

SHARE THE BIBLE LESSON

EASTER WEEK 2

The Son of Man is crucified

Luke 22:47-53; 23:26-49



DAY 1

Jesus was a righteous sufferer in His arrest and trial, Part 1 •
Luke 22:47-22:65

READ

Luke 22:47-22:65

EXPLAIN

The truth of Luke 22:47-22:65

Jesus is so righteous that He should make you feel ashamed. But His righteousness is also your great hope. This week we will see six proofs that Jesus died as the righteous One in the place of unrighteous people like you. He stayed righteous when no one else did. First, Jesus was peaceful when everyone else was violent. Judas acted peaceful, but he was a traitor (Luke 22:47-48). The crowd, which included representatives from chief priests and scribes, as well as Roman soldiers (22:47; John 18:3), was cowardly (Luke 22:53), violent, and unjust (22:52). Even the disciples responded violently because they had failed to pray (22:49-50). In stark contrast, Jesus was peaceful even when violently arrested. He even healed His enemy (22:51). Second, Jesus was faithful when Peter was faithless. Peter had boasted of his loyalty (22:33), but he was self-confident and prayerless (22:45). Yet Jesus prayed for prayerless Peter (22:32) and stayed faithful to faithless Peter (22:61). He looked at Peter, and that look said it all. Jesus put aside His own impending doom and lovingly led Peter to repent. In His perfect faithfulness, Jesus was wholly good.

ASK

1. How did Judas plan to betray Jesus?
With a kiss (Luke 22:47).
2. How did Jesus respond when He was violently arrested?
Peacefully. He even healed the ear of one of His enemies.
3. What did Peter do when asked about Jesus?
He denied Jesus. He was not faithful.
4. How did Jesus respond when Peter denied Him?
He was faithful. He looked at Peter, showing that He cared for Peter even at this difficult time.

DISCUSS

1. Describe ways you have acted violently toward others. Describe ways you have not been faithful to God or to others. Thank God that Jesus' righteousness can count for you.
2. Do you still care for others when you're tired, busy, and hurting? Or do you only care for others when it's convenient for you?

DAY 2

Jesus was a righteous sufferer in His arrest and trial, Part 2 •
Luke 22:66–23:25

READ

Luke 22:66–23:25

EXPLAIN

The truth of Luke 22:66–23:25

The third proof that Jesus was righteous is that He was truthful when falsely condemned. Jesus was tried before the Sanhedrin, Israel's highest court (Luke 22:66). But this trial violated God's law because the witnesses did not agree (Mark 14:56; cf. Deut 19:15). It also broke Jewish law, because the accused person was to be given a legitimate defense (Luke 22:67–68), and his own testimony could not be counted against him (22:71). Even one found guilty of a capital crime was not to be struck (26:67), and the Sanhedrin was supposed to wait until the third day before sentencing him (Luke 23:1). The trial was false from beginning to end, yet Jesus spoke only the truth (22:69–70; cf. Dan 7:13–14). Also, while two witnesses could not confirm an accusation, two witnesses did confirm Jesus' innocence. Neither Pilate nor Herod cared much for Jesus (Luke 13:31; 23:11, 16), but they both repeatedly said Jesus was innocent (23:4, 14, 15, 22). In response, Jesus' accusers drowned out the truth with lies (23:2) and shouting (23:23). So Pilate gave in and condemned the righteous Jesus in the place of murderous Barabbas (23:24–25).

ASK

1. Was Jesus' trial legal?
No. It broke God's law and Jewish law.
2. What did the Sanhedrin accuse Jesus of before Pilate?
They accused Jesus of misleading the Jews, forbidding taxes to be paid to Caesar, and rebelling against Rome's rule (Luke 23:1–2).
3. Who confirmed that Jesus was innocent?
Two witnesses: Pilate and Herod.

DISCUSS

1. What strategies do wicked people use to condemn righteous people? If this happens to you, how should you respond? [Hint: sometimes Jesus was silent, sometimes He pointed out his enemies' injustice (Luke 22:67), and sometimes He spoke the truth clearly (22:69).]
2. In what way are Christians like Barabbas? How does this keep you from pride? How does it encourage you to be thankful? Is your salvation based on your ability to be as good as Jesus?

DAY 3

Jesus was a righteous substitute on the cross, Part 1 •
Luke 23:26–38

READ

Luke 23:26–38

EXPLAIN

The truth of Luke 23:26–38

Today we see the fourth and fifth proofs of Jesus' righteousness. The fourth is that He was compassionate when humanly weak. He was too weak to carry His cross (Luke 23:26), but even in this He never sinned (Heb 4:15). In fact, as He struggled towards His crucifixion, He was thinking of others (Luke 23:28). He knew that Israel was about to be punished for rejecting their Messiah (23:29–31; Isa 8:14–15). Judgment came

about 40 years later when Judea rebelled against Rome, suffered a bitter war, and was brutally crushed in AD 70. Fifth, Jesus was merciful when mercilessly mocked. They mocked Him like a criminal even though He was innocent (Luke 23:32, 35; Isa 53:9). Instead of retaliating, Jesus trusted God (1 Pet 2:23) and prayed that they would be forgiven, since they did not know how great their crime was (Luke 23:34). Their ignorance was no excuse, but it aroused Jesus' compassion. He prayed for them (Isa 53:12), and His prayer resulted in the salvation of many who were there that day (Acts 2:41; 4:4; 6:7) as well as all Israel in the future (Zech 12:10).

