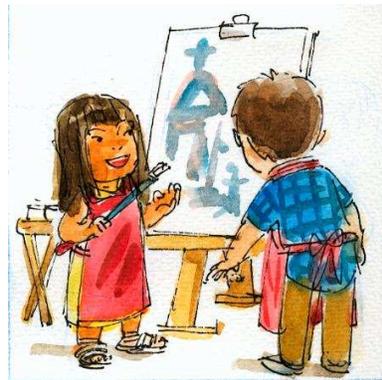


KidsFaith.org and Foundations Publishing

Children's Church

The Talents Project



Start using the Talents of your Church

Twelve Months of Children's Church Curriculum

- **Bringing life to the Sunday experience and beyond**
- **12 Core Topics Vital to the spiritual development of children**
- **Using the talents and experiences of your church to engage and teach children**



Week: One Jesus Month

Goal

To teach the Trinity. God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Worship 10-15 Minutes

Introduce Verse

I live by faith in the son of God who loved me and gave himself for me
Galatians: 2:20

Teaching 10 Minutes

Today we are going to begin learning about Jesus. Jesus is one part of God. God is really three parts: God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

(Using a candle, show that there are two parts)

The wax and the wick. The wax is like God, it holds everything together. The wick is like the Holy Spirit running through us. But there is one more piece. Jesus. (Light the candle.)

Jesus has been called the light of the world (read John 8:12)

Jesus was sent as God's son in human form to be a sacrifice for our sins. He died on a cross (blow out the candle) then was resurrected (light the candle again.)

The combination of God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit make up the Trinity. This is how the Bible explains it. (read 1 John 5:6-10.) Although this passage is hard to understand, it talks about three parts to God. The Holy Spirit, Jesus and God.

They all work together.



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Follow Up
10 Minutes

Option A **Trinity Bracelets**

Materials Needed: Yarn cut into 12 inch pieces, colors: red, white, and purple.

Prior to class, cut the yarn and tie them together in groups of three: red, white, and purple. During class, demonstrate how to braid the three pieces together to form a rope.

Have student pair up and practice braiding the yarn. When they are finished braiding, they can tie the ends together to make a bracelet.

Explain that each color represents a different part of the Trinity. Purple is for God, divine.

White is the Holy Spirit, pure. Red is for Jesus, his blood shed for us.

Candle Picture

Option B Materials Needed: Picture of candles, crayons

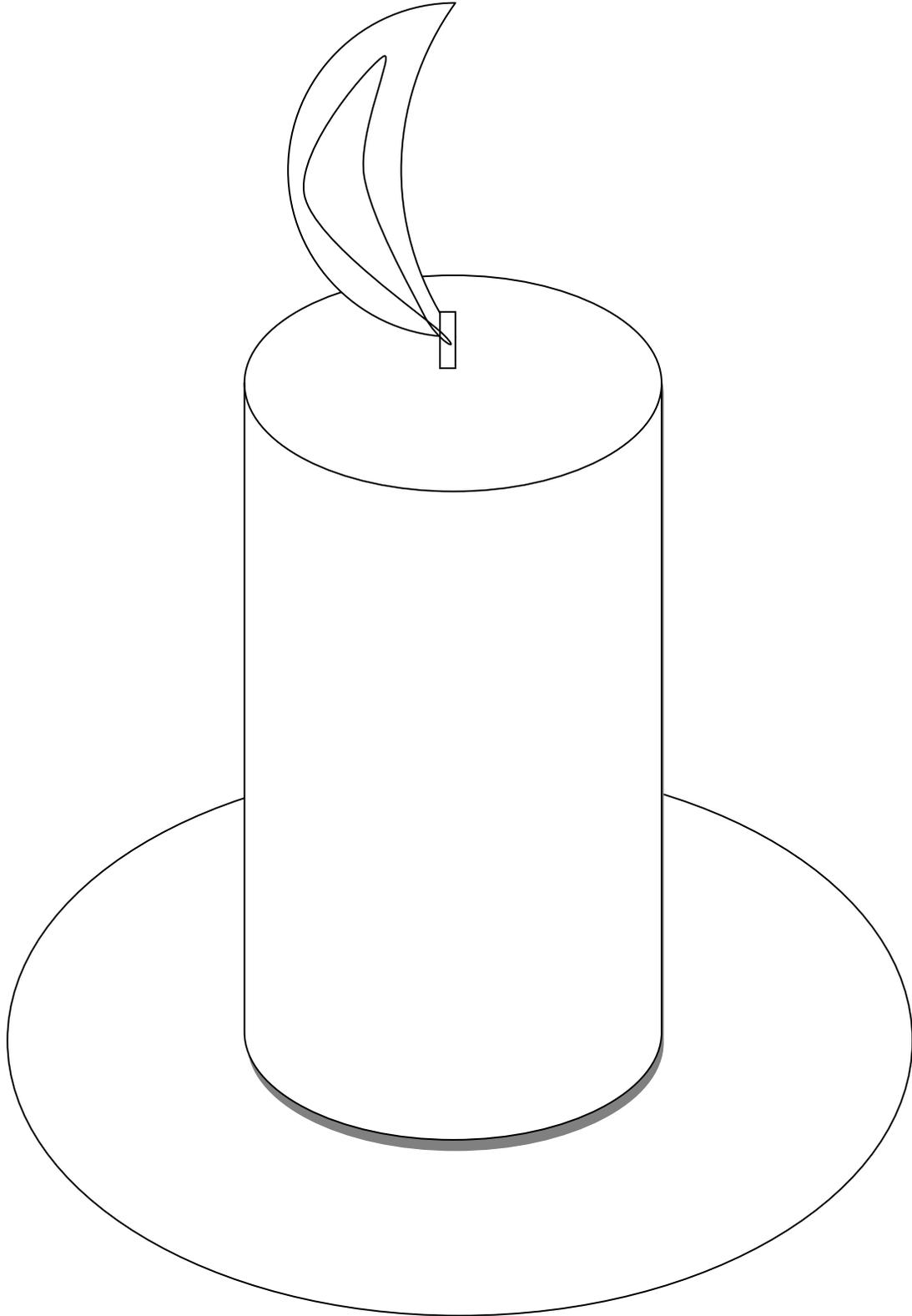
Using the picture of the candle, label the parts that represent God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Children can color the candle.

Small
Group/
Talents
Time
15 Minutes

What is the Trinity? (Have student describe the three parts of the Trinity.)

Use the bracelets as an example of the three parts of the Trinity.

Prayer and Praise: Talking with God, sharing our lives with Him, thanking Him, and asking for His guidance.





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Goal Introduce the Holy Spirit

Worship
10-15
Minutes

**Introduce
Verse**

I live by faith in the son of God who loved me and gave himself for me
Galatians: 2:20

Teaching
10 Minutes

Last week we talked about the Trinity. Jesus is on part of the Trinity, God is also one part, the third part is the Holy Spirit.

Jesus talked about the Holy Spirit to his disciples. He knew that he was going to return to heaven and the disciples would be left here on earth. He wanted to send a helper to them, someone to guide them.

Then one day this is what happened. (Read Acts 2:1-4)

The Holy Spirit comes into our lives when we ask Jesus to be our Savior.

The Holy Spirit lives inside of us and helps guide our lives. Here is what the Bible says: (Read Romans 8:9-11.)



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Follow Up
10 Minutes

Option A **Demonstration using “Ding Dongs” or other crème filled chocolate goodie.**

Materials Needed: Ding Dongs. *Ding dongs are great treats, but from the outside of the ding dong you cannot see what is inside. You know, probably from eating a ding dong, that they are filled with creamy, yummy frosting. The frosting is placed inside of the ding dong to make it a better treat. This is like the Holy Spirit in us. You cannot see the Holy Spirit, but he is there, making us better each day.*

(Cut a ding dong in half and expose the frosting.) Notice that the frosting is white. The Holy Spirit is pure, holy. We are like the outside cake, we can become brown with sins, but the Holy Spirit is pure. (Give each child the opportunity to cut or partake of the ding dongs.)

Demonstration Using a Lamp

Option B

Materials needed: Lamp with shade removed

Do not plug in the lamp, but instead carefully look at the light bulb.

Let's look at this light. On the outside of the light bulb is a protective casing. Inside is a wire. When you plug in the light and turn the lamp on, the wire will light up. This is like the holy spirit- he makes us light up. People may not know we are Christians, but often they can see the light of the Holy Spirit inside of us. (Plug in and light up

Small
Group/
Talents
Time
15 Minutes

What did we learn for the “Ding Dong”?

What is the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives?

Prayer and Praise: Talking with God, sharing our lives with Him, thanking Him, and asking for His guidance.



Goal

Our goal today is to understand that Jesus is God.

Worship 10-15 Minutes

Introduce Verse

I live by faith in the son of God who loved me and gave himself for me
Galatians: 2:20

Teaching 10 Minutes

Last week we talked about the Holy Spirit and how he guides our lives.

This week we are going to talk again about Jesus. Jesus is God. He is also the son of God, but he is God.

In the Bible it says this about Jesus: (read Luke 3:21-22)

So, Jesus is the Son of God, but he is also God.

One way we know that Jesus is God is to look at what he did when he was here on earth.

Jesus did many miracles but some of the most amazing were when he brought people back to life. Only God can give life.

Here is one of those miracles: (read John 11:1-7, 33-44)

When Lazarus appeared from the grave alive, just as Jesus said, it must have surprised many, many people.

He would have still been wearing his grave clothes that perhaps made him look like a mummy.



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Follow Up
10 Minutes

Option A Mummy Race

Materials Needed: Toilet paper- one roll per small group

(Divide students into their small groups.)

We are going to have a mummy race. Each group needs to pick one person to be their mummy. Using the toilet paper, and trying not to break it, wrap your mummy up completely. When you are finished give a collective yell, "Lazarus, come out!" and we will know you are done. The first group to finish wins!

Balloon Race

Materials Needed: Blown up balloons

Option B

Divide the kids into their small groups. Have them form lines. Give each child a blown up balloon. The idea is to race down to a chair, sit on the balloon to pop it, then race back. The first team to have all students race and pop their balloons wins.

Small
Group/
Talents
Time
15 Minutes

Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, what did he prove to the world?

Prayer and Praise: Talking with God, sharing our lives with Him, thanking Him, and asking for His guidance.



Goal

Our goal today is to understand that Jesus is God.

Worship 10-15 Minutes

Introduce Verse

I live by faith in the son of God who loved me and gave himself for me

Galatians: 2:20

Teaching 10 Minutes

Last week we talked about Jesus. Jesus is God. One way we know that Jesus is God is by looking at the miracles he performed.

Last week we talked about Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. Today we are going to talk about another miracle, Jesus calming the seas.

Here it is: (read Matthew 8:23-27)

Only God can control the weather and in this story, Jesus made a stormy sea calm.

Here's another miracle: (read Matthew 22-33)

Only God can defy the laws of the universe. Jesus walked on water, no ordinary man can do such a thing.

**Follow Up
10 Minutes**

Option A Create Static Electricity

Materials: Two balloons, wool gloves

(Blow up the balloons and rub them with the gloves. Turn off the lights and bring the balloons together- you will see the static electricity pop from one balloon to the other.)

