you have ever made a mistake, disobeyed, or sinned. Everyone has! None of us are perfect, except Jesus! Which is why Jesus made a way for us to have a relationship with Him even though we sin. Does anyone remember our verse we've been learning? Romans 5:8 – let's say it together: ***But here is how God has shown His love for us. While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.***

Jesus really is our rescuer, and we're going to learn more about this in large group, but for now, let's play a game!

PLAY:

To get the kids thinking about the lesson, they can do this activity!

Find the Last Supper!

Supplies: bread/cup cut out, last supper cutout

Say: *Today we are learning about the Last Supper and what happened to Jesus! Let's see if we can find the last supper and the bread and cup!*

Directions: Have children take turns hiding the last supper and the cup with bread. Choose 2 children to close their eyes in the front of the room. Have one or two children hide the items. Then have the other children play "hot and cold" giving the children hints as they try to find each item. Play for a few rounds before beginning the lesson.

LARGE GROUP

(25 minutes)

Each week, Large Group will consist of an introduction, worship, the Bible lesson, worship response, and the blessing.

BIBLE CHALLENGE

Host

Use this time to get kids engaged in large group and introduce/review the current Bible Challenge.

Spiritual Discipline – Fasting

Share with the kids about our current Bible Challenge:

Throughout the Old and New Testament, the Bible teaches that there are times we should give up something important to focus our hearts on prayer and listening to God. Although for children, this may not look like fasting from food, the idea of giving up something important to us in order to devote that time to God is important to our spiritual walk. Encourage kids to talk to their families and think of things they can “give up” to focus on God more – i.e. video games, watching tv, etc.

As the kids take on the challenge, encourage them to share with their class in small group time how their family is learning about and engaging with the idea of fasting.

******After Bible Challenge, transition the power point to the “Worship” slide.******

WORSHIP & CHLOE’S RULES

Worship Leader & Host

WORSHIP

While the video is playing the opening worship songs, encourage the kids to sing and dance along. Don’t forget to set the example by participating alongside them!

Feel free to modify your worship time for what works best for your age group. You can find different ways to encourage the kids to participate by giving them instruments or showing them simple hand motions. You can also limit how many songs you choose to play, if it seems like the kids are not able to stay focused the entire time.

CHLOE’S RULES

Once everyone has found their seat, play Chloe’s Rules in the PowerPoint provided. If needed, reinforce the rules after the video plays.

****** After Worship & Chloe’s Rules, transition the PowerPoint to the Mail Time & Wardrobe of Wonder slides.******

MAIL TIME & WARDROBE OF WONDER

Host

MAIL TIME!

Find the Mail Time envelope in your curriculum supplies.

Pick one child to hide the envelope and another child to find it. Give the first child about 30 seconds to hide the envelope while the other child closes his/her eyes. After the envelope is hidden, the second child can search for the envelope while the class says “hot” or “cold” to give them clues if they’re getting closer or further away.

Have the two kids stand in front of the class and hold the verse page (inside the envelope) so everyone can see it.

Use the Key Verse Motions Video on Plex (or sent in weekly email) to learn the motions prior to Large Group.

**“While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”
(Romans 5:8b, NIRV)**

WARDROBE OF WONDER

The Wardrobe of Wonder is an opportunity to get the younger kids engaged in the lesson by playing a guessing game to determine what the “What’s It” is inside the wardrobe each week.

Choose one child to “spy” on the What’s It by peeking inside the wardrobe. Remind the other children to look away and to not peek. Have the peeker whisper the identity of the What’s It in the host’s ear to ensure he/she saw it correctly.

What’s It: Bread & Cup

Now, invite the class to raise their hand and guess the identity of the What’s It by asking yes-or-no questions about it. Allow the child who peeked to help answer the questions. Once the children have guessed correctly, retrieve the What’s It from the wardrobe and allow the class to look at it/pass it around. Thank the volunteer and allow them to sit back down.

ASK:

Wow, someone must be getting ready for a fancy meal. Look at what we have in our Wardrobe today! It’s a loaf of **bread and a cup!** I wonder what kind of meal someone would need these items for. What do you think? I bet it has to do with that dinner we said we’re going to learn about. What was it called? Oh, that’s right, the Last Supper! Jesus prepared a very special meal to have with all his followers, or disciples. Let’s find out more. Do you know what time it is? It’s time for us to dive into God’s Word together!

**** After the Mail Time & Wardrobe of Wonder, Younger Kids classes transition to the Bible Story video where the kids will hear about the lesson for the day.****

BIBLE STORY**Lesson Video**

Remind the group before starting the video to follow the expectations for Large Group.

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: Jesus is Our Rescuer – Last Supper & Crucifixion

Encourage kids to listen and engage with the lesson as they watch the teaching video.

****After the video finishes, turn on soft worship music (with or without lyrics) to transition into Worship Response. This should be background music to help set the tone for a quiet reflection time with God.****

WORSHIP RESPONSE**Host**

Worship Response is an opportunity for the kids to apply what they just learned and to respond to what God is doing in their life. *Have the kids sit in a place where they can be still and reflect independently.* Then read through the Worship Response prompts below as you lead the kids through this time.

Supplies: black stones, clear stones, baskets for each stones, Cross worship response station
Prepare Ahead: place black stones in one basket and clear stones in the other. Set them near the cross station.