DAY 3 CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

ASK 

1. Why couldn't Jesus carry His cross?
Because He was too weak.
2. Who did Jesus care about when He was so weak?
He had compassion for the people of Israel.
3. What did the people do when Jesus was dying on the cross?
They made fun of Him.
4. Did Jesus talk back to them?
No. He prayed that they would be forgiven.

DISCUSS 

1. When you are weak, how do you treat others? It's easy to make excuses for our bad behavior when we are "tired" or "having a bad day." But how did Jesus respond?
2. How do you respond when people make fun of you? How did Jesus love His enemies when they mocked Him (Matt 5:44)? Despite your failure, how does Jesus' love give you hope?

DAY 4

Jesus was a righteous substitute on the cross, Part 2 • Luke 23:39–43

READ 

Luke 23:39–43

EXPLAIN **The truth of Luke 23:39–43**

What does it mean to become a Christian? It takes conversion, and one of the criminals shows us what that looks like. At first, this criminal joined in mocking Jesus (Matt 27:44; Mark 15:32). But then he changed, showing how you also can turn from being a sinner into a saint. First, fear God, because you are justly condemned for your sin (Luke 23:40). Second, confess your sin and guilt; do not hide it (23:41a). Third, believe that Jesus was sinless, qualified to die in your place (23:41b). Fourth, submit to Jesus as King; let Him be the boss of your life (23:42). Fifth, trust Jesus to save you; believe that He has the power to bring you into heaven (23:42). Be like the criminal, who believed even when Jesus did not at all seem capable of saving anyone! Sixth, stop trying to earn your salvation, for the criminal did nothing to make himself better—no good deeds, no baptism, no church attendance, no penance. Instead, accept Christ's promise to save you by faith alone (23:43; Rom 4:16). Do you want to join Jesus in Paradise? Then be like the criminal.

ASK 

1. What did the criminal say to the other criminal?
They were sinners who deserved to be punished, but Jesus was not.
2. What did the criminal ask Jesus?
To remember him when Jesus entered His kingdom.
3. What did Jesus say to the repentant criminal?
"Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise" (Luke 23:43).
4. Why is the criminal's faith so amazing?
He trusted Jesus even when Jesus didn't seem like He could save anyone.

DISCUSS 

1. If you died today, would you go to heaven? If you say yes, why do you think you are going to heaven? Was the criminal going to heaven because of any good thing he had done?
2. Six aspects of conversion are described above. Which parts do you or people you know have the hardest time accepting?

DAY 5

Jesus was a righteous substitute on the cross, Part 3 •
Luke 23:44–49

READ

Luke 23:44–49

EXPLAIN

The truth of Luke 23:44–49

As Jesus died, we see the sixth proof that Jesus was righteous: He was innocent while dying an unjust death. The criminal and the Roman centurion were two witnesses to this (Luke 23:47). Also, two signs proved it. First, the darkness (23:44) pictured God's wrath (Joel 2:2; Amos 5:20). God was judging Jesus as a **substitute**, *one who takes the place of another*. Jesus bore the sins of others (1 Pet 2:24). He suffered punishment (Isa 53:5) and became a curse in their place (Gal 3:13). Second, the torn curtain (Luke 23:45) showed that Jesus provided **atonement**. Because He was a sinless sacrifice, He satisfied God's wrath, *making peace between God and man*. Previously, only the high priest could go past the curtain into the Holy of Holies (Lev 16), but now anyone can come into God's presence if they come through Christ (Heb 10:19). Jesus' final words of absolute trust in God show that He was righteous to the very end (Luke 23:46; Ps 31:5). Jesus died, a righteous man in the place of unrighteous people, in order to bring us to God (1 Pet 3:18).

ASK

1. What did the centurion say?
He said Jesus was innocent (righteous).
2. What did the darkness show about Jesus' death?
Jesus was a substitute sacrifice because He suffered God's judgment for the sake of sinners.
3. What did the torn veil show about Jesus' death?
His death was acceptable to God. It satisfied God's wrath and made peace between God and man.
4. Review: List six proofs that Jesus was righteous in His death.
Look back at the devotionals for days 1, 2, 3, and 5.

DISCUSS

1. Jesus' righteousness exposes your guilt, because you have not lived like Him. But how does Jesus' righteous death also remove the burden of your guilt (Gal 3:13; Rom 5:1–10)?
2. While salvation is based only on Jesus' righteousness, how should Jesus' righteousness affect the way you live as a Christian (1 Pet 2:21)?

