



Bible Point ▶

Jesus died and came back to life.

Bible Verse

For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son (adapted from John 3:16).

Growing Closer to Jesus

- Children will
- hear the story of Jesus' crucifixion,
 - learn that Jesus died for our sins,
 - teach Pockets that Jesus willingly died for us, and
 - thank God for sending Jesus to take our punishment.

Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis

■ Jesus' trial and crucifixion.

**Matthew
26:57-75;
27:11-56**



The one charge against Jesus that was true was that he claimed to be “the Messiah, the Son of God” (Matthew 26:63). However, the crime that the High Priest attached to that claim was blasphemy. Blasphemy was any kind of detriment to God's supremacy or authority. It was punishable by death.

We don't know exactly what Pilate's wife dreamed about Jesus or what she knew about him beforehand, but her plea went unanswered. However, it may explain Pilate's hesitance to simply turn Jesus over to the Jews. And it likely was the reason Pilate chose to make a show of washing his hands of Jesus' blood.

Jesus' words in Matthew 27:46 reveal the depths of his suffering—he was crying out not against the pain of the nails in his hands and feet but against the anguish of being separated from his Father, who could not look upon him as he carried the sins of the world—your sins and mine.

The tearing of the curtain in the Temple when Jesus died, which symbolized the opening of the Most Holy Place to all who would believe in Jesus, was not simply an accident that resulted from the earthquake. Through Jesus, all can now go directly into God's presence.










Prayer

- Read John 19:17-27.
- What additional insights about these events does this passage add?
- Pray: God, help my children to understand how this sad day brought us new life. Help me to teach them...

Before the Lesson

- Collect the necessary items for the activities you plan to use. Refer to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies columns to determine what you'll need.
- Make photocopies of the "Today I Learned..." handout at the end of this lesson to send home with your children.
- Pray for the children in your class and for God's direction in teaching the lesson.

This Lesson at a Glance

	What Children Will Do	Classroom Supplies	Learning Lab Supplies
Welcome Time	Welcome! —Receive name tags, and be greeted by the teacher.	"Butterfly Name Tags" (p. 26), markers, tape or safety pins	
Let's Get Started Direct children to one or more of the optional activities until everyone arrives.	Option 1: Temple Curtain —Make a patchwork curtain.	Newsprint, crayons, tape	
	Option 2: Heave Ho! —Try to push a heavy box.	Large box, books or bricks	
	Option 3: Cross Reminder —Make cross necklaces from twigs.	Twigs, chenille wire, yarn	
	Pick Up Our Toys —Sing a song as they pick up toys, and gather for Bible Story Time.	CD player	
Bible Story Time	Setting the Stage —Taste vinegar to see if it would quench their thirst.	Pitcher, vinegar, water, paper cups	
	Bible Song and Prayer Time —Sing a song, bring out the Bible, and pray together.	Bible, construction paper, scissors, CD player, basket or box	 
	Hear and Tell the Bible Story —Hear the story of Jesus' crucifixion from Matthew 26:57-75; 27:11-56.	CD player	 
	Do the Bible Story —Act out the Bible story, and then pray together.	Paper curtain from Option 1, CD player	
Closing 	I Didn't Do It! —Tell Pockets that Jesus died for all our sins.		
	Just for You —Discover that Jesus' death washed away their sins, and then sing about Jesus' love.	Wet wipes, CD player, washable marker or colored chalk	

*See the end of this lesson for extra-time ideas and supplies.

Welcome Time

Welcome!

SUPPLIES: "Butterfly Name Tags" handout (p. 26), markers, tape or safety pins

- Bend down and make eye contact with children as they arrive.
- Greet each child individually with an enthusiastic smile.
- Thank each child for coming to class today.
- As children arrive, ask them about last week's "Today I Learned..." activities. Use questions such as "How did your family remember Jesus?" and "What things remind you of Jesus?"
- Say: **Today we're going to learn that ► Jesus died and came back to life.**
- Hand out the butterfly name tags children made in Lesson 1, and help children attach the name tags to their clothing. If some of the name tags were damaged or if some of the children weren't in class that week, have them make new name tags using the photocopiable patterns.
- Direct children to the Let's Get Started activities you've set up.

BIBLE POINT



teacher tips

It's important to say the Bible Point just as it's written in each activity. Repeating the Bible Point over and over throughout the lesson will help kids remember it and apply it to their lives.

