



# Jesus Is Tried and Crucified

Luke 19:28-40; 23:1-49

**F**ive- and six-year-olds don't understand the finality of death. They see cartoon characters come back to life on television, heroes and villains come and go, and immortal people and animals on computer games. Children who have experienced the loss of loved ones or pets will have a better understanding that they won't see those people or animals again, and they will remember the feeling of missing them. Share the story of Jesus' death with your children, but leave out the "scary" details that kids can learn and understand at a more appropriate age.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> <b>Getting Started</b> <i>about 10 min.</i>	<b>Welcoming Song</b> Sing a song welcoming all their classroom friends.	CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	
<b>2</b> <b>Key Verse Activity</b> <i>about 10 min.</i>	<b>For You and Me</b> Sing a song with motions.	Bible, CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	
<b>3</b> <b>Bible Exploration</b> <i>about 20 min.</i>	<b>Theo's News</b> Find out what vinegar has to do with the Bible story.	CD player, Surprise Box, Theo puppet, plastic cup with lid, cotton balls, vinegar <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	Place cotton balls dabbed with vinegar into a plastic drinking cup with a lid. The lid should contain a hole for a drinking straw so kids can smell the vinegar in the cup. Place the plastic cup in the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.
	<b>Bible Time</b> Pretend to be the people who saw Jesus enter Jerusalem, and learn that Jesus died on the cross.	Bible, dress-up clothes	

**Bold text** within the lesson is spoken text.



## ►Bible Point

Jesus died for us.

## Key Verse

"Christ died for us"  
(Romans 5:8).

## Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will thank Jesus for saving them.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>4</b> <b>Weaving Faith Into Life</b> <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i>	<b>Center 1: A Bitter Drink for a King</b> Draw a cross, and dab on vinegar.	My Bible Playground, markers, cotton swabs, bowls, vinegar	Remove the Lesson 4 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.
	<b>Center 2: Donkey Trail Mix</b> Eat make-believe donkey food.	mini-wheat cereal pieces, water, cups, paper towels	
	<b>Center 3: A Picture Parade</b> Draw sidewalk pictures celebrating Jesus.	sidewalk chalk	
	<b>Center 4: Cross Reminders</b> Make a magnetic reminder of Jesus' love.	2 wide craft sticks, 1 wooden pinch clothespin, and 1 strip of magnetic tape per child; note paper; craft glue; markers	
<b>5</b> <b>Lasting Impressions</b> <i>about 5 min.</i>	<b>Daily Challenges</b> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	My Bible Playground	
	<b>"Cloaks of Praise" Prayer</b> Lay clothes down, and give thanks to Jesus.	dress-up clothes	
	<b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

**Bold text** within the lesson is spoken text.

BIBLE BACKGROUND  
FOR LEADERS

## Jesus Enters Jerusalem on a Donkey

soldier, loyal to the emperor. Something about what happened as Jesus died made a difference in that man's life. Everyone who witnessed Jesus' death seemed to sense that something very wrong had happened (Luke 23:48).

## Pilate Orders Jesus Crucified

With all the demands on our time and attention, it's easy to forget that everything in this life is about Jesus. This one truth is woven into the very fabric of creation. What an honor to be in a loving relationship with Jesus!

Pick up a rock. What does it tell you about God? Its mere existence is a testimony to the greatness of a Creator with no beginning or end. Invest five minutes in praising God, who created you and loves you. You can write your prayer of praise here.

[illegible]

## Darkness Falls When Jesus Is Crucified

The centurion mentioned in Luke 23:47 was a Roman

Spring Quarter





### Welcoming Song Supplies

CD player

#### Teacher Pack

CD: "Welcome to God's House" (track 7)

## 1 GETTING STARTED

### Welcoming Song



**Tip** Consistently use the same signal to announce a transition to the next activity. You could flip the lights off and on, use a train whistle, have a puppet rustling inside a bag, or sing cleanup songs. Keep it simple, consistent, and fun.

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

As the children arrive, greet each child and welcome him or her with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to bring the children together in a circle.

Play "Welcome to God's House" (track 7 on the CD) to the tune of "My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean" and lead children in doing the motions.



**With arms open wide, Jesus greets you.** (*Spread arms out.*)  
**He's so glad to see you today.** (*Shake a neighbor's hand.*)  
**Say "hi" to a friend right beside you.** (*Continue shaking hands.*)  
**Let's learn and let's sing and let's pray.** (*Turn around once.*)

**Come on in.** (*Motion to come.*)  
**Have a seat.** (*Sit down.*)  
**Welcome to God's house today.**  
**Come on in.** (*Motion to come.*)  
**Have a seat.** (*Sit down.*)  
**Welcome to God's house today!**

(Repeat.)