NEXT WEEK

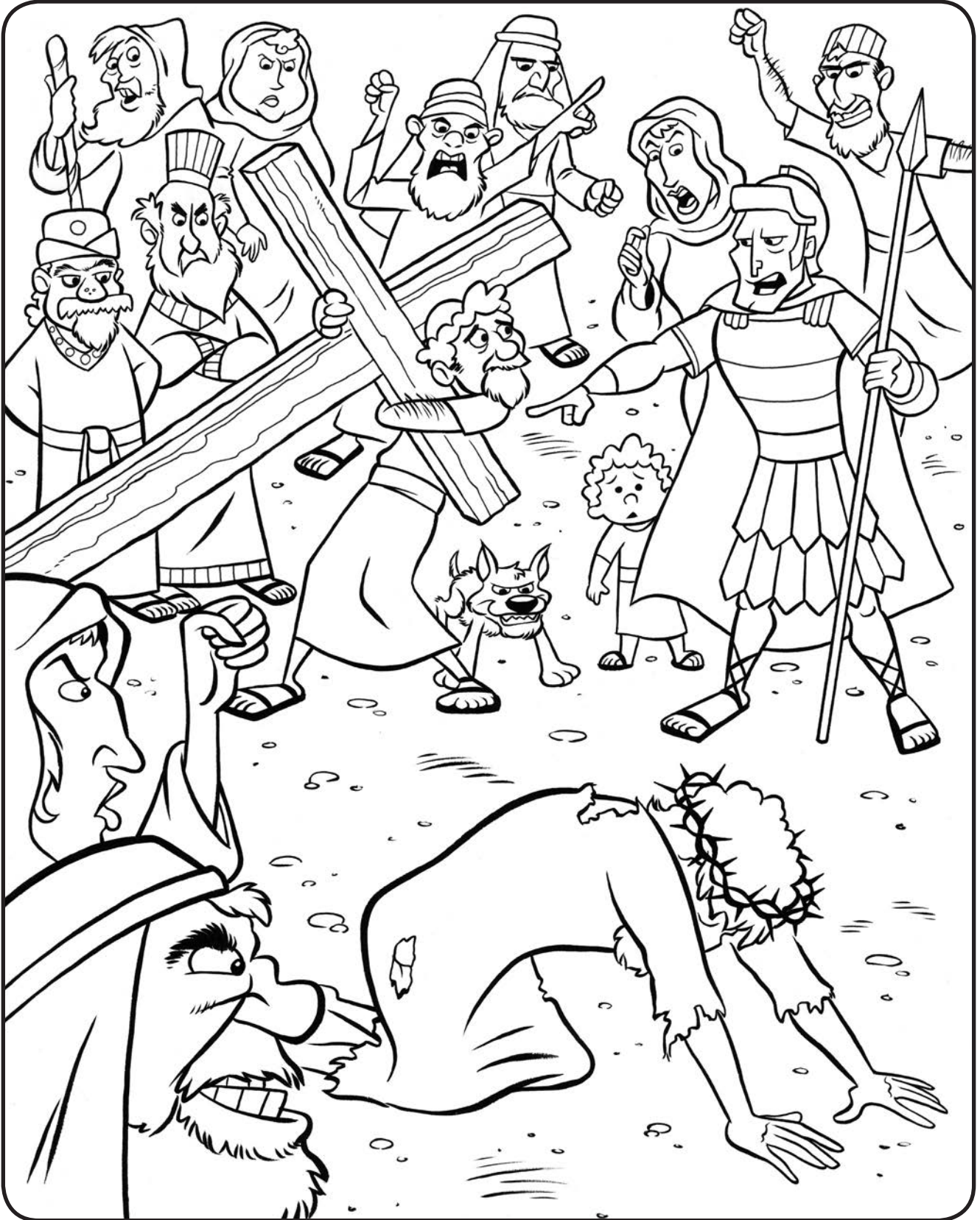
The Son of Man is resurrected

Luke 23:50–24:53





The Son of Man is crucified • Luke 22:47-53; 23:26-49



Jesus died as a righteous man in the place of sinners.



The Son of Man is crucified • Luke 22:47-53; 23:26-49



Jesus forgives sinners who repent and believe.



The Son of Man is crucified • Luke 22:47–53; 23:26–49

Making Crosses

See page 152 of the Teacher Book Year 2, Book 3

“But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone” (Heb 2:9).

“But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone” (Heb 2:9).