Let's Get Started

Set up one or more of the following activities for children to do as they arrive. After you greet each child, invite him or her to choose an activity.

Circulate among the children to offer help as needed and direct children's conversation toward today's lesson. Ask questions such as "Have you ever been blamed for something you didn't do?" or "How do you show your love for someone?"

Option 1: Temple Curtain

SUPPLIES: newsprint, crayons, tape

Set out crayons, tape, and newsprint. Let children decorate sheets of newsprint, and then tape them together to form a large curtain. Children may help you hang the curtain in a doorway. As children work, explain that in the Temple a curtain covered the place where the priests went to be near God. Tell children that because ► Jesus died and came back to life, we can all be close to God.

BIBLE POINT



Option 2: Heave Ho!

SUPPLIES: large box, books or bricks

Before children arrive, fill a large box with heavy books or bricks. With adult supervision, have children take turns pushing the box across the room. Explain that when Jesus died, he carried all the heavy sins of the world. Allow children to take a few books out of the box and then try pushing it. Tell them that since ► Jesus died and came back to life, we can be forgiven of our sins and don't have to carry them anymore.

BIBLE POINT





■ Option 3: Cross Reminder

SUPPLIES: twigs, chenille wire, yarn

Lead children outside, and let them each collect two twigs, 4 to 6 inches long. If inclement weather keeps you from going outside, provide craft sticks.

Set out chenille wire, and let partners make crosses from the twigs. Have one partner hold the twigs like a cross, as the other partner wraps chenille wire around the center in crisscross fashion. Children may slip a length of yarn through the chenille wire to make a necklace. As children work, talk about how the cross is a reminder that ► Jesus died and came back to life.

When everyone has arrived and you're ready to move on to the Bible Story Time, encourage the children to finish what they're doing and get ready to clean up.

■ Pick Up Our Toys

SUPPLIES: CD player



Lead children in singing "Pick Up Our Toys" (track 2) with the CD to the tune of "Skip to My Lou." Encourage the children to sing along as they help clean up the room.

If you want to include the names of all the children in your class, sing the song without the CD and repeat the naming section. If you choose to use the CD, vary the names you use each week.



SING

**We will pick up our toys.
We will pick up our toys.
We will pick up our toys
And put them all away.**

**There's [name] picking up toys.
There's [name] picking up toys.
There's [name] picking up toys,
Putting them all away.**

(Repeat.)

Bible Story Time

■ Setting the Stage

SUPPLIES: pitcher, vinegar, water, paper cups

Tell the children you'll clap your hands to get their attention. Explain that when you clap your hands, children are to stop what they're doing, raise their hands, and focus on you. Encourage children to respond quickly so you'll have time for all the fun activities you've planned.

Before class, mix $\frac{2}{3}$ cup vinegar and $\frac{1}{3}$ cup water in a pitcher. Bring the vinegar mixture and paper cups to the story area.



Have children sit in a circle on the floor. Say: **You've all been working very hard today. When I work hard, I get very thirsty.**

Ask: • **What do you like to drink when you're very thirsty?** (Milk; pop; juice; water.)

Hold up the pitcher and say: **I brought a drink to share with you today, but it's not anything that you've mentioned. Raise your hand if you'd like to taste this drink.**

Pour a teaspoon of vinegar into each paper cup and instruct children to wait before trying it. Say: **On the count of three, let's all take a tiny sip of our drinks. Don't say anything, but show me with your face whether you like it or not. One, two, three.** After children have given their reactions, say: **This is what Jesus had to drink when he was on the cross.**

Say: **Today we'll discover that Jesus went through many hard and terrible moments when he was crucified. We'll learn that ► Jesus died and came back to life because he loves us very much. Before we move on, let's throw away this terrible drink!**



■ Bible Song and Prayer Time

SUPPLIES: Bible, construction paper, scissors, basket or box, CD player



Before class, make surprise cards for this activity by cutting construction paper into 2x6-inch slips. Prepare a surprise card for each child plus a few extras for visitors. Fold the cards in half, and then stamp the *butterfly stamp* inside one of the surprise cards. Bookmark **Matthew 26:57-75; 27:11-56** in the Bible you'll be using.

Gather the children in a circle. Say: **Now it's time to choose a Bible person to bring me the Bible marked with today's Bible story. As we sing our Bible song, I'll pass out the surprise cards. Don't look inside your surprise card until the song is over.**

Lead the children in singing "Read God's Book" (track 3) with the CD to the tune of "The Muffin Man." As you sing, pass out the folded surprise cards.