What happened here? This is like lighting in a huge storm, like the one that Jesus calmed. God created the elements in our world that create electricity, water, and weather, and only God can command their behavior.

(Give students a chance to practice creating electricity with the balloons, or have them do a static electricity race: divide into small groups, have kids stand in a line. They must rub the balloons against their head until it sticks. With it stuck, they run to the end of the room and back, taking turns. The first group with all members across the room and back wins!)

Option B Bottle Optics

Materials: Bottled water- one bottle per child, colored glitter

(Using a bottle of water, sprinkle some glitter into the liquid. Shake the bottle furiously, the glitter will disperse. Once shaken, you cannot get the glitter to stop moving, unless you leave the bottle alone and wait for the glitter to settle.) *Do you see the glitter in the water? It is really moving fast. If I stop moving the bottle, the water will continue to push the glitter around. We as humans cannot control the water, the weather, or the natural occurrences that God created here on earth, but Jesus could. He could command that the water right here in this bottle stop, and it would.* Let each child make their own Bottle Optic using. A good idea is to use glue to secure the lid on the top.)

**Small
Group/
Talents
Time
15 Minutes**

Jesus could control the weather, and he could defy the laws of this earth.
What does this prove?

Prayer and Praise: Talking with God, sharing our lives with Him, thanking Him, and asking for His guidance.



Goal

To understand that we pray to further our relationship with God

Worship 10-15 Minutes

Introduce Verse

Hear my prayer, O Lord; listen to my cry for mercy. In the day of my trouble I will call to you, for you will answer me. Psalm 86: 6-7

Teaching 10 Minutes

We are going to read a prayer written by David. David was a king, but he had a very difficult life. He spent a lot of time in prayer because he was always afraid for his life. He loved God very much and when he felt alone or scared, he would always pray for protection. God did protect David. He listened to David and comforted him. God and David had a very good relationship. God wants to have a relationship with us. Through prayer we can have a closer relationship with God.

When we read this prayer, listen for our Bible verse in the middle.

Read Psalm 86

What did you hear in this prayer?

Was this prayer all about David? Or did it contain praise for God?

Was he thankful in this prayer? What requests did he bring to God? Prayer is important to forming and building a relationship with God. Did it sound like David had a good relationship with God?

Follow Up
10 Minutes

Option A Relationship exercise

You cannot have a relationship without communication. Prayer is one way we communicate with God. Pair up students making sure that they don't know their partner well. Ask them to find out about each other, but they cannot talk. Give them five minutes to investigate the situation (it will be almost impossible to get to know each other without conversing.) When the lack of communication has proven to be the problem, then instruct your students to now talk to each other. Give them five minutes to find out as much as possible about the other person.

Have them gather into the larger group again and tell everyone about their new friend.

With God we must communicate to build the relationship. He loves to hear us pray and wants to be our best friend and father.

Option B Listening exercise

Half of praying is listening. We cannot have a relationship with God if we do not try to listen to his guidance. Pair up students and have them begin to talk to one another at the same time. They must continue talking for five minutes.

At the end of that time, gather them up into the larger group.

What was difficult when you were both talking at the same time?

How does this relate to our prayer life? What is it like to listen to God?

Return the students to their pairs. This time, have one talk for one or two minutes, then have the other talk. *How much easier was this experience?*

How does God speak to us?

**Small
Group/
Talents
Time
15 Minutes**

What kind of relationship do you have with God?

Do you feel like you can talk to God about everything?

Is it hard or easy to pray?

Prayer and Praise: Talking with God, sharing our lives with Him, thanking Him, and asking for His guidance.



Week: Two Prayer Month

Goal To understand that God listens when we pray, and answers our prayers.

Worship
10-15
Minutes

Introduce Verse

Hear my prayer, O Lord; listen to my cry for mercy. In the day of my trouble I will call to you, for you will answer me. Psalm 86: 6-7

Teaching
10 Minutes

Last week we learned about David's prayer:

Another person in the Bible named Daniel also prayed for help and comfort. In fact, Daniel prayed so much, that he ran into some serious trouble.

The King of that time wanted everyone to pray to him, not to God. Daniel refused to pray to the king, but instead continued to pray to God several times a day. It was important to him that he have a relationship with God, and he understood that God would listen and help him in trouble.

This is what happened:

Read Daniel 6:10-28

Daniel trusted God and knew that he would hear his prayers. He did not necessarily know that God would save him from the lions, in this situation God did exactly that, but Daniel had a great relationship with God and trusted him completely. Prayer was a big part of that relationship.



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Follow Up
10 Minutes

Option A **Mysterious Bag Demonstration**

Put various slimy, pokey objects into a bag. Don't tell your students what is in the bag. Ask them if they would rather dive right into the mysterious bag or ask for help first. Which is a better option? *(The better option is to ask for help before proceeding, just like we would ask God for help or guidance.)*

Have them ask you questions about what might be in the bag that would be harmful to them.

You can give them answers then they can reach into the bag carefully and withdraw the object.

Good objects might be: pins or needles, scissors, jelly, peanut butter, etc.

Option B **Trust Exercise**

We must trust that God hears our prayers and will protect us.

For this trust exercise, have your students stand in a tight circle, all facing in. Put one person in the middle and have them close their eyes. They then fall back into the waiting arms of their classmates who won't let them fall. Instead, they work together to gently stand them upright.

God is like that. He knows what we need and how to help us. Just like closing our eyes and falling into the arms of our classmates, we grow in our relationship with God when we trust in him and pray often.

Small
Group/
Talents
Time
15 Minutes

Do you trust in God?

How does your prayer life contribute to that trust in God?

Prayer and Praise: Talking with God, sharing our lives with Him, thanking Him, and asking for His guidance.



Goal

To understand that we pray to the one true God.

Worship

10-15

Minutes

Introduce Verse

Hear my prayer, O Lord; listen to my cry for mercy. In the day of my trouble I will call to you, for you will answer me. Psalm 86: 6-7

Teaching 10 Minutes

Some religions in the world believe in other gods. Some believe in no gods. Some believe there is one god, but he is not our God. We believe there is one true God and he wants to have a relationship with us.

Today we are going to hear about a prophet named Elijah. Elijah lived in a time when many different gods were worshipped. Elijah believed only in God, but everyone around him believed in a different god named Baal.

This is what happened.

Read: 1 Kings 18:16-39

In this story God proved that Baal was not real. In fact, there are no other gods, only our God.



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Follow Up
10 Minutes

Option A

Examining the gods of materialism

Materials Needed: dollar bill, small electronic devices, a mirror

In our society our religion is accepted and we are free to worship God. But sometimes we get distracted by things. Some people do not believe in God, they believe in the power of money or electronics, or themselves.

But money cannot get us into heaven. Electronics will not save us from a life apart from God. We cannot save ourselves from sin; Jesus did that on the cross. We cannot work our way into heaven; it is a free gift of salvation.

Talk about different gods of materialism in our society. other examples might be Hollywood stars, television, and philosophy.

Option B

Change discussion

One way we know that God is real is through changes we see in people when they invite Jesus into their lives.

Talk with your students about the change that occurred in their life, or the lives of others they know, as a result of believing in God.

**Small Group/
Talents
Time**
15 Minutes

How do we know that there is only one God?

What does God want from you?

Prayer and Praise: Talking with God, sharing our lives with Him, thanking Him, and asking for His guidance.



Goal

To understand the elements of the Lord's Prayer

Worship

10-15

Minutes

Introduce

Verse

Hear my prayer, O Lord; listen to my cry for mercy. In the day of my trouble I will call to you, for you will answer me. Psalm 86: 6-7

Teaching 10 Minutes

We've been talking about prayer all month.

When Jesus was on earth, his disciples asked him how to pray.

Here is what he said:

Read: Matthew 6:5-13

What does Jesus instruct us to do when we pray?

What are the elements of the Lord's prayer that we should remember?

It is helpful to have a written copy to show your students.

Line 1: come to God with reverence

Line 2: the request of God's kingdom and will be done on earth

Line 3: the request of provision

Line 4: the request of forgiveness

Line 5: the request of protection

These five elements should be part of our daily prayers, however, God also instructs us not to babble when we pray and also to pray humbly.



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**Follow Up
10 Minutes**

Option A The Lord's Prayer placards

Materials Needed: Copies of the Lord's Prayer: one for each student, glue, decorations
Have students decorate the Lord's Prayer and take it home with them.

Demonstration of each element of the Lord's Prayer

You are going to demonstrate each element using modern materials

Materials Needed:

Option B

Reverence: a cross

God's will: the Bible

Provision: a loaf of bread

Forgiveness: a brick or very large rock

Protection: coat

Using each object, recite the verses and explain each element. With reverence, one realizes the greatness of God through his son Jesus Christ, and the sacrifice made upon the cross.

The Bible is God's instruction book to us, with his will throughout.

The loaf of bread represents provision.

A brick or rock is the weight of sin in our lives. Asking for forgiveness lifts this weight.

A coat protects us from the elements, like God protects us from evil.

**Small
Group/
Talents
Time
15 Minutes**

When is the best time for you to pray?

How do you feel when you pray?

Do you prefer praying in public or private?

Prayer and Praise: Talking with God, sharing our lives with Him, thanking Him, and asking for His guidance.



Week: One Sin and Forgiveness Month

Goal To understand the definition of Sin

Worship
10-15
Minutes

Introduce Verse

Who can forgive sins but God alone? Luke 5:21

Teaching
10 Minutes

Everyone makes mistakes. We are human, we are not perfect like Jesus, and therefore we make mistakes.

Mistakes that we make on purpose to hurt ourselves, hurt others, or disobey are called sins.

Sin is not a good thing, even if it seems like it initially. Sinful decisions create problems in our life, and they separate us from God. God does not want us to sin, but if we do, and we will, we need to make it right.

To make it right, all we have to do is ask God for forgiveness.

Here is a story about a man named Jonah. Jonah sinned when he disobeyed God. God wanted him to go to Nineveh to give the people there a message, but instead he ran away. Here's what happened. (Read Jonah 1:1-17)

**Follow Up
10 Minutes**

Option A Play dough Demonstration

Materials Needed. Different colors of play dough- hand made or store bought

Play dough, once mixed up, is impossible to separate. Use the colored play dough to demonstrate how sin permeates our lives and makes something ugly.

Use one color of dough, then add a piece of another color to it. At first you can see the difference between the dough colors, but over time the dough will combine and make a new, less beautiful color. *This is what sin is like in our lives. If we don't ask for forgiveness, it can change us. God needs to remove the sin and make us clean again.*

Keep adding different colors of dough pieces and squishing them together. Eventually you will find the dough will be an unattractive color of gray or green.

Without God our lives will turn into an unattractive mess.

Option B Making mixed up sugar cookies

Materials Needed. Sugar cookie recipe with all ingredients and utensils, extra salt

Sin is often disguised.

In this demonstration you are going to make two batches of sugar cookies- one following the recipe, the other substituting salt for the sugar.

As you make the cookies with your students, talk about how the world perceives sin, how others may not think that sin is sin.

Just like the salt cookies, sin can get in our lives and make things terrible.

Have your students taste each type of cookies. Can they tell the difference?

God cleans up the sin in our lives; he makes us clean again.