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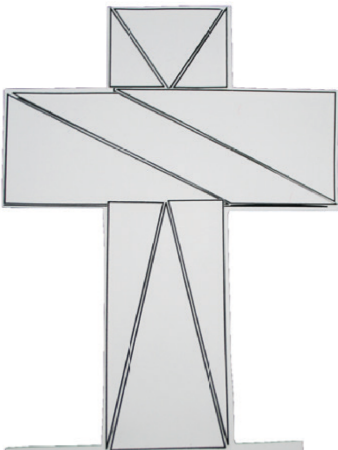
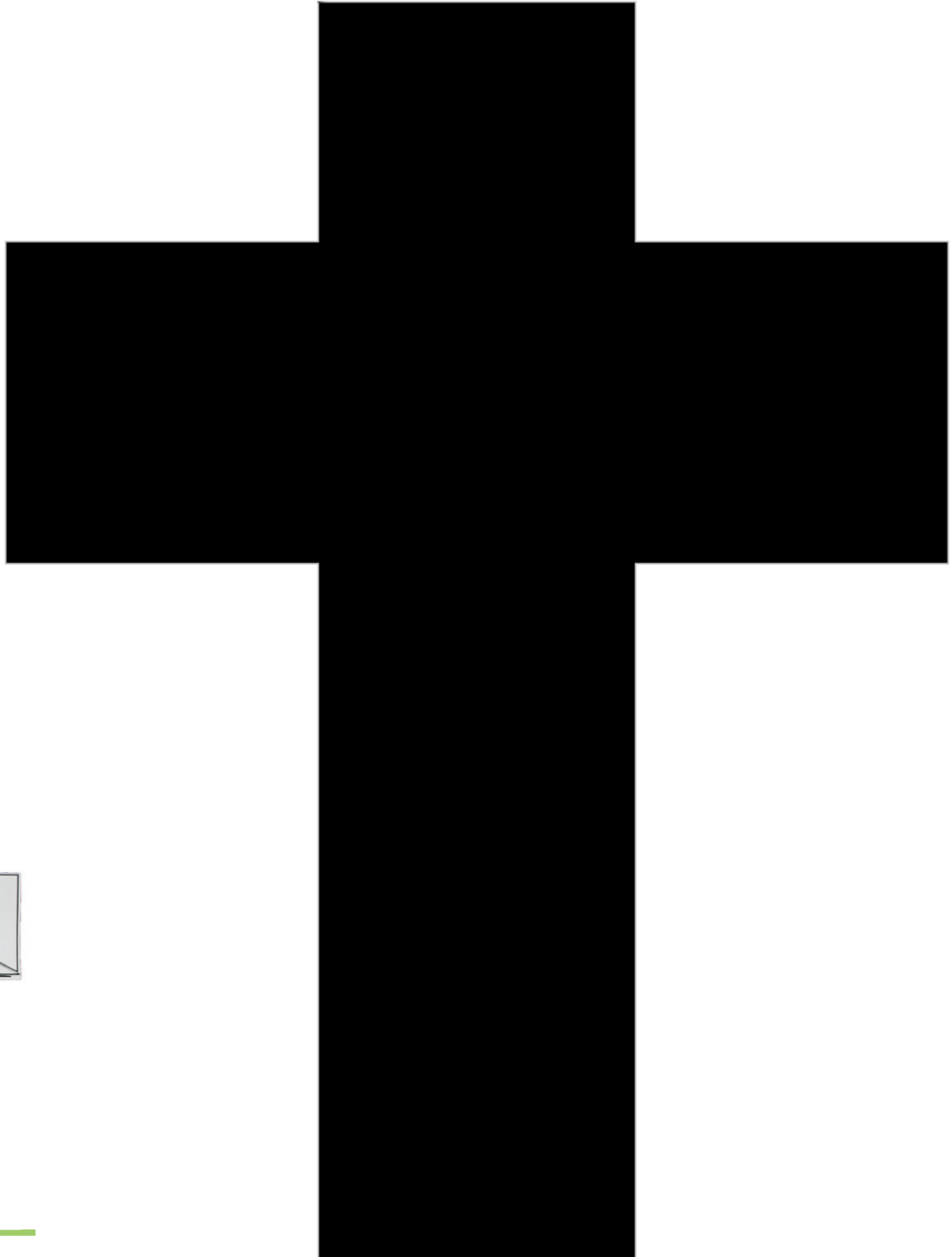




The Son of Man is crucified • Luke 22:47–53; 23:26–49

At the Cross

See page 153 of the Teacher Book Year 2, Book 3



"And Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.' And they cast lots to divide his garments"
(Luke 23:34).

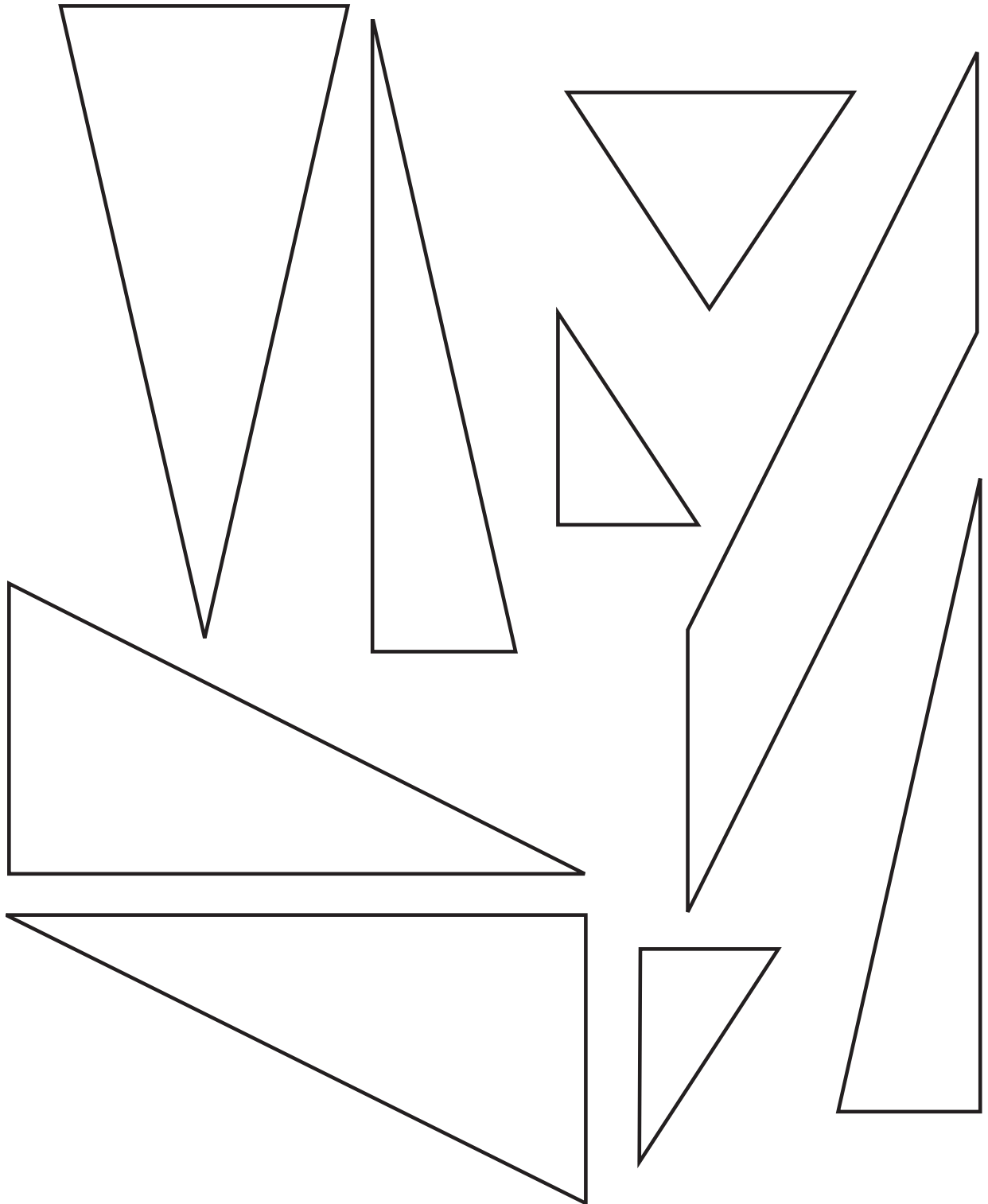
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The Son of Man is crucified • Luke 22:47-53; 23:26-49