SING

**Now it's time to read God's book,
Read God's book, read God's book.
Now it's time to read God's book.
Let's hear a Bible story.**

**Now it's time to read God's book,
Read God's book, read God's book.
Now it's time to read God's book.
Let's hear a Bible story.**

(Repeat.)

After the song, say: **You may look inside your surprise cards. The person who finds the butterfly stamped inside his or her card will be our Bible person for today.**

Identify the Bible person, and then have the rest of the children clap for him or her. Ask the Bible person to bring you the Bible. Help the Bible person open the Bible to

the marked place and show children where your story comes from. Then have the Bible person sit down.



BIBLE POINT ►

Say: [Name] **was our special Bible person today. Each week, we'll have only one special Bible person, but each one of you is a special part of our class! Today we're all learning that ► Jesus died and came back to life.**

Let's say a special prayer now and thank God for sending Jesus to us. I'll pass around this basket. When the basket comes to you, put your surprise card in it and say, "Thank you, God, for sending Jesus."

Pass around the basket or box. When you've collected everyone's surprise card, set the basket aside and pick up the Bible. Lead the children in this prayer. **God, thank you for the Bible and all the stories in it. Teach us today that ► Jesus died and came back to life. In Jesus' name, amen.**



BIBLE POINT ►

■ *Hear and Tell the Bible Story*

SUPPLIES: CD player



Open the Bible to the book of **Matthew**. Point to the Bible and say: **Today's story is from the book of Matthew in the Bible. Let's look at the book from our Learning Lab to see pictures of the Bible story. First, let's see if we can remember what's been happening to Jesus.** Have the children line up facing you about 6 feet away. Open the book to the first picture, and then ask:

• **Where was Jesus going on the donkey?** (To Jerusalem; to a big city; to the Passover celebration.)

As children respond, have them take one jump towards you. Then turn to the next picture, and ask:

• **What did the people do when they saw Jesus?** (Celebrated; praised him; put palm fronds and coats in the street.)

As children respond, have them take another jump towards you. Turn to the third picture, and ask:

• **Why did Jesus share a special meal with his friends?** (To help them remember him; because he loved them; because he was about to die.)

As children respond, have them take another jump forward. Turn the page to the next picture, and ask:

• **What happened when Jesus went to the garden to pray?** (His disciples fell asleep; he was arrested; bad men came to take him away.)

Say: **You all remember so well! Have the children sit down. Today we'll learn what happened after Jesus was arrested. You can help me tell the story. Raise your hand if you know what animal makes this sound.** Crow like a rooster, and then call on a child to tell what animal it is.

That's right! Roosters crow like that. Let's all crow together. Lead the children in crowing like roosters. **Very good! I thought I was in a barnyard! During our story, every time you hear the word *rooster*, crow just like that.**

Show the children the picture on page 10. Play "Jesus' Crucifixion" (track 9) on the CD, and turn the page when you hear the chime.

When the track ends, turn off the CD player and ask:

• **Why did the chief priests want to crucify Jesus?** (Because people liked Jesus more than they liked the priests; they thought Jesus was lying.)

• **Why did Peter say he didn't know Jesus?** (He was afraid he'd get in trouble; he didn't want to be arrested.)

• **How did Jesus die?** (He was nailed to a cross; he hung on a cross.)

• **How did Jesus' death on the cross show his love for us?** (It showed that we were important to him; it showed that he wanted us to be in heaven with him.)

Say: **When Jesus died on a cross, he took the sins of the whole world on himself. That was so much sin that Jesus thought God left him. Think of how much Jesus loves us to give his life so we may be forgiven.**

Ask: • **How do you think Jesus felt when he thought God turned away from him?** (Sad; lonely; afraid.)

• **Why would Jesus go through such a terrible death?** (Because he loves us; so we could be with him in heaven some day.)

Say: ► ***Jesus died and came back to life* because he loves us very much. God wanted us to be in heaven with him forever, so he allowed Jesus to die for our sins. Because of Jesus' death, we can be forgiven and live as God's friends. Let's learn more about what happened after Jesus died.**

Return the *Jesus' Death and Resurrection* book to the Learning Lab for use in later lessons.



BIBLE POINT



teacher tips

Your 5- and 6-year-olds can understand that God made them. They trust that God loves them. They are beginning to develop a sense of conscience.