**Small
Group/
Talents
Time
15 Minutes**

Sins have consequences; what does this mean?

What are some consequences to sin in our lives?

Prayer and Praise: Talking with God, sharing our lives with Him, thanking Him, and asking for His guidance.



Week: Two Sin and Forgiveness Month

Goal

To understand how to ask for forgiveness

Worship 10-15 Minutes

Who can forgive sins but God alone? Luke 5:21

Introduce Verse

Teaching 10 Minutes

We've been talking about sin. When we sin it is important to ask for forgiveness. Today we are going to talk about how to ask for forgiveness.

Jesus died on the cross for our sins. Before Jesus, people had to offer sacrifices for their sins, but Jesus was our sacrifice. So, when we ask for forgiveness, we need to ask for it in Jesus name.

For example, we need to say, God forgive me for disobeying, in Jesus name, amen.

Here is what Jesus said about sinners. (Read Mark 2:13-17)

In this story Jesus spent time with known sinners. It is quite clear that Jesus understands that there is sin, and that is why he was sent to earth.

When Jesus died on the cross, he asked God to forgive the sins of mankind. (Read Luke 23:34)

Jesus wants to forgive our sins as well.



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Follow Up
10 Minutes

Option A **Weight Game**

Materials Needed: Good size Rocks, bricks, or weights of some kind (as many as you can find,) pillowcases (one per small group)

Divide students into their small groups.

They can either choose one person (their strongest) to race for them, or they can take turns. One person races to the end of the room and picks up a rock/weight and puts it into the pillow case. They race back and give the pillow case to the next person. That person races down and picks up another rock and puts it into the pillow case. This continues until the pillow case cannot be lifted anymore. The team with the most rocks in their case wins. The object of this game is to demonstrate that Jesus carried the weight of our sins. Each one of us added our sins to his death. It was a very heavy job to be the sacrifice for us. Each rock represents the weight of sin that Jesus has taken from us onto himself. Give each student the opportunity to hold and lift the rocks.

Option B

Option B: None

**Small
Group/
Talents
Time**
15 Minutes

How should we ask for forgiveness?

Why is it important to ask for forgiveness in Jesus' name?

Prayer and Praise: Talking with God, sharing our lives with Him, thanking Him, and asking for His guidance.



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Week: Three Sin and Forgiveness Month

Goal To understand that when we ask for forgiveness we are acknowledging our sins.

Worship
10-15
Minutes

Introduce Verse Who can forgive sins but God alone? Luke 5:21

Teaching
10 Minutes

Last week we talked about how to ask for forgiveness. When we make mistakes on purpose to hurt ourselves, hurt others, or disobey, we need to ask for forgiveness from God.

When we ask for forgiveness we are acknowledging that we have done something wrong. That is important to us and to God.

Let's look again at Jonah. Last week Jonah disobeyed God and ran away. He ended up in the belly of a large fish.

Here's what happened next: (read Jonah 2)

Jonah called out to God for help and forgiveness. This is what we need to do in our lives as well.

Jonah went on to Nineveh, as God commanded. He understood that he had sinned.

**Follow Up
10 Minutes**

Option A Red Pepper Flake Experiment

Materials Needed. A generous handful of red pepper flakes, bowl of water, dish soap

Talk to your students about sin. Sin is like the red pepper flakes. it comes into our lives and makes us imperfect. Gently add the red pepper flakes to the bowl of water, do NOT stir. The pepper flakes should sit on top of the water.

God comes into our lives and takes away the sins; he immediately cleanses us from our sins. Add a few drops of dish detergent, the red pepper flakes should quickly move away from the soap.

God is like the soap- he immediately pushes the sin from our lives, forever.

Dry Ice Demonstration

Materials Needed. Dry Ice, large bucket, tongs (caution: do not let children handle the dry ice)

Tell your students. *when sin comes into our lives it clouds everything. It hurts relationships; it affects our minds and hearts.* Show your class the bucket. We are like the bucket, vessels to be filled up. We can be filled up with something pure like God (water is a good example) or we can be filled up with sin.

Put the dry ice into the bucket. Soon it will fill up the bucket with vapor and seep out.

This is like sin, it gets inside of us then starts to seep out. At first others may not notice it, but after a while it affects everything.

Like the dry ice, pretty soon you cannot see inside our hearts because sin has taken over.

God removes the sin (remove the dry ice with tongs and place in a bag.) When God removes the sin, we are clean again. People can see the difference in our lives and we are ready to be filled up with God's love and guidance.

Option B

**Small
Group/
Talents
Time
15 Minutes**

Why do we need to ask for forgiveness?

What kinds of sin can we see in people?

What kinds of sins are hidden?

Prayer and Praise: Talking with God, sharing our lives with Him, thanking Him, and asking for His guidance.



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Week: Four Sin and Forgiveness Month

Goal

To understand that when God forgives your sins, they are forgiven forever.

Worship 10-15 Minutes

Introduce Verse

Who can forgive sins but God alone? Luke 5:21

Teaching 10 Minutes

Last week we talked about how God forgives all sins. Jesus forgives our sins because he loves us and wants to be closer to us. Sin can get in the way of our relationship with God, but forgiveness helps us get closer to God.

We will always make mistakes, but as we become closer to God, he will help us make the right decisions in our lives. And when God forgives sins, they are gone forever.

Here is what the Bible says about our sins: (Read 1 John 1:7-2:2)

Jesus takes our sins away- forever; he is our sacrifice.



Children's Church : The Talents Project

**Follow Up
10 Minutes**

Option A **Listening to music**

Two very good songs have been created that explain the vastness of God's forgiveness of our sins.

Play copies of these songs for your students.

Newsboys: Million Pieces from the

On the Ocean Floor

Ask your students to listen carefully to the lyrics or give them a copy of the lyrics.

Music is a powerful learning element.

Drama Mock Trial

Materials Needed. Script, signs or badges of characters, prompt cards: Boo! and Cheer!

Option B

Before class, give each leader a copy of the script to read over. Assign roles and rehearse if possible.

Perform for your students then hold a discussion about the play. What did Jesus do for Bill?

Was Bill a perfect person throughout his life?

What is important to remember about this play?

**Small
Group/
Talents
Time
15 Minutes**

Who stand up for us against Satan?

Why do we need God's forgiveness?

Prayer and Praise: Talking with God, sharing our lives with Him, thanking Him, and asking for His guidance.



The Trial Script

Characters.

Narrator

Bill

Jesus

Angel

God

The Accuser

Prompt Cards Needed. *Cheering! Boo!*

Narrator: Poor Bill. He was dead, but he about to face his life from a whole new perspective.

Bill: I'm really scared.

Jesus: Don't worry, everything will be fine.

Bill: I didn't know I would have to come to court.

Jesus: Well, he's accusing you of a lot of bad stuff from your life, but don't worry...I've got it covered.

Angel: All rise, court is now in session, the most honorable God residing. (Narrator holds up the Cheering! prompt card)

God: (God enters and takes a seat in the center) Please be seated. Who is with us today?

Angel: Bill is here, he's from the United States, uh, Washington State. He's charged on multiple counts of lying, stealing, fighting, jealousy, greed, anger, disobedience, uh, the list is rather long (The angel shows God a long list of accusations. Narrator hold up the Boo! prompt card)

God: I see.

The Accuser: Can we just get to it please? This guy's mine- just look what he did while he was on earth. This case is closed. (Narrator holds up the Boo! prompt card)

God: Hm.

The Accuser: I don't even know why we're here, I've been following this kid since he was born and he's bad through and through. Hand him over! (Narrator holds up the Boo! prompt card)

Jesus: Not so fast! He's not yours, he's mine. (Narrator holds up the Cheering! prompt card)

The Accuser: You must be joking, have you seen what this kid's done?

Jesus: Yep, I know everything.

The Accuser: So, you saw when he fought with his sister.

Jesus: Yes, I did.

The Accuser: You saw when he stole that candy bar at the store.

The logo consists of three circles. The left and right circles are filled with a light blue grid pattern, while the middle circle is an empty white circle with a thin blue outline. The text "Children's Church : The Talents Project" is centered horizontally across the three circles.

Children's Church : The Talents Project

Jesus: Yep, I saw him.

The Accuser: You heard him when he treated others like dirt?

Jesus: Yes, but that doesn't matter now.

The Accuser: It doesn't matter? Why on earth not?

Jesus: Because those sins are all gone. (Narrator holds up the Cheering prompt card)

The Accuser: Gone? What do you mean? Didn't you see the list? I've been keeping track! (Narrator holds up the Boo! prompt card)

Jesus: I saw the list, but that is your list, not mine. You may be keeping accounts on this boy, but I'm not.

The Accuser: Why not?! He's everything he's not supposed to be and you know that he can't be with God if he's impure.

Jesus: You're right about that, but he is pure.

The Accuser: I don't understand.

Jesus: Yes you do. You know that I died for this kid, I took his sins on the cross. They don't exist anymore. (Narrator holds up the Cheering! prompt card)

The Accuser: (Turning to God angrily) Is he in your book?

God: (Picks up a book and flips through the pages until he lands on one name) Ah yes, here he is. Bill Baines.

Jesus: (Patting Bill on the back) See! He's been mine all along. (Narrator holds up the Cheering! prompt card)

The Accuser: But that's not fair! He kept sinning, all his life he sinned.

God: Yes, and all his life Jesus still took those sins away.

The Accuser: But, but, I never get any of these Christian kids, can't I just have a couple here and there? (Narrator holds up the Boo! prompt card)

Jesus: Not a chance. I'm not letting any of my children go, I know every name in that book and every one of them is special to me.

God: This case is closed. Bill, welcome home. (Narrator holds up the Cheering! prompt card)

Angel: All rise! (The Accuser leaves angrily.)

Bill: (To Jesus) Thanks, I don't know what I would have done if you weren't on my side.

Jesus: I've been with you all along! Come on, I've got a room to show you.

Narrator: And so, with Jesus on his side, Bill gets an all inclusive suite in God's house, prepared especially for him! (Holds up Cheering! prompt card)



Week: One Creation Month

Goal

To understand that God created the heavens, the earth, the light and the universe.

Worship 10-15 Minutes

Introduce Verse

Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, Creator of the ends of the earth. Isaiah 40:28

Teaching 10 Minutes

Today we are starting a new topic of study. This month we are going to learn about Creation.

Some people believe that the earth was created through natural processes, but we believe God created everything, from the heavens to the earth, from the universe to the very tiniest bug. That is what the Bible tells us.

Here is what happened.

Read: Genesis 1:1-19

The Bible tells us that God was involved in the process of creation.

Follow Up
10 Minutes

Option A Exploring the stars and heavens by examining constellations

Materials Needed: Constellation page, pencils, pictures of stars and galaxies from the internet, pictures of big and little dippers.

In Genesis it says that God created the heavens and the earth. There are billions of stars. God made each star, each constellation. There are so many stars that we cannot see them all or count them all. The clusters of stars are called galaxies. We live in a galaxy called the Milky Way.

Show students pictures of the stars from pictures gleaned from the internet or books. *Sometimes the stars are put together in a pattern or pictures and make a constellations. One very famous Constellation which can see is the Big Dipper.*

Show students pictures of the Big Dipper and the Little Dipper.