At the Cross

See page 153 of the Teacher Book Year 2, Book 3

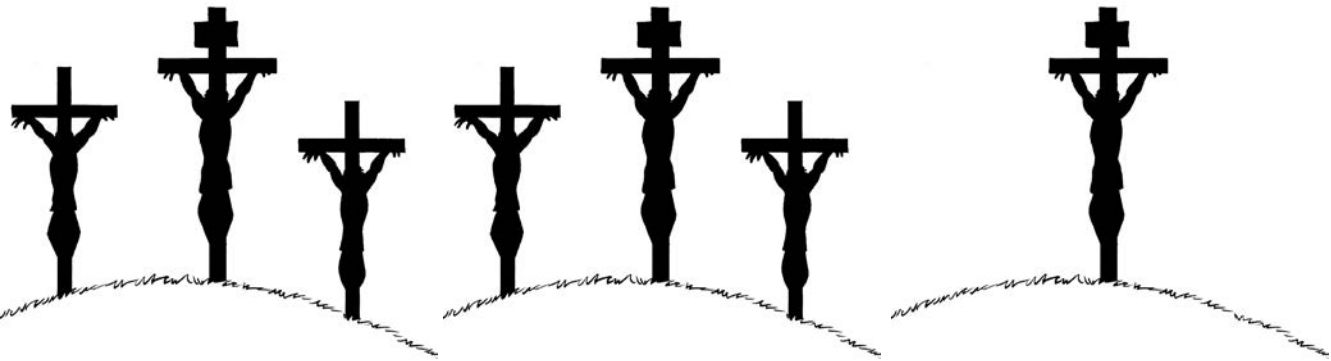




The Son of Man is crucified • Luke 22:47-53; 23:26-49

Which One Is Different?

Compare the pictures in each row. Circle the picture that is different in each row.



God the Father accepted Christ's sinless sacrifice as sufficient to restore peace between God and man. Now any sinner who trusts in the sinless Savior can be clothed with His righteousness and enter God's holy presence.



The Son of Man is crucified • Luke 22:47-53; 23:26-49

What's the Difference?

Find and circle 8 differences between the two pictures.





The Son of Man is crucified • Luke 22:47-53; 23:26-49

Double Puzzle

Unscramble each of the clue words. Then copy the letters in the numbered cells to other cells with the same number at the bottom.

HOGSUTIRE

17	41	32	31	43	13	3			

FUESRF

14	45		8		

RTRAES

1			16		

TIARL

12	35		29	

SETTUBSIUT

20	26	22	15	37	21	7			

SORSC

23	10	38	46	

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44			49	50	40	30	2		36				

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47	28	33	5				

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1	2	Y	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	W	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	J	23	24	25				
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The Son of Man is crucified • Luke 22:47–53; 23:26–49

See What You Know!

NAME _____

Jesus died as a righteous man in the place of sinner.

1. Did Jesus know that Judas would betray Him?

Yes No

2. Why was one criminal saved?

Obeying Jesus Having faith in Jesus Sacrificing for Jesus

3. When Christ died, the veil of the temple was in _____ two.

burned up destroyed split in

4. How did Jesus act when He was arrested and put on trial?

He was peaceful when violently arrested He was faithful when faithlessly denied

He was truthful when falsely condemned All of the above

5. How did Jesus act when He was crucified?

He was merciful when mercilessly mocked He was innocent when unjustly dying

He was compassionate when humanly weak All of the above

6. Define the word **substitute**. _____

7. Define the word **atonement**. _____

8. How do we come to God through Jesus? _____



EASTER LESSON 2

The Son of Man is crucified

LUKE 22:47-53; 23:26-49



Jesus died as a righteous man in the place of sinners.



“Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, saying, ‘Certainly this man was innocent!’” (Luke 23:47).

Supporting Truths

1. Jesus died in the place of sinners.
2. Jesus was a man.
3. Jesus was righteous.
4. Jesus forgives sinners who repent and believe.
5. Jesus’ death allows sinners to come to God.

Objectives

1. State that the darkness was a sign of God’s judgment against sin.
2. Describe how Jesus was too weak to carry His cross.
3. List six ways Jesus was righteousness.
4. Use the criminal’s example to define true conversion.
5. Explain how the torn curtain showed that Christ’s death provides atonement.

