



Jesus is Crucified – Jesus Saves

Matthew 26

God Statement: Jesus Saves

KEY VERSE: "He has saved us from the kingdom of darkness. He has brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves. Because of what the Son has done, we have been set free. Because of him, all our sins have been forgiven." (Colossians 1:13-14, 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.

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 Saves!

In today's lesson, we are going to learn about how Jesus Saves!

SAY: Do you remember what "saves" means? **Let kids respond.** That's right! We learned last week, that saved means to rescue or protect. To keep safe!

Do you remember who saved each one of us? **Let kids respond – Jesus/God!** That's right! God sent His son to rescue us/to save us! Do you remember why God sent His son to rescue us? What was He sent to rescue us from? **Let kids respond** That's right. God sent Jesus to die for our sins. To rescue us from our sin. Jesus came to die on the cross for you and for me, for all of us!

MAKE: Crown of Thorns

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

Supplies: Brown circle plate rim, brown pipe cleaners

Directions: Pass out one brown paper plate circle rim per child. Help the children take pipe cleaners and twist them around the holes in the crowns to make thorns.

They will take these crowns to large group with them to place in front of the cross.



SAY: God sent Jesus to die for our sins. To rescue us from our sin. Jesus came to die on the cross for you and for me, for all of us! This was a very powerful and sad time. God gave a great gift for each of us by sending Jesus to die for our sins, but it was sad because Jesus went through a lot of pain and had to die. Today we will make a special crown of thorns. This will be a reminder to us of God sending His son Jesus. Jesus had to wear a crown of thorns.

LARGE GROUP

(25 minutes)

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

WORSHIP & LARGE GROUP 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.

TODAY'S WORSHIP SONGS:

- ☐ Your Love is Deep
- ☐ Christ is Enough

LARGE GROUP RULES

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

**** After Worship & Large Group 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.****

“He has saved us from the kingdom of darkness. He has brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves. Because of what the Son has done, we have been set free. Because of him, all our sins have been forgiven.” (Colossians 1:13-14, 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: A Crown of Thorns

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. Accept around three questions and then three guesses. You can allow the kids to whisper their guess to their neighbor to allow for more sharing before you reveal the item. 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.

SAY: What do you guys see? It’s a crown of thorns. Do you know who wore a crown of thorns? **Let kids respond.** That’s right Jesus did. They put a crown of thorns on his head to mock Him. Because Jesus is the king of all kings. Do you know what day is today? **Let kids respond.** It’s Good Friday. 3 days before Easter. Something so sad but so powerful happened on Good Friday. So, let’s dive in today to learn more about why there is a Good Friday and what’s so Good about it.

***** 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 Crucified – Jesus Saves

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 the time.

DO: Jesus Saves Cross Card

Supplies: Incorporate Crown of Thorns from the craft into Worship Response, cross card

SAY: Jesus remained obedient and dedicated to serving God even though he faced unfair treatment. He came to save us and that is exactly what he did on the cross. Jesus' whole life was about loving us and coming to save us. Today we are going to think about how God fulfilled His promise. Jesus went to the cross to die for you and me. Let's think about His great sacrifice for us as we move toward the cross.

DIRECTIONS: The kids will think about what Jesus did for them on the cross and why He did it. Then they will pick up their crown and go sit at the cross and thank God for Jesus sacrifice to give them life.

SAY: Let's take a moment and thank God for sending Jesus to earth to save us. **(Pass out Jesus Saves crosses)** Let these Jesus Save crosses remind you of Jesus and His great love for you.

Close time in prayer.

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

OFFERING**Host**

Before closing large group, take a moment to explain that every week, we provide an opportunity for our Woodmen Kids to participate in tithing. We believe God is our provider, and it is our privilege to give back to God what He has so graciously given us. Then, remind kids that if anyone brought an offering, now is the time to come forward to donate.

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

******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.

May you know that Jesus died to save you from your sins. May you know that Jesus saves, and He is the Savior.

SMALL GROUP

Classroom Teachers

(10 minutes)

Younger Kids:

If you feel like the kids are still listening and participating well, jump into the questions below. If kids need a break first, that's ok! Have them do some jumps or dances to get out some energy before doing the questions.

1. **What did you learn about God from our story today?** (Jesus Saves.)
2. **Read/ Recap today's story: Matthew 26:62-68**
 - ☐ **Why did they want to crucify Jesus?** (Because He is the Messiah, the son of God.)
 - ☐ **What did they hang Jesus on?** (A cross.)
 - ☐ **What did they put on Jesus' head?** (A crown of thorns.)
3. **Good Friday is a very important day. It's a day we remember Jesus making the ultimate sacrifice and dying on the cross for our sins. This day is super heavy but also super important. Take a couple of minutes to sit in silence and reflect what this means to you. After, share with the group how Jesus has changed your life. As you go throughout the week pray that God opens the door to share with one person how Jesus has changed your life. Spend a couple of minutes discussing as a group. Be vulnerable with your students and share how God is at work in your life.**

Close small group in prayer. *Take a few minutes to share prayer requests as a group. This is a great time to write requests down on the prayer tags for leaders to take home!*

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.

PLAY: Easter Trivia

Supplies: Easter Trivia page

Directions: Have children get into 2 groups. Make sure each group has an adult or Leader In Training helper. Have the leader of each group ask the questions on the trivia page one by one. As kids guess, discuss the answer. Then move on to the next question. Questions 1-9 will be easier as they go over the Good Friday story. If time allows ask questions 10-12 and talk about the joy we remember that comes on Easter Sunday!

SAY: Today we learned about how Jesus died for our sins. He died on the cross and was placed in a tomb. We are going to play a trivia game to see what you know and what you remember about what we learned about this special lesson.

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.