****optional – take wooden cross out of stand and lay flat on the ground, allowing kids to physically place their sin stones on the cross****

Wow, Jesus died for US! He took on all our sins and forgave us. What are some sins, or bad things/mistakes, that kids do? **Let kids answer.**

Yes, that's some tough stuff. But God forgives us as soon as we tell Him because He loves us that much! He loves us so much that Jesus died for us and for all the sins we have ever done or ever will do. How does that make you feel?

Let's sit quietly for a moment. Do you have something you want to tell God about? Is there something wrong you have done? Were you mean to someone? Did you lie about something? Are you angry with someone? What else?

Have a moment of quiet in the room.

See this cross? **Stand by the cross station.** It reminds us of Jesus and how He died for us on the cross and forgave all our sins.

We're going to take a moment to help us better understand just what Jesus has done for us.

- As the music plays, you can come up and take one of these black stones, which represents your sin. Hold the stone and look at it. Pray and confess whatever is on your heart to God.
- Look at the cross and thank Jesus for the forgiveness that he gave us.
- Then, place the black stone on the cross/at the foot of the cross. As you do that, think about Jesus taking all of our sins because He loves YOU.
- Then, when you're ready, take a clear stone with you, to show that you have been made clean and forgiven of your sins.

Jesus rescued you and me because He loves us! Praise Jesus!

As kids respond, turn on soft worship music. Then, gather everyone back together to close the time in prayer, thanking God for sending His Son.

******After Worship Response, transition the power point to the Compassion & Offering slides.******

COMPASSION & OFFERING

Host

Before closing large group, take a moment to highlight and discuss each campus' Compassion sponsor child. Explain a little about the Compassion child's life and the impact their offering has for this child (info should be provided on cards in classroom). Then remind kids that if anyone brought offering, now is the time to come forward to donate.

Ask a child to come up and pray for the offering and their Compassion child.

******After Compassion & Offering, transition the power point to the "Announcement" slide. The host will discuss any current announcements.******

ANNOUNCEMENTS & SPECIAL MISSIONS FOCUS – Compassion Give a Bible

Host

Take this opportunity to cover any announcements and special missions focus for the kids, such as upcoming events or reminders, like bringing food donations for Feeding Families. Use the slides provided in the Power Point to display important announcements.

Say: We spend time every week talking about our Compassion child that we sponsor! He/she is so important to us because they are a child of God, just like you and me, and we get to be a part of helping them feel loved by God! We have a special missions focus we want to challenge each of you to engage with. We're going to work together to raise money to give 50 Bibles to kids in need! Let's check out this video about Compassion to learn about what it means to give a Bible to our friends across the world.

Play Compassion video in PowerPoint.

Say: Each Bible through Compassion International is just \$10. That means to get to 50 Bibles, we need to raise \$500 dollars over the next 4 weeks at all of our campuses. Do you think we can do it? How can you earn/raise money to donate? ***Are there things you can give up, like we've been talking about with our fasting challenge, to raise money to help give a Bible? Maybe that new toy you really wanted?***

Let's pray for our Compassion child and for every child that could receive a Bible because of your donations!

******After Announcements, transition the power point to the "Blessing" slide. The host will lead the class in receiving the blessing for the day.******

BLESSING

Host

Read the verse and blessing over the kids before closing Large Group. Encourage the kids to stand and open their hands to receive the blessing as a truth that they can take with them this week and hide in their hearts.

Friends, may you always remember that God loves you, Jesus died for you and has forgiven ALL your sins. You can always come to Him.

SMALL GROUP

Classroom Teachers

(10 minutes)

The Small Group discussion is a chance for the kids to discuss what they've just learned and to challenge them to think deeper.

Younger Kids:

This time is optional for younger kids, depending on if you feel like the kids are still listening and participating well.

1. **Briefly retell the Bible story (Mathew 26)**
2. **Who handed over Jesus to be arrested? (Judas).**
3. **Sometimes objects can be used to represent something else. What does the wine and bread represent? (Christ's body and blood that He shed for our sins).**

4. **Jesus knew that He was going to die soon. What did He pray for?** (He prayed that He would not have to go through this suffering but says God's will be done). **This means that He trusted God's plan, even if He was afraid.**
5. **Jesus died for us. For me, for you, for our family and friends. He died for all of us. How does this make you feel?**
6. **Jesus trusted God's plan, even when things were scary. Have you ever had to trust God with something scary before? Something you were afraid to do?**

Close small group in prayer.

RESPOND ACTIVITY

Classroom Teacher

(10 minutes)

DISCUSS:

If you have extra time at the end of your lesson and small group time, the kids can participate in this activity.

MAKE – Hearts On A Cross

Supplies: 1 cross per child, paper hearts, glue, markers

Directions: Pass out one cardstock cross per child and 3-4 paper hearts. Have children write sins/items that they can give to Christ (fighting with friends, not listening to their parents, talking back, lying, etc. Let children share their thoughts) on the hearts. Talk about how Jesus died for our sins. He went to the cross to take all of our sins and will always be there for us. As you discuss this, have the children glue the hearts on the cross.

Say: *It is beautiful and humbling to think about how Christ died on the cross for you and me! We know that we can give God our hearts and that Jesus died for our sins. We are going to write down sins/things we can give to God. Let's write things on these paper hearts and give them to God by placing them on the cross.*

CHECK-OUT

Classroom Teacher

(end of service)

As parents arrive for check-out, the kids can continue participating in the Respond Activities or the classroom games and toys.

**Print the template on heavy card stock.
Then, use the template to cut out your cross.**