STUDY THE BIBLE LESSON

The Son of Man is crucified • Luke 22:47–53; 23:26–49



Lesson Summary

As Jesus neared His death, He remained sinless. An armed mob came to arrest Him, but He responded peacefully. Peter denied Him, but He responded with faithful love. Israel's leaders illegally condemned Him, but He responded with truth. He grew weak, but He continued to have compassion on others. The people mocked Him, but He prayed for them and granted mercy to a criminal. Finally, after the sky darkened, He gave up His life, the temple curtain ripped, and the centurion declared His innocence.

Spotlight on the Gospel

Because Jesus was righteous to the very end, He was able to be the perfect substitute sacrifice. He died as a righteous man in the place of the unrighteous, bearing God's wrath against sin. The Father immediately showed His approval by ripping the temple curtain. He accepted Christ's sinless sacrifice as sufficient to restore peace between God and man. Now any sinner who trusts in the sinless Savior can be clothed with His righteousness and enter God's holy presence.

LAST WEEK



The Son of Man
anticipates His death
Luke 22:7–20, 39–46

THIS WEEK



The Son of Man is
crucified
*Luke 22:47–53;
23:26–49*

NEXT WEEK



The Son of Man is
resurrected
Luke 23:50–24:53

THE SON OF MAN REDEEMS

Lesson Commentary

Jesus died as a righteous man in the place of sinners.

The evening before His death, Jesus taught His disciples that He was the ultimate Passover Lamb. Since the Passover lamb had to be unblemished, Jesus had to be fully righteous. But to die as the Passover Lamb, He also had to be fully human. The final hours of Jesus' life show that both of these were true. Through the beatings and inward grief, Jesus grew weaker and weaker as a man, until He finally died. Yet even in His greatest weakness, He never sinned. In sharp contrast to those around Him, Jesus was perfectly righteous to the very end. And so He died, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring us to God.

Jesus was a righteous sufferer in His arrest and trial (22:47–23:25)

First, Jesus was peaceful in His arrest. No one else was. Judas acted peaceful, but he was a traitor (Luke 22:47–48). The crowd, which included representatives from chief priests and scribes, as well as Roman soldiers (22:47; John 18:3), was cowardly, creeping into the secluded garden under the cover of darkness (Luke 22:53). But they were also violent, armed with swords and clubs; and they were unjust, treating an innocent man like a dangerous criminal (22:52). Even the disciples responded violently because they had failed to pray (22:49–50). In stark contrast, Jesus healed His enemy (22:51). He was peaceful even when violently arrested.

Second, Jesus was faithful when Peter denied Him. Peter had boasted of his loyalty (22:33), but he was self-confident and prayerless (22:45). Peter was a mix of good and bad.

He lovingly and bravely followed Jesus to the high priest's house, but he fearfully followed at a distance (22:54). He denied his Master to save his own skin, but with bitter tears he showed that he still loved the One he denied (22:55–62). Yet Jesus prayed for prayerless Peter (22:32). Then He stayed faithful to

faithless Peter (22:61). With one look, one deep and meaningful look, Jesus put aside His own impending doom and restored Peter through the tears of repentance. Unlike Peter, Jesus was not a mix of good and bad. In His perfect faithfulness, Jesus was wholly good.

Third, Jesus was truthful when falsely condemned. Jesus was tried before the Sanhedrin, Israel's highest court (22:66). But this trial violated God's law because the witnesses did not agree (Mark 14:56; cf. Deut 19:15). It also violated the Jews' own laws for the Sanhedrin. Without an accusation from two agreeing witnesses, the members of the Sanhedrin were not allowed to bring their own accusation (Luke 22:71). Trials were not supposed to be at night, but the Sanhedrin avoided this rule by having a trial at dawn to validate the night trial (Luke 22:66; cf. John 18:13). Trials were not supposed to be on the day of preparation for the Sabbath (Luke 23:54), nor were they to be in private (22:54). Thus the setting of the trial was illegal.

The conduct of the trial was also illegal. The accused person was to be given a legitimate defense (22:67–68), and his own testimony could not be counted against him (22:71). When voting, the least senior member was to vote first, so that the high priest could not pressure other votes by his own (Matt 26:65–66). Even one found guilty was not to be struck (26:67). Then, after finding someone guilty of a capital crime, the Sanhedrin was supposed to wait until the third day before sentencing him (Luke 23:1). Even after sentencing, the one escorting the criminal to his death would repeatedly call for anyone to come forward if they had evidence in the criminal's defense (23:10). The trial was false from beginning to end, yet Jesus spoke only the truth (22:69–70; cf. Dan 7:13–14).

While two witnesses could not confirm an accusation, two witnesses did confirm Jesus' innocence. Even though neither Pilate nor Herod cared much



THINK ABOUT IT

If the chief of the apostles denied Christ three times, who are we to rely upon our own strength?



THINK ABOUT IT

We are like Barabbas, guilty and deserving of death. But the guiltless Man takes our place (1 Pet 3:18).

STUDY THE BIBLE LESSON

The Son of Man is crucified • Luke 22:47–53; 23:26–49



for Jesus (Luke 13:31; 23:11, 16), they both repeatedly said Jesus was innocent (23:4, 14, 15, 22). But His accusers drowned out the truth with lies (23:2) and shouting (23:23). So Pilate caved and condemned the righteous Jesus in the place of murderous Barabbas (23:24–25).