Do the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: *paper curtain from Option 1, CD player*



Have children stand around the room so that when they stretch out their arms they won't touch anyone else. Say: **Jesus died to take away our sins. Spread your arms out like Jesus when he was on the cross. Hold your arms out and listen as I read some of the bad things people might do.** Read the following list slowly, pausing between each item on the list.

- lying
- stealing
- saying mean words
- hurting people
- disobeying our parents
- being unkind

Say: **Are your arms heavy? Jesus felt heavy holding the weight of all our sins. But ► *Jesus died and came back to life* to take away our sins so we could be forgiven and be part of God's family. After Jesus died, there was a great earthquake. Keep your arms up as I play earthquake noises.**

Play "Earthquake" (track 10) on the CD, and flash the lights. Then turn off the CD player and turn on the lights. Allow children to put their arms down. Say: **After Jesus died, the curtain in the Temple was ripped from top to bottom. Let's all help rip the curtain we made earlier.** Allow children to tear apart the curtain from Option 1. Give each child a piece of the torn curtain, and then sit in a circle.

Ask: • **Why did Jesus have to die?** (So that we could be with God; to take away our sins; because God loved us so much.)

• **How does it feel to know that Jesus died for you?** (Neat; I feel important; it's good to know he loves me that much.)



BIBLE POINT



Say: **In the Temple, a big curtain covered a special place where only priests could go to be near God. When Jesus died, the curtain ripped to show that now everyone who loves Jesus can be close to God. If we believe in Jesus, we can be close to God, too, and live with him in heaven forever. Let's thank God for loving us and wanting us to be part of his special family.** Allow children to toss their paper scraps in the middle of the circle and say, "Thank you, God, for your love." Close by praying: **Dear God, we thank you for loving us. We thank you that Jesus loved us and died for our sins so we can be a part of your special family. We want to be closer to you every day. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Let's see how our friend Pockets is doing. I hope our earthquake didn't scare her! On your way to see Pockets, pick up a piece of the paper curtain and throw it in the wastebasket.

Closing

■ *I Didn't Do It!*

SUPPLIES: none

Bring out Pockets the Kangaroo, and go through the following script. When you finish the script, put Pockets away and out of sight.



- Teacher:** Pockets, are you there?
- Pockets:** (*Pockets arrives, shaking.*) Y-y-yes it's m-m-me.
- Teacher:** Is something wrong? I hope our noise didn't scare you.
- Pockets:** Well, it did kind of scare me, but I was upset already.
- Teacher:** Upset? What are you upset about?
- Pockets:** I got grounded for something I didn't do. My mom's favorite fruit dish got broken, and I got in trouble for it. I didn't do it—I really, really didn't!
- Teacher:** I believe you, Pockets. Did you tell your mom that you didn't do it?
- Pockets:** (*Hesitantly*) No.
- Teacher:** Well, why not? I'm sure your mom would believe you.
- Pockets:** But I can't tell her.
- Teacher:** Why not? Do you want to be punished for something you didn't do?
- Pockets:** Well...no. But I don't want the person who did it to get in trouble.
- Teacher:** Oh...I see. So you know who broke the dish. Do you want to tell us about it?

Pockets: Well, OK. My friend Sarah wanted to play catch in the house. I told her we weren't supposed to, but she threw a ball at me anyway and it hit my mom's favorite fruit dish. When my mom heard the breaking glass, she came in and thought I did it. Then she sent Sarah home and sent me to my room. I didn't tell her what happened because I didn't want Sarah to get in trouble.

Teacher: So you were willing to take the punishment for her.

Pockets: I guess so. I don't like it very much, but Sarah's my friend and she's worth it.

Teacher: That's very nice of you, Pockets. We just heard a Bible story about someone who took the punishment for all the things we've done wrong.

Pockets: That's a lot of punishment! Who is it?

Teacher: Children, who can tell Pockets about our story? *(Let the children tell Pockets that Jesus died on the cross to pay for our sins.)*

Pockets: He did? Why did Jesus do that?

Teacher: Because Jesus loves us so much. Jesus knew we needed to be forgiven so we could be close to God. So Jesus took all of our sins away when he died. And now we can be part of God's special family.

Pockets: Oh, that's so sad! Jesus must really love me! I can't even imagine someone loving me that much.