We can see the Big Dipper at night. Another constellation is the Little Dipper. We can also find the Little Dipper in the sky if we look carefully. It is fun to make constellation pictures of your own. We can even make up stories about our pictures like the ancient Greeks did. They told stories about their famous heroes. Our hero is God who made all the stars we see each night.

Option B

Use the star picture to make up constellation pictures. Connect the stars by drawing from one to the next.

Earth and Sun Demonstration

Materials needed: Globe, flashlight, large ball, little ball

God made the sun and the earth. The sun is much larger than the earth.

Use the Globe and examine what the earth looks like.

The sun shines on the earthlike this flashlight shines on this globe.

Use the flashlight to demonstrate.

The sun is much larger than the earth. The earth revolves around the sun. It takes the earth 365 days to move around the sun completely.

Demonstrate the sun and earth using the balls.

Without the sun the earth could not survive. It is the perfect distance from the earth to keep the earth warm, but not too hot.

Small
Group/
Talents
Time
15 Minutes

What is your favorite season? Why?

Do you prefer hot weather or cold, sun or snow?

Prayer and Praise: Talking with God, sharing our lives with Him, thanking Him, and asking for His guidance.



Week: Two Creation Month

Goal To understand that God made all the animals.

Worship
10-15
Minutes

**Introduce
Verse**

Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, Creator of the ends of the earth. Isaiah 40:28

Teaching
10 Minutes

Last week we learned about how God made the earth, sun, and the universe. In fact, God made everything.

Today we are going to learn about plants and animals. In the book of Genesis it tells us that God made all of the plants and animals. Some people believe that God got the whole process started and then it created itself from that point, but we know, because the Bible always tells us the truth, that God made every plant and every animal. He made them special and unique, he gave them places to live, and he gave them the special abilities to survive in their environment.

Read: Genesis 1:20-25

What did you hear in this passage? What animals did God specifically mention here? (birds, sea creatures, fish, livestock, ground creatures, wild animals)

What did God say about these animals? (They were good)

What is amazing about animals is that each is so unique. God designed them to be exactly who they are. Birds can only be birds. Whales can only be whales. Animals do not change from one to the other, because if they did they would die in the process.



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Follow Up
10 Minutes

Option A **Animal Demonstration**

Materials Needed. As many animals of varying kinds as possible
Use real animals (fish, turtles, kittens, dogs, etc.) to show your students the amazing qualities of animals. What does a fish need that a dog doesn't have? How does a kitten differ from a dog? Talk about how God gave the animals different teeth, claws, fur, scales, etc to help them survive in their environment.

Option B **Favorite Animal Puppets**

Materials Needed. Small Paper Bags, yarn (of different colors), construction paper, scissors, glue
Have students create paper bag puppets of animals.

**Small Group/
Talents
Time**
15 Minutes

What is your favorite animal?
What makes your favorite animal unique?

Prayer and Praise: Talking with God, sharing our lives with Him, thanking Him, and asking for His guidance.



Week: Three Creation Month

Goal To understand that God created humans.

Worship
10-15
Minutes

**Introduce
Verse**

Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, Creator of the ends of the earth. Isaiah 40:28

Teaching
10 Minutes

Last week we learned that God made all the animals. He made each one special and perfect for the environment that they live in. God also made people. Here is what the Bible says about that.

Read: Genesis 1:26-28

So God created the first man and woman. The man was named Adam, and the woman named Eve.

What is important to remember is that God created humans. That didn't happen by accident, God created people to have a relationship with him. He also made people unique. Some people are good at drawing; some people are good at singing. Some people are good at building; some people are good at taking things apart. We all have different talents, dreams, likes, and dislikes. No person is better than another, and each of us is loved by God.



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Follow Up
10 Minutes

Option A **Discussion regarding talents, likes, dislikes, and dreams**

Materials needed: Large piece of tag board, pen

Write: "Our Class" on the top of the paper

Divide the paper into four sections. In the sections write:

"Talents"

"Likes"

"Dislikes"

"Dreams"

Ask the students to each tell you something to put in each box. Write the information in the appropriate boxes. When you finish, discuss how different and alike the group is.

You may have several students who like to draw or sing, several students who dislike spinach, for example. Talk about how God made each of us completely special.

Option B

Art Observation

Various pieces of art

Humans are unique. No other animal has the ability to discern art the way humans do.

This is a good example of how God made humans special (although not by any means the only thing that makes us special!)

Place various pieces of art in front of your students. Talk about each. Which pictures do the students like best? How does the art make the students feel? What do they think the artist was trying to portrait? A happy scene? A message? Different opinions are good.

Follow up exercise. Have students create a piece of art of their own.

**Small Group/
Talents
Time**
15 Minutes

How are you different than your brothers or sisters?

What do you want to be when you grow up? Why?

Prayer and Praise: Talking with God, sharing our lives with Him, thanking Him, and asking for His guidance.



Week: Four Creation Month

Goal To understand that God created you for a reason.

Worship
10-15
Minutes

**Introduce
Verse**

Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, Creator of the ends of the earth. Isaiah 40:28

Teaching
10 Minutes

Last week we talked about how God made people, the first people were Adam and Eve. We also talked about how God made every person special. He gives them likes and dislikes, different dreams and talents.

This week we are going to talk about you. God made you unique and for a purpose. It may be difficult right now to understand your purpose, but God knows exactly why he made you.

Today we are going to learn about a boy named Samuel. When he was very young his mother took him to the temple to learn about God under a man named Eli. Samuel lived at the temple and worked very hard. He didn't know what God's purpose was, but he soon found out.

Read: 1 Samuel 3:1-12

Samuel gave the message to Eli, and then as time went on, Samuel became a great prophet for God. His purpose was to tell the Israelites messages from God.

Samuel was just a child when God gave him his job. Each of us has a job as well. We may not know what that purpose is right now, but God is already preparing you for your purpose through your talents and gifts.



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Follow Up
10 Minutes

Option A **Build a Class Time Capsule**

Materials Needed. Newspapers, magazines, Student information sheet, shoe box.

Using the newspaper and magazines, find and cut out objects and articles that represent today. Then have your students fill out the student information sheets. Put the cut out information and student information sheets into the box. Talk about how each student contributed to the class as a whole. This box can be stored away and opened at a later date. A lot will have changed between today and the time that you open the box, but the students' talents and gifts will remain the same. They will have grown up, but during that time God will be working on developing them to fulfill his purposes in this life.

Option B **Student Scavenger Hunt**

Materials Needed. Scavenger Hunt sheet (one per child)

Each student is unique. Give each student a Scavenger Hunt sheet and have them find someone else that fits that description. You can set a time limit to make a game of this exercise.

Small
Group/
Talents
Time
15 Minutes

What are you really good at?
What do you really love to do?
How do you think God will use you in this world?

Prayer and Praise: Talking with God, sharing our lives with Him, thanking Him, and asking for His guidance.



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Student Information Sheet

Your name: _____

Your age: _____

Your favorite food: _____

Your least favorite food: _____

Your favorite animal: _____

What you are good at: _____

What you like to do: _____

What you don't like to do: _____

What you want to be when you grow up:

A Self Portrait:



Class Scavenger Hunt

Likes chocolate: _____

Likes peanut butter: _____

Likes reading: _____

Likes singing: _____

Likes to build things: _____

Likes games: _____

Likes hiking: _____

Likes biking: _____

Likes baking: _____

Likes swimming: _____

Likes sports: _____

Likes dancing: _____

Likes drawing: _____

Likes camping: _____

Likes school: _____



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Week: One

Tell Others about Jesus

Goal

To understand that Jesus instructed us to tell others about him

Worship 10-15 Minutes

Sing to the Lord, all the earth; proclaim his salvation day after day. 1
Chronicles 16:23

Introduce Verse

Teaching 10 Minutes

This week we are starting a new topic. All month we are going to talk about evangelism. Does anyone know what evangelism is? (Telling others about Jesus.)

After Jesus rose from the dead he appeared to his disciples. He was with them for a short time and gave them instructions about evangelism.

Here is what he said. Read Matthew 28:16-20

So, Jesus told his disciples to tell others about him. His disciples did just that. They spent the rest of their lives teaching others about Jesus.

Jesus wants us to do that as well. Not everyone knows about Jesus, and not everyone accepts Jesus as their savior. It is our job to let them know about how much he loves them.

Sometimes it is hard to tell others about Jesus, but the holy spirit will help us.



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**Follow Up
10 Minutes**

Option A

Making footprint pictures

Materials Needed: Paper, tempura paint, paper plates, paper towels or baby wipes (for clean up)

The disciples traveled for miles, walking from city to city to tell others about Jesus. Have your students take off their shoes and socks. Pour paint onto a paper plate and spread it around. Have your students put their feet (one at a time) into the paint, then press their foot onto the paper. Repeat with the other foot. Clean their feet with the paper towel or baby wipes. Have your students write on the picture something they remember about the story from today or about the disciples walking from city to city to tell others about Jesus.

Option B

Globe work

Materials Needed: Globe, worksheet

Jesus commanded us to go into the world and teach the gospel.

With the globe, work through the questions on the worksheet.

**Small
Group/
Talents
Time
15 Minutes**

Who can you tell about Jesus?

Why is it important to tell others about Jesus?

Prayer and Praise: Talking with God, sharing our lives with Him, thanking Him, and asking for His guidance.



Globe Worksheet

Find your city, state, and country on the globe

Find Jerusalem (Jesus gave us the command to tell others about him while in Jerusalem)

Find Rome (The Roman empire controlled the world that the disciples lived in)

Find Greece (some disciples went to Greece)

Find Egypt (some disciples went into Egypt)

Find India (some disciples went into India)

Find England (later, missionaries went into Europe)

Find Africa (later, missionaries went into Africa)

Find South America (later, missionaries went into Africa)

Find China (a famous missionary Hudson Taylor, went into China)

Find any city where your students, families, or church supports missionaries

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Week: Two

Tell Others about Jesus

Goal

To learn about the change in Peter, from scared runaway to great leader

Worship

10-15

Minutes

Sing to the Lord, all the earth; proclaim his salvation day after day.

Introduce

Verse

1 Chronicles 16:23

Teaching 10 Minutes

Last week we learned that Jesus told us to tell others about him. This week we are going to learn more about his disciples.

After Jesus went up into heaven, his disciples stayed in the city (Jerusalem) until the Holy Spirit was given to them. Then they began the job of telling others about Jesus. It was dangerous time for them. The Jewish leaders were not happy that they were telling others about Jesus and how much he loved them.

But they continued even though it was dangerous. In today's story we are going to read about Peter. Do you remember that Peter denied Jesus three times and ran away? But after Jesus' resurrection, Peter truly believed that he was God and then became a great leader.

Here is what happened one day. Peter was talking to a very large crowd. Read Acts 2:29-41

3000 people accepted Jesus that day. That is amazing and wonderful! Peter spent the rest of his life telling others about Jesus.



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Follow Up
10 Minutes

Option A **From Rooster to Real Leader**

Materials Needed: Pens or Crayons, worksheet (one per student,) feathers, glue
Peter is infamous for denying Jesus three times before the rooster crowed, as predicted by Jesus, but he's equally as famous for being a great leader. Use the worksheet to demonstrate knowledge of this contrast in Peter.