Jesus was a righteous substitute on the cross (23:26–49)

Fourth, Jesus was compassionate when humanly weak. Weakened by His repeated beatings, Jesus was unable to carry His cross (Luke 23:26). Yet even in His very human weakness He never sinned (Heb 4:15). In fact, as He struggled towards His crucifixion, He was thinking of others, not of Himself (Luke 23:28). He knew that Israel was about to be punished for rejecting their Messiah (23:29–31; Isa 8:14–15). Judgment came about 40 years later when Judea rebelled against Rome, suffered a bitter war, and was brutally crushed in AD 70. Even this was but a preview of greater judgment to come (Rev 6:16–17). So Jesus was filled with compassion, and to the very end He loved the nation who rejected Him.

Fifth, Jesus was merciful when mercilessly mocked. They treated Him like a criminal even though He was innocent (Luke 23:32; Isa 53:9). They also mocked Him (23:35). But instead of retaliating, Jesus trusted God (1 Pet 2:23) and prayed that they would be forgiven (Luke 23:34). He knew they were ignorant of just how great a crime they were committing. Their ignorance was no excuse (which is why they still needed to be forgiven), but it did arouse Jesus' compassion. So He interceded for transgressors (Isa 53:12). His prayer resulted in the salvation of many who were there that day (Acts 2:41; 4:4; 6:7), and one day all Israel will repent (Zech 12:10).

In fact, some were saved that very day. One of the criminals shows us what true conversion looks like. He feared God (Luke 23:40), confessed his sin and guilt (23:41a), believed that Jesus was a sinless sacrifice (23:41b), submitted to Jesus as King (23:42), and trusted Jesus to save him (23:42). The criminal's faith is even more amazing since at that moment Jesus did

not at all seem capable of saving anyone! The criminal did nothing to make himself better—no good deeds, no baptism, no church attendance, no penance. But Christ's promise of instant Paradise (23:43) shows that salvation is by Christ alone through faith alone.

Sixth, Jesus was innocent while dying an unjust death. This was confirmed by another man who believed that day, the Roman centurion (Luke 23:47). In addition, two signs confirmed Christ's righteous death. The first sign, darkness (23:44), pictured God's wrath (Joel 2:2; Amos 5:20; Zeph 1:15). God was judging Jesus as a *substitute, one who takes the place of another*. Jesus bore the sins of others (1 Pet 2:24). He suffered punishment (Isa 53:5) and became a curse in their place (Gal 3:13). God made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us (2 Cor 5:21). The second sign, the torn curtain (Luke 23:45), showed that Jesus provided *atonement*. By satisfying God's wrath as a pleasing sacrifice, Jesus was *making peace between God and man*. Previously, only the high priest could go past the curtain into the Holy of Holies, and he could only do that once a year after making sacrifices for atonement (Lev 16). But now anyone can come into God's presence if they come through Christ (Heb 10:19).

Jesus' final words of absolute trust in God show that He was righteous to the very end (Luke 23:46; Ps 31:5). About 35 years earlier angels had announced the birth of one born to bring peace (Luke 2:14). And about 23 years earlier twelve year-old Jesus had embraced His mission to be the great Passover Lamb. And one day earlier Jesus had confirmed that this was His purpose. Now He has done it. He died, a righteous man in the place of unrighteous people, in order to bring us to God (1 Pet 3:18). And how do we come to God? Through repentant faith like the criminal had, trusting in Christ alone to save us.

THINK ABOUT IT

Salvation depends on faith alone so that it may rest on grace alone (Rom 4:16).



THINK ABOUT IT

God made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us (2 Cor 5:21).



Lesson Outline

Jesus died as a righteous man in the place of sinners.



AGES 3–5 LESSON OUTLINE

Trust Jesus' death for your sins because...

1. Jesus was a man (23:26–31).
2. Jesus forgives sinners (23:32–43).
3. Jesus was righteous (23:39–46)



AGES 6–11 LESSON OUTLINE

1. Jesus was a righteous sufferer in His arrest and trial (22:47–23:25).
 - Jesus was peaceful when violently arrested (22:47–54a).
 - Jesus was faithful when faithlessly denied (22:54b–62).
 - Jesus was truthful when falsely condemned (22:63–23:25).
2. Jesus was a righteous substitute on the cross (23:26–49).
 - Jesus was compassionate when humanly weak (23:26–31).
 - Jesus was merciful when mercilessly mocked (23:32–43).
 - Jesus was innocent when unjustly dying (23:39–49).





Lesson Questions

Use these questions to teach or to review this week's lesson.



Ages 3–5 Lesson Questions

- 1. Why couldn't Jesus carry His cross?**
Because He was too weak. He was really a human like us, able to die in our place.
- 2. What did the second criminal do to be saved?**
He admitted he was a sinner and trusted Jesus alone to save him.
- 3. What happened to the curtain in the temple?**
It split down the middle.
- 4. What did the centurion say?**
He said Jesus was innocent (righteous).



Ages 6–11 Lesson Questions

- 1. How did Jesus respond when He was arrested?**
Peacefully. He even healed the ear of one of His enemies.
- 2. How did Jesus respond when Peter denied Him?**
He looked at Peter, showing that He cared for Peter even at this difficult time.
- 3. How did Jesus respond when the Jews, Pilate, and Herod tried Him?**
He spoke only the truth, or He remained silent.
- 4. How did Jesus respond when He was too weak to carry His cross?**
He had compassion for the people of Israel.
- 5. How did Jesus respond when people mocked Him as He suffered on the cross?**
He prayed that they would be forgiven, and He forgave the criminal who believed.
- 6. How did Jesus respond when He was actually dying?**
He trusted the Father to the very end and voluntarily gave up His life.
- 7. What did the darkness show about Jesus' death?**
It shows that Jesus was a substitute sacrifice because He was suffering God's judgment for the sake of sinners.
- 8. What did the torn veil show about Jesus' death?**
The Father was pleased and accepted His death. His death provided atonement, making peace between God and man so that sinners could enjoy friendship with God once again.