## 2 KEY VERSE ACTIVITY

### For You and Me

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have the children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to Romans 5:8, and show the children the words.

### For You and Me Supplies

Bible

CD player

#### Teacher Pack

CD: "Christ Died for Our Sins" (track 9)





Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible is Romans 5:8. This verse says, “Christ died for us.” Let’s say it together.** Lead the children in repeating the Key Verse with you. Then group the children in pairs and let kids sing “Christ Died for Our Sins” to the tune of “Do Lord.”



**Christ died for our sins;** (*pairs stand back to back with arms extended out to sides like a cross.*)

**He died for you and me.** (*Kids turn and point to partners and then to themselves.*)

**Christ died for our sins;** (*pairs stand back to back with arms extended out to sides like a cross.*)

**He died for you and me.** (*Kids turn and point to partners and then to themselves.*)

**Christ died for our sins;** (*pairs stand back to back with arms extended out to sides like a cross.*)

**He died for you and me.** (*Kids turn and point to partners and then to themselves.*)

**He died for us on the cross.** (*Pairs face each other with arms extended out to sides like a cross.*)

(Repeat.)

When the song ends, help the children apply the Key Verse to their own lives. Have each child say, “Jesus died for me. Jesus forgave my sin this week when I [have the child say something that happened this week].”

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **Who did Jesus Christ die for?**
- **How does it make you feel to know that your sins are forgiven?**
- **Who needs to know that Christ died for them?** Have the children name a friend or family member.

Say: **Jesus died so that our sins could be forgiven. Even though we might feel sad that Jesus had to die on the cross, we can be happy that ► JESUS DIED FOR US. Christ died for us.**





### Theo's News Supplies

CD player  
Surprise Box (any box  
will do)  
Theo puppet  
plastic cup with lid  
cotton balls  
vinegar  
**Teacher Pack**  
CD: "Here, Theo"  
(track 3)

### Theo's News Easy Prep

Place cotton balls  
dabbed with vinegar  
into a plastic drinking  
cup with a lid. The lid  
should contain a hole  
for a drinking straw  
so that kids can smell  
the vinegar in the cup.  
Place the plastic cup in  
the Surprise Box, and  
hide the box where it's  
easily accessible.

### Bible Time Supplies

Bible  
dress-up clothes

## 3

## BIBLE EXPLORATION

# Theo's News

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Friends, it's time for Theo's News!** Have the children sit in a circle. Then begin "Here, Theo" (track 3 on the CD). When the CD segment ends, bring out the Surprise Box, and put the Theophilus the FaithRetriever puppet on your hand. Then follow along with the script.

**Theo:** Hi, everybody! I'm glad to see you all!

**Teacher:** Hello, Theo! Tell us what interesting news you've dug up about our Bible story.

**Theo:** I hid it in the Surprise Box. I hope you like what I hid there!

**Teacher:** Let's look inside to see what Theo dug up for us today.

*(Choose a child to open the Surprise Box, and have kids pass the cup around the circle so that everyone can smell the vinegar. Give children time to guess what the Bible story might be about.)*

**Teacher:** Does what's in the cup smell like something you would want to drink, even if you were very thirsty? What do you think is in this cup?

*(Pause for children to respond.)*

**Teacher:** Those are great answers! Vinegar is inside the cup. We often use vinegar to make salad dressing, but we don't usually drink it. Theo, why did you hide this cup of vinegar in our Surprise Box?

**Theo:** Today's story tells us why Jesus was given vinegar to drink when he was on the cross.

**Teacher:** Let's listen to our story and find out more.

**Theo:** Have fun, boys and girls!

**Teacher:** Let's say goodbye to Theo.

Encourage the children to wave or say goodbye to Theo. Then put Theo away in a safe place for next week's use.

# Bible Time

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Open your Bible to Luke 19:28-40; 23:1-49, and show the children the words.

Say: **Today's Bible story tells us that ► JESUS DIED FOR US. Our Bible story begins as Jesus and his disciples were going from place to place preaching and teaching. When Jesus and his disciples were about to go into Jerusalem, Jesus sent his disciples ahead to get a young donkey that he could ride. During Bible times, kings and other royal people often rode donkeys to show that they would bring peace to the people. Jesus wanted to show that he was the King of kings,**





sent from God to bring peace and forgiveness for people's sins, as a prophet had promised a long time before.

Ask:

- How do you think the people felt to be so close to such an important person as Jesus?