Option B **Paper Mosaic**

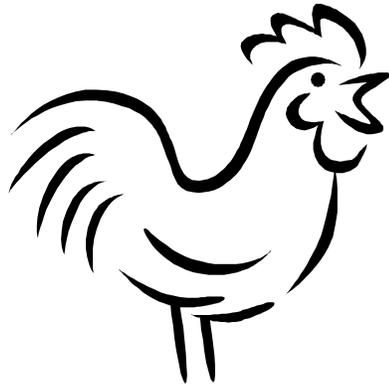
Materials Needed: Black or white construction paper, colored construction paper, scissors, glue, and pencils
Mosaics are beautiful and also tell a story. Have your students create a mosaic out of paper that would teach about Peter, Jesus, the disciples, the rooster or any other symbol that would remind them of Peter's leadership following these instruction.
Have students choose either white or black construction paper as their background. With a pencil, lightly sketch a picture with little attention to detail.
Cut small pieces of construction paper into different shapes and glue them inside and outside of the drawn picture leaving a space between the pieces.

Small
Group/
Talents
Time
15 Minutes

Why does God want us to tell others about Jesus?
Do you think that Peter was ever scared? Why or why not?

Prayer and Praise: Talking with God, sharing our lives with Him, thanking Him, and asking for His guidance.

What was Peter like the night the rooster crowed?



.....

How was Peter a great leader?



.....



Week: Three

Tell Others about Jesus

Goal To learn about Stephen's ministry

Worship
10-15
Minutes

**Introduce
Verse**

Sing to the Lord, all the earth; proclaim his salvation day after day.
1 Chronicles 16:23

Teaching
10 Minutes

Last week we learned about Peter. He became a great leader for God. This week we are going to learn about Steven. Steven was another disciple of Jesus. He also received the Holy Spirit and spent the rest of his life telling others about how much Jesus loved them.

It was hard being a disciple for Jesus. The Jewish leaders did not like the message that they were spreading. Here is what happened to Stephen. Read: Acts 6:8-15

Why do you think Stephen's face became white, like an angel's? How do you think he felt about the lies people spread about him?

Stephen went on to accuse the leaders of not seeing the true Messiah (Jesus.) This is what happened. Read Acts 7:54-60



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Follow Up
10 Minutes

Option A

Picture of Stephen in white

Materials Needed: Colored construction paper, oil pastels

In the story we learned that Stephen was talking to the crowd and suddenly took on a light like an angel. He became white.

Have students create a picture of Stephen using oil pastels. Use the colored paper as the background, use white for Stephen's face.

Option B

Stephen Worksheet

Stephen worksheet, pens

Stephen was a great disciple and a great leader. He was commissioned to take care of the needs of the community.

We have also been called to care for the needs of our community. Help students complete the worksheet regarding Stephen and our obligations to those around us.

**Small Group/
Talents
Time**

15 Minutes

Stephen was killed, as most of the disciples were, but that did not stop the truth about Jesus from spreading all over the world. Why do you think the leaders wanted the truth to be quieted?

Why do you think people are unwilling to believe in Jesus?

Prayer and Praise: Talking with God, sharing our lives with Him, thanking Him, and asking for His guidance.



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Stephen' mission: to help others in the name of Christ

.....
Needs in our Community

.....
What can we do to help?



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Week: Four

Tell Others about Jesus

Goal To learn about Paul's ministry

Worship
10-15
Minutes

**Introduce
Verse**

Sing to the Lord, all the earth; proclaim his salvation day after day.

1 Chronicles 16:23

Teaching
10 Minutes

Last week we learned about Stephen. Today we are going to learn about Paul. Paul was not a disciple of Jesus; he never knew Jesus before the crucifixion. Paul was a Jew who did not like the disciples. In fact, he was responsible for the death of Stephen. But God had plans for Paul. He knew that Paul would be a great leader for the Christian church. This is what happened to Paul.

Read: Acts 9:1-18

Paul immediately began to tell everyone he met that Jesus was the savior. People were astonished, and the Jewish leaders were angry. Paul spent the rest of his life telling others about Jesus, but it was not an easy life. He was persecuted, put in jail, caught in a storm, chased, beaten, and eventually killed for his beliefs.



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Follow Up 10 Minutes

Option A

Acting out Paul in Prison

Read: Acts 16:16-34

Assign roles to students: Paul, Silas, Jailer, Other Prisoners

As you read through scripture, have the students act out the scene of Paul and Silas in prison.

For example, they can sing songs and pray at the appropriate times.

When the earthquake arrives, they can fall and act like there is an earthquake.

Option B

Paul's Shipwreck Experience

Read: Acts 27:13-44

Materials Needed: Large cake pan with 2. sides, water, rocks and sand, aluminum foil

Paul was shipwreck while sailing from island to island in the Mediterranean Sea.

Demonstrate to your students that islands are like mountains in the water by placing the rocks and sand in the cake pan, then filling it part way with water.

Give each student a 6" square of aluminum foil and have them create a boat to sail in your newly constructed Mediterranean Sea. Notice how difficult it is to construct a boat that floats. Add a little wave action in your sea, and it is even more difficult to stay afloat!

Small Group/ Talents Time 15 Minutes

In our country today we are free to say whatever we want. We have freedom of speech and freedom of religion. However, the disciples did not. They were all persecuted for their beliefs. How do you think it felt to be persecuted?

What do you think helped the disciples and Paul to continue to tell others the good news of Jesus?

Prayer and Praise: Talking with God, sharing our lives with Him, thanking Him, and asking for His guidance.



Week: One The Bible Month

Goal

Worship
10-15
Minutes

To learn Bible Basics

Introduce
Verse

Your word, O Lord, is eternal, it stands firm in the heavens. Psalm 119:89

Teaching
10 Minutes

Today we are going to learn about the Bible. Most people know what the Bible is and how it is divided into two parts: the Old Testament and the New Testament. (Show the New Testament and the Old Testament.)

The bible has 66 books, written by various men throughout history. (Show the Index of the Bible, count the books if desired.)

The first four books of the Bible are called The Law and were written by Moses. (Show the first four books.)

The first four books of the New Testament are called The Four Gospels. They are all about the life of Jesus. (Show the four gospels.)

There is a lot to know about the Bible, but today we are going to focus on two facts: The Bible is the inspired word of God and it is infallible.

The Bible is the inspired word of God. That means that even though it was written by men, they were instructed by God through visions, visits, or inspiration to write the words. In essence, God wrote the Bible through them.

Read: Psalm 119: 11-16

In this scripture we see that the word of God (the Bible) comes from him, not from any man.

Infallible means that it is completely true.

Read: 2 Samuel 22:31

Therefore, every word in the Bible is right, good and true. The Bible does not lie or exaggerate, it is completely without fault.

Here are more verses that talk about that. Read: Proverbs 30:5
and John 17:17

**Follow Up
10 Minutes**

Option A

Bible Scavenger Hunt

Materials Needed: Scavenger Hunt page, pens

Follow the Scavenger Hunt page and find the various elements of the Bible. You can do this together as a group, in small groups, or as a race.

Option B

Illustrate your favorite book

Materials Needed: paper, pens or crayons, book template (if desired.)

This activity can be done as a small group, or as individuals, or as a large group.

There are 66 books in the Bible. Each one has different stories. You can work independently to find the stories of the books and illustrate them (thereby illustrate the book) or work together to find and illustrate books of the Bible.

Focus on stories the kids know, for example, Daniel in the Lion's Den is in Daniel, Noah's Ark is in Genesis, Parting the Red Sea is in Exodus.

First, decide on a story.

Next, find the book where the story belongs.

Use the template, or create one of your own, and illustrate the book.

If you have enough kids, enough groups, or enough time, you could illustrate most of the books of the Bible and compile them into an impressive piece of art, quilt, or memory book.

**Small
Group/
Talents
Time
15 Minutes**

What are two things we know about the Bible?

What is your favorite book of the Bible? Why?

Prayer and Praise: Talking with God, sharing our lives with Him, thanking Him, and asking for His guidance.



Bible Scavenger Hunt

Find the first book of the Bible

Find the last book of the Bible

Find the appendix

Find the index

Find the books of The Law (first four of the Old Testament)

Find the books of The Four Gospels (first four of the New Testament)

Look up: John 3:16

Look up: 1 John 3:16

Look up: Psalm 119:89

Find Psalms

Find Proverbs

Find Daniel

Find Acts

Find Ruth

Find other verses you have used in your classroom

Find stories that you have talked about in your classroom

The Bible





Week: Two

The Bible Month

Goal

To learn about Martin Luther, specifically his translation of the Bible from Hebrew and Greek to German

Worship 10-15 Minutes

Your word, O Lord, is eternal, it stands firm in the heavens. Psalm 119:89

Introduce Verse

Teaching 10 Minutes

Last week we learned about the Bible and how it was constructed. Today we are going to learn about a man named Martin Luther. Martin Luther is not found in the Bible. However, he is a very important figure in our church history. Martin Luther believed that everyone should have access to the word of God, so he translated the Bible from Greek to German, his native language.

Here is his story.

Martin Luther was born in 1483 in the country of Germany. He was a monk (a person who is dedicated to the study and worship of God) in the Catholic church.

As Martin grew up he became unhappy with the Catholic church. At the time, the church had strict rules about who could read the Bible, when it could be read, and how you were supposed to behave as a Christian. As Martin studied and taught the Bible, he began to believe that people are saved by the grace of God, through Jesus. He also believed that everyone should be able to read the Bible, but there was a problem, it was only written in Greek, and most people didn't know how to read Greek. The church leaders knew Greek, so on Sundays they would tell the people little pieces of the Bible, but Luther believed that wasn't fair.

Luther wanted everyone to know that Jesus loves them and died for them on the cross. This information could be found in the Bible, but if no one could read the Bible, then how would they know? He began to write and distribute pamphlets to the people about Jesus and the church. This made the church very angry. Then Luther began translating the Bible from Greek to German so that ordinary people could read it. Luther was not the only one to translate the Bible, but many believe his translation was the best. For years Luther worked on translating the Bible while the church threatened him and said terrible things about him. Eventually he would leave the Catholic church and start a new group called the Lutherans. Lutherans believed that everyone can and should read their own Bible. It took many years to get the Bible published and in the hands of those who wanted to read it, but it worked! Today most people have a Bible of their own.



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Follow Up
10 Minutes

Option A **Creating pamphlets**

Materials Needed: 8.5 x 11 piece of paper folded to create a pamphlet. Pens.

One way that Luther got his message out was through pamphlets. He created small books in language the people could understand. He gave them the message that Jesus loved them and saved them through grace.

Create a small pamphlet with your students. Have them think about the message they would give- simple and straight forward, to a friend who does not know Jesus.

Translating the Bible

Another way that Luther helped spread the word of Jesus was through the translation of the Bible.

Option B

Use the translation sheets and talk about how difficult it is to understand a message if you don't know what it says.

Small
Group/
Talents
Time
15 Minutes

What are two ways that Luther helped spread God's message?

God used Luther in a specific way. He will use you as well. How do you think you can spread the message of Jesus in your life?