Lesson Activities

Choose from the following ideas to introduce, illustrate, and apply this week's lesson.

AGES 3–5



INTRODUCE

WHAT IS A KISS?

Have the children point to their lips. Ask the children 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 wrong. He used a kiss—meant to show love—to show betrayal and hate. He used a kiss in the opposite way it was meant to be used.

SAVING FAITH

Bring a thick rope or chain to class. Ask for a volunteer to stand next to you. Have the class imagine the child is trapped on a cliff far below. Have the child grab the rope or chain and pretend to pull them up to safety. Use this illustration to introduce the concept of faith: the child simply held on, trusting the rope and the teacher (Deut 10:20). Tell the children that we'll learn more about this in today's lesson when we meet



ILLUSTRATE

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 children also could act out these various attitudes with their expressions and postures. Close the lesson by asking the children how they should respond to Jesus.

TAKING HOME A LAMB, PART 2

(Continued from Easter Lesson 1.) Hopefully all of the children 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 children that after Jesus died, He was put into a tomb that was sealed for three days.



APPLY

MAKING CROSSES

See *Year 2 Craft Book, Book 2*.

Materials: Craft sheets, craft sticks, construction paper, scissors, glue, and brown markers or crayons.

Directions: Pre-cut the verse from the craft sheet. Have the children color six craft sticks brown. Use the craft sticks to form three crosses and glue them onto a sheet of construction paper. Glue the verse under the cross that is centered on the page.

Making Crosses
See *Year 2 Craft Book, Book 2*



TEACH THE BIBLE LESSON

The Son of Man is crucified • Luke 22:47–53; 23:26–49



AGES 6–8



INTRODUCE

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 or children 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.

HOW DO YOU RESPOND?

What do you do when people treat you badly? When we respond badly, it is sin. That sin condemns us. Lots of people treated Jesus very badly. If Jesus had sinned, even a little, His sin would have condemned Him too, and He could not have been the sacrifice for our sins. But Jesus never sinned. He responded correctly every time.



ILLUSTRATE

SINLESS SUBSTITUTE

Have you ever had a substitute teacher? Could your three-year old brother be your substitute teacher? What about your twelve-year old sister? No? Why not? Because neither are qualified to be a teacher. A substitute has to fit the qualifications for the job. So it is with Jesus. Only a human can be the substitute for humans. And only a sinless human can be the substitute for humans who failed to be sinless.

THE REALITY OF CRUCIFIXION

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



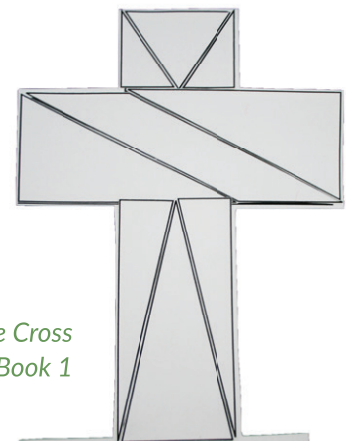
APPLY

AT THE CROSS

See Year 2 Craft Book, Book 2.

Materials: Craft sheets, scissors, and glue.

Directions: Have children cut out the geometric shapes from the craft sheet. When arranged in the right order, the shapes will form a cross. Have the students put the shapes in order and glue the pieces over the black cross.



At the Cross
See Year 1 Craft Book, Book 1

"And Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.' And they cast lots to divide his garments" (Luke 23:34).

AGES 9–11



INTRODUCE

FORGIVENESS

Ask the children if anyone has ever done something to hurt them. Did they react with hate or love? Did they want revenge, or did they seek to forgive? Tell the children that in today's lesson Jesus will show us the perfect way to forgive. When the thief asked Jesus to forgive him, Jesus said that the thief would be in heaven with Him that day. Jesus did not tell the thief that because of his sins and the timing of his repentance, it was too late. He did not tell the thief that he had to do good things before he could enter heaven. Instead, Jesus forgave the thief in that moment, and the forgiveness was total.

TAKING THE BLAME

Ask the children if they ever have done something wrong and had their parents or another authority punish them. Have they ever had someone take the punishment for them, or have they ever taken the punishment for someone else? Explain that Jesus died for sinners. He took the punishment of all who would believe in Him and come to Him in repentant faith. In today's lesson we will learn about the day Jesus took that punishment.



ILLUSTRATE

CRUCIFIXION

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.

SYMBOL OF YOUR FAITH

Talk to the children about the various things that people use to symbolize their faith (WWJD bracelets, cross necklaces, nice Bibles, etc.). Ask the children whether carrying one of these symbols actually means that a person is saved. Many people wear symbols and say they are believers, but what do their actions show about their faith? Ask the children what the one true symbol of salvation is. It is Jesus in our lives! When other people observe our lives, they should see the fruit of our faith (Jas 2:18).



APPLY

RESPONSES, RESPONSES

In today's lesson, we saw various responses people had to Jesus: betrayal, ridicule, awe, fear, anger, indifference, saving faith, etc. Write these various responses on strips of paper and place them in a bag. Ask a few children to draw a strip of paper from the bag and then act out the response. Another option is to give the children various scenarios and have them demonstrate how they would respond. The most important question is how they are responding to Christ—and how they should respond to Him.