Say: **Show me how you think the people might have reacted when they saw Jesus coming.** Pause for the children to react. **The people were so excited to see Jesus that many of them threw their coats on the ground for the young donkey to walk on so he wouldn't get his hooves dirty. They treated Jesus like a king.**

**We celebrate in many ways when someone does something extra special. We might cheer, clap, stomp our feet, or whistle. The people in Jesus' day did the same thing, and they celebrated with a procession or a parade. Let's act out a parade like the one the people had for Jesus.**

Bring out the coats, jackets, and sweaters, and have each child choose an item to wear. Have children form groups with an even number in each group (four or six children to a group might work best). Let each of the groups choose a child to be the Donkey and another child to be Jesus. Let the Donkey get on all fours, and then have Jesus carefully sit on the Donkey's back. Let the other children each take off the clothing item and lay it on the floor in front of the Donkey. As each child puts his or her coat on the floor, have that child say something he or she likes about Jesus. Have the Donkey carry Jesus across the clothing, and then continue the Bible story.

Say: **Many people were glad to see Jesus entering Jerusalem on a donkey. But some people were not happy to see Jesus. Some of the people were jealous and became angry with Jesus, so they asked the leaders to arrest him.**

**Jesus was arrested. The guards were mean, and they hurt Jesus very badly. Then they took Jesus to a man named Pilate who was kind of like the judges we have today. Pilate's job was to decide if Jesus had done anything wrong. The people said that Jesus had told everyone not to pay their taxes and that Jesus told people he was Christ, the King of kings.**

Ask:

- Do you think Jesus had done anything wrong? Why or why not?

Say: **Pilate said that Jesus hadn't done anything wrong and that he should be set free, but the people were so angry that they wouldn't listen.** Have kids put their hands over their ears, pretend not to listen, and then take their hands away.

**Pilate then sent Jesus to a man named Herod to let Herod decide what would happen to Jesus. Herod agreed that Jesus had done nothing to deserve death, but the angry crowd demanded that Jesus die.**

Ask:

- What would you have said to Herod or Pilate about Jesus?





### Center 1: A Bitter Drink for a King Supplies

My Bible Playground  
markers  
cotton swabs  
bowls  
vinegar

### Center 1: A Bitter Drink for a King Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson  
4 pages from each  
My Bible Playground  
student book.

Say: The people took Jesus to a hill with two criminals who had done some very bad things. The people hung Jesus on a cross to die alongside the criminals. They continued to call Jesus names and gave him vinegar to drink when he was thirsty. Jesus hung on the cross until he died.

Ask:

- How do you think Jesus' friends felt when Jesus died?

Say: Even though dying on a cross was a terrible thing that happened to Jesus, Jesus knew God's plan. Just before Jesus died, he prayed and asked God to forgive all the people for their sins because they didn't realize what they were doing. Because  
► JESUS DIED FOR US, our sins are forgiven, and we can live with him in heaven. The most exciting part of God's plan for his Son was that Jesus didn't stay dead!

## 4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Choose at least two of the learning centers to help reinforce today's Bible lesson. Gather the needed materials, and put the supplies in an out-of-sight area until you're ready for them. Allow the children to choose which center they'd like to explore first. Then circulate among the children as they create and explore. Encourage them to make connections between their activities and the Bible by asking them the questions included with each center's description.

### CENTER 1:

## A Bitter Drink for a King

### What You'll Do

Distribute the Lesson 4 My Bible Playground student pages, and have kids write their names on their pages. Instruct kids to use markers to draw a cross on the hill. Then have them dip a cotton swab into the vinegar and dab it onto the cross.

Say: The cross is a symbol that reminds us that Jesus died for our sins. This vinegar smells yucky—just like our sins are yucky to God. When Jesus died for our sins, he forgave us, and he took away our yucky sins.

### Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What is something you've done that might make Jesus sad?
- Have you asked Jesus to forgive your sins? Why or why not? Would you like to?





Say: **Even though some of the people were mean to Jesus, Jesus still loved the people and wanted God to forgive them. Jesus was willing to die on the cross for us and even for the sins of mean people. ► JESUS DIED FOR US.**

## CENTER 2:

# Donkey Trail Mix

## What You'll Do

Have the children wash their hands (or use wet wipes), and then let kids sit down to prepare their snacks. Remind the children that Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a young donkey. Tell kids that donkeys like to eat hay and drink lots of water.

Give children each a paper towel with a few frosted-wheat cereal pieces, and let kids pretend that the cereal is the donkey's hay. Then pass out cups of water. Let the children make donkey sounds while they wait for others to be served.

## Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **Do you think the donkey had any idea how special Jesus was? Why or why not?**

Say: **The young donkey had a very special job to do for Jesus. Maybe he was rewarded with a special treat to eat. Let's eat our snack and remember that soon after the donkey's special job was over, Jesus would die for our sins. Bow your heads and let's pray.** Have the children repeat the following prayer before they eat their snacks. **Dear God, thank you for sending your Son, Jesus, to die for our sins. Bless this food. In Jesus' name, amen.**

## CENTER 3:

# A Picture Parade

## What You'll Do

When it's time to begin, lead your children to an area where kids can each use a small portion of a pathway. Call this pathway their Picture Parade. Give children each a piece of sidewalk chalk, show them where they can draw their pictures, and instruct them to draw pictures about today's Bible story. Remind kids that the people celebrated Jesus as the King of kings by giving a parade; tell kids they can create a picture parade and celebrate Jesus by drawing pictures that remind them of the Bible story. Encourage kids to sign their names near their pictures.

When the children have finished the pictures, gather the class together, and let children each tell about their Bible story pictures. At the end of class, invite the parents to view the children's works of art.



## Center 2: Donkey Trail Mix Supplies

mini-wheat  
cereal pieces  
water  
cups  
paper towels



## Center 3: A Picture Parade Supplies

sidewalk chalk





#### Center 4: Cross Reminders Supplies

2 wide craft sticks,  
1 wooden pinch  
clothespin, and 1 strip  
of magnetic tape  
per child  
note paper  
craft glue  
markers

**MAGNET  
WARNING**  
Harmful if swallowed.

### Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What are some things you remember about the Bible story?
- Why do you think the people wanted to celebrate and honor Jesus?
- What do you like to celebrate about Jesus?

Say: Jesus wanted people to know that he was the King of kings, the Son of God. We can celebrate and tell others that ► **JESUS DIED FOR US.**

### CENTER 4:

## Cross Reminders

### What You'll Do

Say: In today's lesson, we're learning that ► **JESUS DIED FOR US.** That's such an important thing to remember, let's make a craft that we'll see every day!

Explain that people often write notes to help them remember important things. Say that kids will be making notepad reminders to help them remember that Jesus died on the cross for us.

Give each child two wide craft sticks. Help kids use craft glue to attach the sticks in the shape of a cross. Help kids use markers to write "Jesus died for us" on their crosses.



Then give each child a wooden pinch clothespin, and use craft glue to attach the clothespin to the cross, pinch-side facing down. Give each child a small stack of square note paper, and help kids clip the paper in the clothespin. Finally, attach a strip of magnetic tape to the back of each cross.

Say: Take these note holders home, and hang them on your refrigerators. That way, every time someone in your family writes a reminder note or opens the refrigerator, they'll remember that ► **JESUS DIED FOR US.**



## 5

LASTING  
IMPRESSIONS

## Daily Challenges

## What You'll Do ■■■■■■

After the children have cleaned up the centers, sit with kids in a circle on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they enjoyed learning from the Bible today.

Also use this time to challenge kids in their faith. Encourage them to choose a Daily Challenge for applying today's lesson to their lives this week. Use this challenge to encourage your children's growing relationships with Jesus.

## Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: Today we learned that ► **JESUS DIED FOR US.** I'd like each of you to choose one of these Daily Challenges to remember that Jesus died for you.

Give kids these three Daily Challenge ideas to choose from:

1. Teach a friend the Key Verse, and tell him or her that Jesus died for our sins.
2. Draw a picture of Jesus, and hang it in your room. Each time you see it, thank God for sending Jesus to save you from your sins.
3. Ask a parent to read Luke 19:28-40 and 23:1-49 with you. Then thank Jesus for dying on the cross so you can live in heaven with him!

Say: If you want to teach a friend, circle choice number 1. If you want to draw a picture, circle choice number 2. If you want to read with a parent, circle choice number 3. Check that each child circled a choice on his or her My Bible Playground page. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!

## “Cloaks of Praise” Prayer

## What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children each choose a coat or other item of dress-up clothing and put on the item. Then instruct kids to take turns removing the items, laying them on the floor, and saying the following prayer.

Dear Jesus,  
Thank you for dying for me and forgiving my sins.  
In Jesus' name, amen.

Daily Challenges  
Supplies

My Bible Playground

“Cloaks of Praise”  
Prayer  
Supplies

dress-up clothes



## Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their My Bible Playground book pages whether they worked on them or not. Have the children tell their parents the challenge they committed to in the “Daily Challenges” activity. Encourage parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment throughout the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church’s families. Available at [group.com/digital](http://group.com/digital).