Prayer and Praise: Talking with God, sharing our lives with Him, thanking Him, and asking for His guidance.



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Greek

KATA ΙΩΑΝΝΗΝ 3:16 (1881 Westcott-Hort New Testament)

16 οὕτως γὰρ ἠγάπησεν ὁ θεὸς τὸν κόσμον ὥστε τὸν υἱὸν τὸν μονογενῆ ἔδωκεν ἵνα πᾶς ὁ πιστευὼν εἰς αὐτὸν μὴ ἀποληταὶ ἀλλ' ἔχη ζωὴν αἰώνιον

German

Johannes 3:16 (Hoffnung für Alle)

16 ^[a]Denn Gott hat die Menschen so sehr geliebt, dass er seinen einzigen Sohn für sie hergab. Jeder, der an ihn glaubt, wird nicht zugrunde gehen, sondern das ewige Leben haben.

English

John 3:16 (New King James Version)

16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Hebrew

Psalms 119:89 (The Westminster Leningrad Codex)

89 לְעוֹלָם יְהוָה דְּבָרָךְ נִצָּב בַּשָּׁמַיִם:

German

Psalm 119:89 (Luther Bibel 1545)

89(LAMED.) HERR, dein Wort bleibt ewiglich, soweit der Himmel ist;

English

Psalm 119:89 (New King James Version)

89 Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven



Week: Three The Bible Month

Goal To learn about William Tyndale

Worship
10-15
Minutes

**Introduce
Verse**

Your word, O Lord, is eternal, it stands firm in the heavens. Psalm 119:89

Teaching
10 Minutes

Last week we learned about Martin Luther. Today we are going learn about another man who wanted to spread the news about Jesus. His name was William Tyndale.

It began first in an old school in England where a young man named **William Tyndale** was studying. He was a good Greek scholar and had read the New Testament in the very language in which it was written. It had come to mean so much to him that he wanted it to mean something to all the people around him.

One day some students were talking about all this new interest in the Bible, and one man said very positively. "The Bible is not necessary. It is all foolishness to talk about translating it into English for the people to read. **All they need is the word of the pope.** We had better be without God's laws than the pope's laws!"

William Tyndale rose from his chair, and striking his clenched fist on the table shouted, "I defy the pope and all his laws; and, if God spares me, I will one day make the boy that drives the plow in England to know more of the Scriptures than the pope does!"

It was not an idle boast. William Tyndale went right to work to make an English Bible that all the people could read. A rich merchant, Humphrey Monmouth, gave him his home to work in and day and night he worked, hoping some publisher would print it when he had it ready.

CONTINUED on Page 68

**Follow Up
10 Minutes**

Option A Message Stamping

Materials Needed: Alphabet Stamps, paper, ink pads

William Tyndale lived in an era where the printing press was just beginning to have wide-spread use. But printing presses were still tedious to set up and production was small compared to the technology of today. Regardless, Tyndale and his friends went to great lengths to make sure Bibles were printed and distributed.

With your students, decide a message you would like to create with the alphabet stamps. Have them write the message to use as a guide. Provide them with a piece of paper, the stamps, and the ink pad and have them create the message. Remind them of the length of time it takes to do just one message. Can you imagine setting each letter in a printing press for the entire Bible?

Option B Courage interpretive painting

Materials Needed: Acrylic paint, brushes, paper, clean up materials

William Tyndale was a man of great courage. He died trying to fulfill his mission. Courage is something that the disciples, missionaries, Christian leaders and many others have that propels them to fulfill their goals.

What does courage look like? Give each student a piece of paper and brushes. Provide paints for them to create their own picture of courage.

William Tyndale worked very hard to achieve his mission of converting the Greek Bible to the English Bible, like the Bibles we read today. So, William Tyndale, in a way, helped you. Many previous Christians have helped the Christians of today by working hard to make things right. In that way you can help the Christians that will come in the future. How can you make a difference in the lives of future Christians?

**Small
Group/
Talents
Time
15 Minutes**

Prayer and Praise: Talking with God, sharing our lives with Him, thanking Him, and asking for His guidance.



By Tyndale had forgotten that the pope was very powerful. A Bible in the English language was just what the pope did not want. Presently all the authorities of England turned against him and soon, even his friend Monmouth dared not help him. Tyndale sadly said, "In England there is no room for attempting the translation of the Scriptures."

Did he quit? No, William Tyndale was no quitter. He just left England and went to live in Hamburg, Germany. Here he could never be sure his life was safe, for the English Catholic bishops and priests were so angry with him for going on with his work that they hired spies to hinder him, to keep him from making friends and to prevent his ever getting his Bible printed.

There was a printing press at Cologne. So over there he went and found printers ready to go to work on his first English Bible. He tried to keep his work a secret for he knew the English Catholic bishops would arrest him, if they knew the book was nearly done.

One day a warning came to him to flee for his life. A Catholic priest had found out from a printer that his English Bible was nearly off the press, and had come to arrest him. He snatched his precious sheets of paper, and fled from the town, going to Worms, where Martin Luther lived.

There the first English Bible was printed, two sizes being made, one large and one small, for he thought if the English Catholic bishops found the large ones, he might be able to hide the smaller ones.

Now they must be gotten to England. In barrels all covered with cloth and articles for sale, in bales that looked like cloth, in sacks of flour, in every way that could be found to hide them, they were sent across to England.

Did they get across? They did, in large numbers, and the Catholic bishops found out they were being sold. Every seaport was carefully watched, and many a package of Bibles was found by the officers and burned. But more Bibles came. They could not stop them, and some of them would always get to people who wanted to read them.

Finally the Catholic bishop of London had a bright idea! He decided he would buy all the copies that were printed, through a merchant in Germany! Then there would be no more Bibles to come across the water. He did not know that the merchant he asked to do this was a friend of Tyndale.

This friend thought he saw a way to help Tyndale. He knew that right at that time Tyndale needed money more than anything else, to pay his printers for the work they had done, and start a new printing of the Bibles. So he said, "My lord, I will be glad to attend to this matter. But it will take money to do it, for the men who have these books in Germany hold them at a high price."



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"My dear Sir," said the bishop, "do your best to get them for me, all of them, for they are very bad books. I will gladly pay you whatever they cost, for I intend to burn them all and end this matter."

What fun it was to the merchant! He went to Tyndale, bought his books at a good price and brought them over to England, while Tyndale went right to work on a new printing, for he now had plenty of money. The poor Catholic bishop thought when he burned all these Bibles, there would never be another English Bible! Imagine how he felt when he learned that more Bibles than ever before were coming into England. So many came that the officers simply could not stop them.

"How can this be?" a man who had been arrested for helping Tyndale, was asked. "I will tell you truly, my lord," the man replied, "Tis yourself that gave us the money to print the Bibles!" That's a good one. Wasn't he mad, though?

He was so mad that he stirred up all England against Tyndale. All the great Catholic preachers began to preach about it, most of them thinking it would do a great deal of harm to have the Bible in the language of the people, a few very brave and wise men saying it would be much better for England. At last Tyndale won, for the Bible was everywhere. One old bishop said sadly, "It passeth my power, or that of any man, to hinder it now!"

So the Bible came to England, and from England to all the world. But the man who gave it to the world never knew what a glorious victory he had won. Away in a little German town, afraid to walk in the street for fear some spy of the English Catholic bishop, or the pope of Rome should see him, working night and day that everybody might have the Bible, he longed for his home in England. He loved England better than his life. His enemies sent men to make him believe they were his friends, and persuade him to come home. But he knew what they wanted. He knew, once in England, they would arrest and kill him.

Not all his enemies were in England, however. There was a man named Phillips, whom he believed to be loyal and true. But Phillips was a spy sent by the pope to trap Tyndale. One night as Tyndale walked out from his home to enjoy the evening air, a band of men set upon him, bound him, and carried him away to a dark prison.

There was no trial. They knew they were going to kill him. He knew it, too. Gladly he laid down his life, for he had done the work he had set himself to do. The Bible was in England, in the language all the people could read. One day they led him out to a stake. They hanged him and then burned his body. He asked them if he might send a message to England and they told him no.

Then he closed his eyes and prayed earnestly, **"Lord, open the king of England's eyes."**

Brave William Tyndale! No man ever gave more than he! The Bible we read he made possible for us, for from that first translation, all the translations since have been made.

I never think of him without thinking of Jesus' words about Himself, "He laid down His life for His sheep." Surely William Tyndale followed the footsteps of Jesus.



Week: Four The Bible Month

Goal To learn about the Gideons

Worship
10-15
Minutes

**Introduce
Verse**

Your word, O Lord, is eternal, it stands firm in the heavens. Psalm 119:89

Teaching
10 Minutes

So far this month we have talked about the Bible, how it is from God and infallible. We've learned about two important people in history. Martin Luther and William Tyndale. They both helped translate the Bible into languages we could understand. Today we are going to talk about a group of people called the Gideons. The Gideons believed that it was their mission to bring Bibles to the world.

Here is their story:

The Gideons International is an organization dedicated to the distribution of Bibles in 80 different languages in 180 countries. They started in 1899 and base their beliefs on the story of Gideon in the Bible. This is what they say:

"Gideon was a man who was willing to do exactly what God wanted him to do, regardless of his own judgment as to the plans or results. Humility, faith, and obedience were his great elements of character. This is the standard that The Gideons International is trying to establish in all its members, each man to be ready to do God's will at any time, at any place, and in any way that the Holy Spirit leads."

The Gideons have been successful in getting Bibles in hotel rooms, prisons, hospitals, and many, many countries of the world. This is important because many people cannot afford a Bible, or it is too dangerous, or they do not know about Bibles. In this way the Gideons have significantly changed the world for God.

So the next time you are in a hotel, see if you can find the Gideon Bible. It will have a symbol of a vase in the corner in the bottom corner.



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Follow Up
10 Minutes

Option A **Create the Gideon Symbol**

Materials: Paint or pens, symbol pattern, one per child

The symbol of the Gideons is a vase with a yellow flame on the top. Have your students paint the pattern. Cut out if desired.

Option B

Play Bible Bingo

Materials Needed: Bible Bingo cards, pens or pencils, markers (pennies, paper markers, Starburst, etc.)

Give each student a Bible Bingo Card. Have them randomly fill in the blanks from the list of 24 words, or other words you select- students should fill in the spaces themselves to assure randomness of cards.

See next page for more information

**Small
Group/
Talents
Time**

What did the Gideons do?

15 Minutes Why do you think they chose to distribute Bibles as their mission?

Prayer and Praise: Talking with God, sharing our lives with Him, thanking Him, and asking for His guidance.



Play bingo by giving the definition of the word, for example.

“This is the first book of the Bible.”

Answer: Genesis.

“This man translated the Bible from Greek to German.”

Answer: Martin Luther.

“This book has a Lion’s Den in it.”

Answer: Daniel.

“This means that the Bible is completely true.”

Answer: Infallible.

“This is the last book of the Old Testament.”

Answer: Malachi

The winner calls out. “Bible Bingo” when they get five answers in one row, up down or diagonal.