Teacher: You're right, Pockets. It is hard to imagine someone loving us enough to die for us. But Jesus did. We can all be thankful that ► Jesus died and came back to life.

Pockets: It's sad that everyone was so mean to Jesus. But I'm glad he loves us so much. Well, I need to go back to my room so I don't get into any more trouble today. Goodbye, everyone.

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Just for You

SUPPLIES: wet wipes, CD player, washable marker or colored chalk



track 11

Stand in a circle and say: **Before ► Jesus died and came back to life, our sins made us dirty. Let me show you what I mean.** Walk around with a washable marker or piece of colored chalk and mark up each child's hands. **Now your hands are dirty! But Jesus loves us and wants us clean and shiny. That's why he died for our sins. He took those unclean**

sins away so we could be clean again. When we ask Jesus for forgiveness, he wipes away the bad things we've done. Pass around wet wipes, and allow children to wipe the paint off their hands.



Say: **Because he loves us, Jesus forgave our sins so we could be made clean. Now let's sing a song to remember how much Jesus loves us.** Lead children in singing "Jesus Died for You" (track 11) to the tune of "London Bridge" with the CD. During the second verse, point to different children and fill in the blanks with their names.



SING
Jesus died for you and me. (*Point to a child, and then to yourself.*)
He took our sins (*"lift" a frown off your face*)
And set us free. (*Open hands as if setting something free.*)
We can be forgiven, you see. (*Hold arms out as if on cross.*)
Jesus loves us! (*Hug self.*)

Jesus died for [name] **and** [name],
 [Name] **and** [name],
 [Name] **and** [name].
We can be forgiven, you see.
Jesus loves us!

(Repeat.)



Say: **Jesus loves us so much that ►he died and came back to life. Our Bible verse for today is from John 3:16, and it tells us how much God loves us: ►For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son—Jesus! And Jesus is alive! When we ask God to take away our sins, we become part of God's special family and we, too, can live with God forever.**

Close in prayer, thanking God for sending Jesus to forgive us of our sins.



Growing closer to Jesus extends beyond the classroom.

Photocopy the "Today I Learned..." handout (at the end of this lesson) for this week, and send it home with your children. Encourage parents to use the handout to plan meaningful family activities to reinforce this week's topic.



For Extra Time

If you have a long class time or want to add additional elements to your lesson, try one of the following activities.

■ **Lively Learning: Rooster Tag**

Choose one child to be “Big-Step” and blindfold him or her. Have the rest of the class place their thumbs under their arms, strut like roosters, and say, “Cock-a-doodle-doo” so Big-Step can hear where they are. Have Big-Step take giant steps and try to tag a Rooster, and then have the Rooster tagged become Big-Step. As children are playing, remind them that Peter denied Jesus three times before the rooster crowed.

■ **Make to Take: Seed Crosses**

Set out cotton swabs, bowls of white glue, cross-shaped pieces of poster board, and bowls of dry beans and seeds. Let children use cotton swabs to “paint” their crosses with glue and then cover the crosses with seeds and beans like mosaics. As they work, talk about how thankful we are that Jesus died on the cross for our sins.

■ **Treat to Eat: Earthquake Treats**

Make finger gelatin and cut it into cross shapes. Have children wiggle and shake the gelatin just as the earth shook during the earthquake after Jesus died. Tell children that when we see the cross, we can remember that ► Jesus died and came back to life.



■ **Story Picture: Jesus' Crucifixion**

Hand each child a photocopy of the “Today I Learned...” handout. Set out cotton balls, black markers, crayons, and glue. Let children glue the cotton balls to the sky and then color them black to make thunderclouds. Have children color the rest of the picture with crayons. Remind children that because ► Jesus died and came back to life, they can live with God forever.

Today I learned...

Today your child learned that Jesus died and came back to life. Children heard about Jesus' trial and crucifixion. They thanked God that Jesus loved us enough to die for us so our sins can be forgiven.

Jesus died and
came back to life.

Verse to Learn

For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son (adapted from John 3:16).

Ask Me...

- Why did Jesus die on the cross?
- How do you know you're forgiven?
- How can our family show our thanks for Jesus' love?

Family Fun

- Work together to make painted nail mobiles. Have each family member dip one or two large nails in paint, wrap wire around the nail heads, and then hang them from a coat hanger. As you work, talk about how thankful we can be that God let Jesus take our punishment.

Jesus' Crucifixion (Matthew 26:57-75; 27:11-56)