List words: Genesis, Revelation, Psalms, God, Infallible, Daniel, 66, New Testament, Old Testament, Moses, Jesus, Martin Luther, William Tyndale, The Gideons, Greek, German, English, Translate, The Law, The Four Gospels, Matthew, Malachi, Jewish History, The life of Jesus, Free Space

This is an excellent cumulative activity. You can use it to review the major points of this month through this game. Allow older students to help younger students. Modify the words to teach the concepts you desire.

Bingo!

		Free		



Example of the Gideons' symbol, Next time you take a trip,
see if there is a Bible in the motel room placed by the Gideons.



Children's Church : The Talents Project



Week: One Christmas Month

Goal

This is an introduction to the Advent, the four weeks before Christmas

Worship 10-15 Minutes

Introduce Verse

For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given. Isaiah 9.6

Teaching 10 Minutes

Materials Needed: Advent Wreath

We are starting a new topic this month, can anyone guess what we are going to learn about? (Christmas!)

Christmas is the time of year where we remember and celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Who can tell me the Christmas story? (Pick a child to give the details of the Christmas story. Read Luke 2:1-7)

As Christians we anticipate Christmas day and do this in a special way, it is called Advent.

Advent is the four weeks leading up to Christmas Day.

This year we are going to look at a tradition called the Advent Wreath. Here is an Advent Wreath (show the wreath.)

The Wreath has four candles smaller candles, three are purple, one is pink and a big candle in the middle. The purple signifies God and his kingship. We will light one purple candle today and one next week. The pink candle we will light on the third week, it is past the half way mark in our preparations for Christmas, so it is time to rejoice. We will light the fourth candle right before Christmas, then the big candle in the middle on Christmas Eve.

Remember, Jesus is the light of the world. It says in the Bible, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness. John 8:12. Candles are often lit around Christmas time to remind us of that. (Light the first candle.)



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Follow Up
10 Minutes

Option A **Advent Bracelets**

Materials Needed: Green Pipe Cleaners (Two per student), Pink Beads and a Purple Bead (beads that fit on the pipe cleaner.)

Give each child two green pipe cleaner, three purple beads and one pink bead. First, string the four beads onto the pipe cleaner and attach the ends to make a bracelet. The beads are still loose at this point. Spread out the beads to four points on the circle. Wrap the other pipe cleaner around and around the first securing the beads where you want them on the circle.

Option B **Advent Cookies**

Materials Needed: Pre-made sugar cookies in the shape of a ring, green icing, small purple and pink candies.

Give each small group cookies, frosting, and candies. Have the kids decorate their cookies.

**Small Group/
Talents
Time**
15 Minutes

What are the parts of the Advent wreath?

Prayer and Praise: Talking with God, sharing our lives with Him, thanking Him, and asking for His guidance.



Week: Two Christmas Month

Goal Teach the candy cane story and evangelism.

Worship
10-15
Minutes

Introduce Verse For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given. Isaiah 9:6

Teaching
10 Minutes

Materials Needed: Candy Canes

Last week we talked about the Advent Wreath. Today we will light the second Advent candle on our wreath. (Light Purple Candle)

Christmas is a great time to tell others about Jesus. One very clever man about 350 years ago invented the candy cane, it didn't look like today's candy canes, however, it was all one color. Then someone decided to make it different colors. What colors are in the candy cane? (Red and White, or more depending on the cane you chose.)

Can you think of what white might represent? (Purity of God.)

Can you think of what red might represent? (Sacrifice of Jesus.)

Originally the cane was designed to look like a shepherd's staff, because the inventor gave it to children who were watching a nativity. A nativity scene has shepherds. Do you remember the significance of the shepherds? (Read Luke 2:8-20)

If you turn the candy cane upside down, it is a J, for Jesus!

This is a good way to explain the Christmas story to your friends!



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Follow Up
10 Minutes

Option A

Candy Cane Ornaments

Materials Needed: Red and White Tri-beads (three sided beads), pipe cleaner
Have student string the tri-beads onto the pipe cleaner in a red, white pattern. Fold over both ends to secure beads. Form into shape of a candy cane. For an extra element, use ribbon or string to form a holder.

Option B

Candy Cane Hunt

Before class begins, hide as many mini candy canes as you can around the classroom.

**Small
Group/
Talents
Time**
15 Minutes

How can you tell others about Jesus using the candy cane?

Prayer and Praise: Talking with God, sharing our lives with Him, thanking Him, and asking for His guidance.



Week: Three Christmas Month

Goal Teach the role of Angels at the birth of Christ.

Worship
10-15
Minutes

**Introduce
Verse**

For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given. Isaiah 9:6

Teaching
10 Minutes

We have been looking at Christmas all month. Today we are going to light the pink candle of our advent wreath. This candle reminds us that we are over half way to Christmas in our four week wait; it is the candle of rejoicing! (Light pink candle.)

Today we are going to talk about angels. What do we know about angels? (Take answers from your students.)

In our society angels are thought of in many ways, perhaps as cute characters, or just a myth, but we know that they are real because they are in the Bible and the Bible is truthful.

Do you remember who told the shepherds about Jesus? (The angels. Read Luke 2:8-14.)

What role did the angels play in this story? (They were the messengers.)

What else did they do? (They praised God.)

Angels are important because they have had a job to do, they told everyone that Jesus was born. At Christmastime we can tell others that too!



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Follow Up
10 Minutes

Option A **Create Gift Cards for a friend, family member, neighbor or someone in need.**

Materials: Heavy cards stock, glue, decorations, scissors

Using heavy cardstock and decorations create Christmas cards for someone you know. Christmas cards can be designed to give the message of love and hope to someone who may not know the meaning of Christmas.

Mini Paper Plate Ornament Angels

Option B

Materials: Smaller white paper plates, crayons, tape, scissors, angel patten, ribbon (optional)

Draw the pattern of the angel onto the paper plates

Cut out along the pattern lines

Decorate your angels with crayons or other decorations

Overlap the angel's skirt and connect with tape.

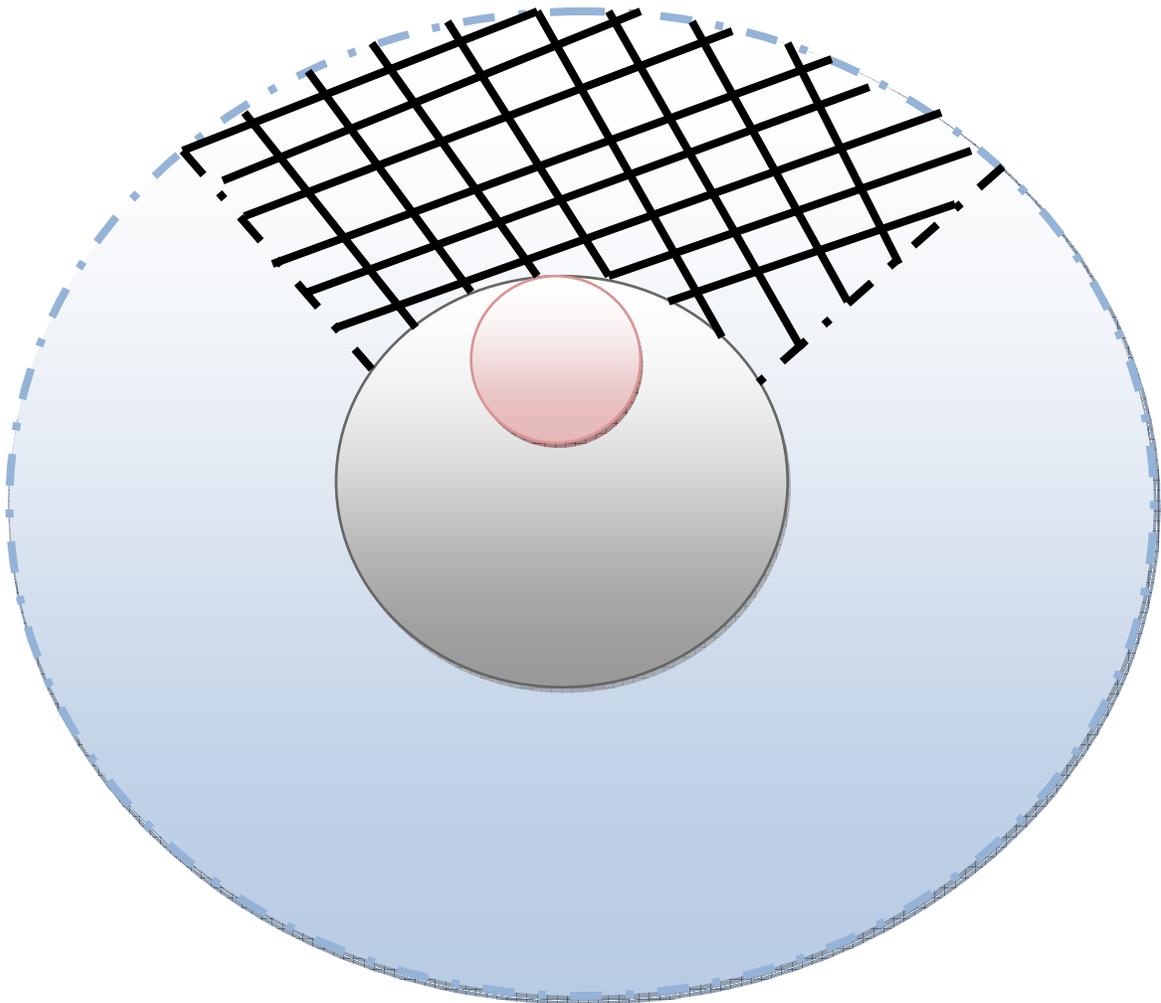
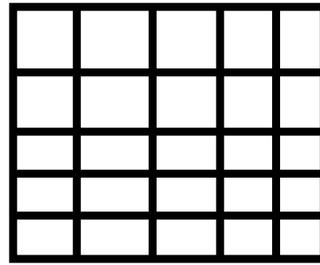
You can use ribbon as a hanger by attaching it with tape to the head of your angel.

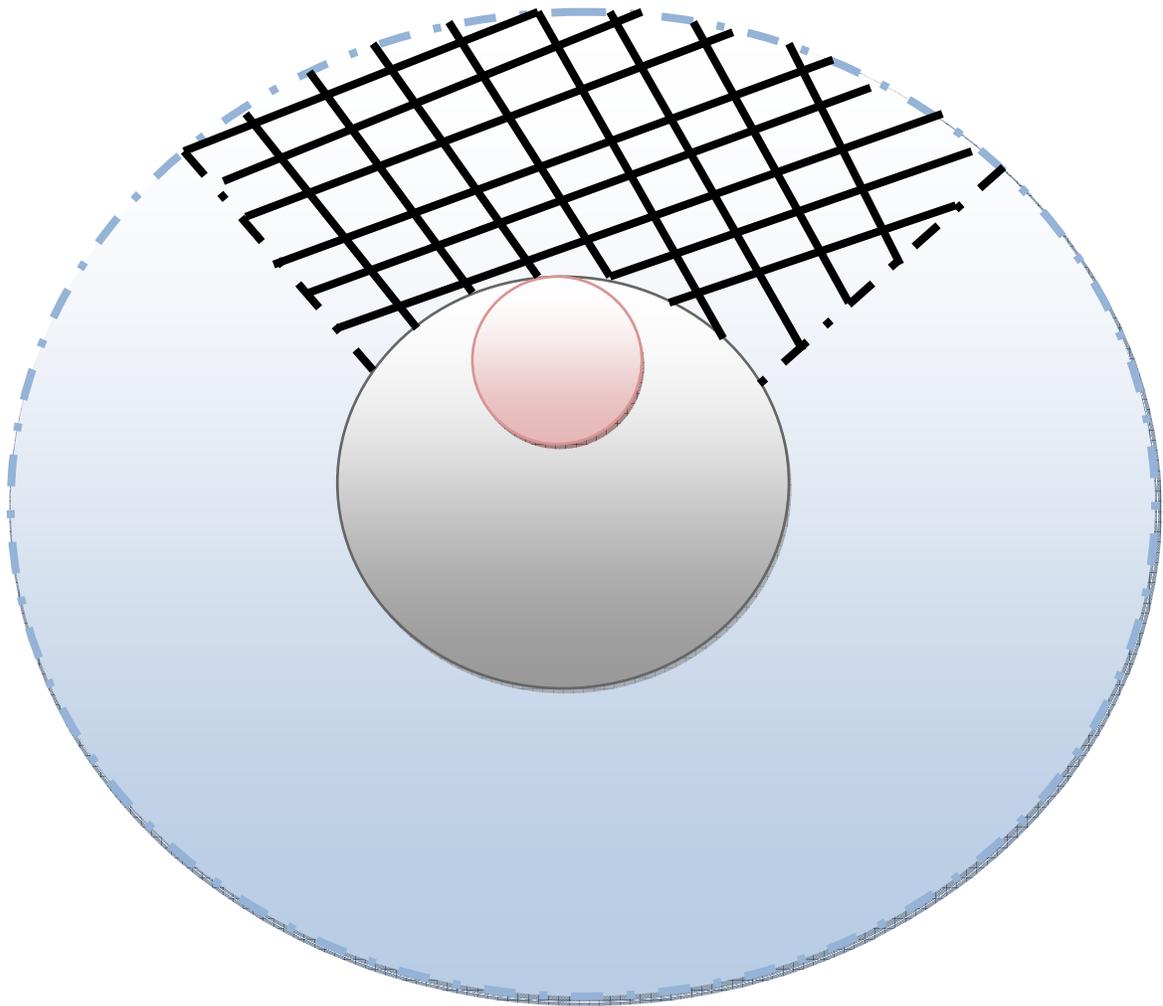
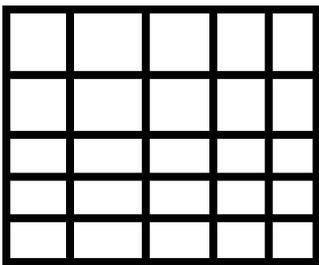
Small
Group/
Talents
Time
15 Minutes

What is one job of angels?

Prayer and Praise: Talking with God, sharing our lives with Him, thanking Him, and asking for His guidance.

Paper Angel Outline







Week: Four Christmas Month

Goal

The goal is to understand the meaning of the gifts of the Magi.

Worship 10-15 Minutes

Introduce Verse

For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given. Isaiah 9:6

Teaching 10 Minutes

Today we are going to light our last advent candle, then on Christmas Eve we will light the one in the middle. (Light candle.)

All this month we have been talking about Christmas. Christmas is a fun holiday where we give and receive gifts. We know that Jesus is a gift to us, in the Bible it says, "Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift in 2 Corinthians 9:15." The gift the Bible is talking about is the gift of Salvation that Jesus offers us.

Three gifts were given to Jesus by three wise men, Magi, do you know what they gave Jesus? (Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh.)

(Read: Matthew 2:1-11)

Each one of these gifts is has a meaning.

Gold stands for purity, because Jesus was pure, he never sinned.

Frankincense was used for burials, it represents sacrifice. Jesus was sacrificed for our sins. This is also a symbol that God is our high priest.

Myrrh stands for Jesus' human nature, remember, he was all human and all God at the same time.



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Follow Up
10 Minutes

Option A **Examine the Gifts in Small Groups**

Find examples of each gift of the Magi. Use this when explaining the gifts to your students. For example, a wedding ring is a great example of pure gold. Perfume is a good example of Frankincense. Baby powder is a good example of Myrrh.

Let your students feel and explore these three elements.

Option B **Giving the Gift of Time**

Materials Needed: Envelopes, paper, pens, pencils, or crayons

For this exercise, children will have to think of an activity that they can give to their family, friends, or someone in need. Any activity where they are giving back will do. For example, cleaning the kitchen for a week, vacuuming the hallway every night, giving dad a foot rub, cleaning up the yard, etc.

Have students find an activity, write it down (with an illustration is nice) put it in the envelope, and decorate it. They can give this to the recipient on Christmas.

**Small Group/
Talents
Time**
15 Minutes

What are the three elements of Jesus that the gifts explain?

Prayer and Praise: Talking with God, sharing our lives with Him, thanking Him, and asking for His guidance.



Goal To understand the meaning of Palm Sunday

Worship
10-15
Minutes

Introduce Verse This is how we know what love is. Jesus Christ laid down his life for us.
1 John 3:16

Teaching
10 Minutes

Today we are going to begin our study on Easter. The Easter celebration really starts the week before Easter with Palm Sunday. On this day we remember that Jesus entered Jerusalem, riding on a donkey.

Read: Matthew 21:1-11

We remember Palm Sunday because it was the beginning of the last week before Jesus was crucified. It was also the fulfillment of prophecy regarding Jesus. Today it is the beginning of our Easter week. It was also the beginning of Passover week for the Jews. During Passover, the Jews gather to celebrate how they were released from slavery by God. They have a big meal and pray.



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Follow Up
10 Minutes

Option A **Making Palms**

Materials needed: green construction paper, scissors, pens

Using the pattern provided, have students cut palms out of green construction paper. On the palms they can list what we remember about Palm Sunday.

Option B

Build the city of Jerusalem out of Clay

Materials Needed: Clay

Using a picture of the old city of Jerusalem (found in most study Bibles,) have the children construct the city out of clay. Make note of where Jesus entered the city, where the palms might have been, etc.

**Small Group/
Talents
Time**

What is important about Palm Sunday?

How would you have felt if you saw Jesus enter Jerusalem?

15 Minutes

Prayer and Praise: Talking with God, sharing our lives with Him, thanking Him, and asking for His guidance.



Goal To understand the elements of the Last Supper

Worship
10-15
Minutes

**Introduce
Verse**

This is how we know what love is. Jesus Christ laid down his life for us.

1 John 3:16

Teaching
10 Minutes

After Jesus entered Jerusalem he continued to teach the crowds and his disciples about the will of God.

Then on Passover night he gathered his disciples together to have one last meal with them before he was taken away and crucified.

This was called The Last Supper.

Read: Matthew 26:17-30

Jesus taught the disciples many things at this dinner including that he would soon die, Judas would betray him, Peter would deny him, how to have communion, and he also washed their feet to signify himself as a servant.



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Follow Up
10 Minutes

Option A **Art and the Last Supper**

Materials needed: paper, pens or crayons, a copy of Leonardo Da Vinci's Last Supper
Over time, many artists have drawn and painted pictures of scenes from the Bible. One of the most famous and familiar is one called "The Last Supper" by Leonardo Da Vinci.
Look at the picture with your students. Can you identify the various disciples? Can you see the goblet and the bread?
Now create your own last supper. Pay particular attention to the details of that night from the Bible.

Option B. Wash the feet of Others

Materials needed: large bucket or bin, water, soap

Option B

Jesus took the time to wash his disciple's feet at the Last Supper. He did this to signify his role as a servant.

Take turns washing the feet of your students. Talk about the significance of this act of friendship and love.

Option C. Teach Communion

Materials needed: grape juice and bread

At the Last Supper Jesus taught his disciples how to take communion.

Teach your students how and why we take communion.

**Small Group/
Talents
Time**
15 Minutes

What are the important things to remember about the last supper?
How would you have felt if you were there and heard that Jesus was going to die?

Prayer and Praise: Talking with God, sharing our lives with Him, thanking Him, and asking for His guidance.



Goal

To understand the elements in the Garden of Gethsemane and Jesus' arrest.

Worship 10-15 Minutes

Introduce Verse

This is how we know what love is. Jesus Christ laid down his life for us.

1 John 3:16

Teaching 10 Minutes

Last week we talked about the Last Supper. Today we are going to learn about what happened next.

After the last supper, Jesus went into a garden to pray.

Read: Matthew 26:36-46

Why do you think his disciples fell asleep? Why was Jesus so sad?

Now we are going to see what happens next.

Read: Matthew 26:47-56

What did Judas do?

What did one of the disciples do?

What was Jesus' response?



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Follow Up
10 Minutes

Option A **30 Pieces of silver demonstration**

30 silver coins (nickels, half dollars, whole dollars, or some other representative)

Judas was paid 30 pieces of silver to betray Jesus.

Show your students the coins. Allow them to touch the coins, feel the coins in their hands, even count up to thirty.

For 30 pieces of silver Jesus was handed over to the authorities and then crucified.

Why do you think Judas betrayed Jesus?

Do we every betray Jesus through our actions or words? What does money mean to us?

Option B **Garden picture**

Materials needed: Paper, pens or crayons

The garden of Gethsemane was a beautiful place to pray.

Draw a picture of how you would perceive the garden with Jesus praying in it.

Small
Group/
Talents
Time
15 Minutes

Who did Jesus pray for in the garden?

Why do you think Jesus prayed for you?

Prayer and Praise: Talking with God, sharing our lives with Him, thanking Him, and asking for His guidance.



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Week: Four Easter Series

Goal

To understand the elements of Jesus' trial and Peter's denial.

Worship 10-15 Minutes

Introduce Verse

This is how we know what love is. Jesus Christ laid down his life for us.

1 John 3:16

Teaching 10 Minutes

Last week we learned about Jesus praying in the garden of Gethsemane and then his arrest. Today we are going to learn about his trial and also about Peter denying that he knew Jesus.

Read: Matthew 26:57-75

When Jesus appeared at the first trial he was accused of blasphemy. Blasphemy is when you declare yourself as God. The Jews had a law that if you blasphemed, you would be killed.

Read: Matthew 11-26

At his second trial, Pilate decided to let Jesus be crucified. He gave the people the choice to set free a criminal or to set free Jesus. They chose the criminal.

During the trial Jesus remained silent.

It is very difficult to remain silent when you are hit, spit on, and accused when you are innocent.



Children's Church : The Talents Project

Follow Up
10 Minutes

Option A **Peter's Denial Discussion**

After Jesus was taken away, Peter denied that he even knew him.

What would it feel like if your closest friends said that they didn't know you?

How would you respond to this? How did Jesus respond to this?

Easter Week Timeline

A lot of events have happened so far in Easter week. Create a timeline with your students regarding the events. Here is a partial list of what has happened and what will happen in Easter week. See Timeline.

Option B

Modification for younger students: Using template, have students fill in the four boxes of the timeline which includes: The Triumphal Entry, the Last Supper, Praying in the Garden, and the Trials of Jesus. Have students draw each one of these in the boxes allowed.

**Small
Group/
Talents
Time**
15 Minutes

How do you feel about the way Jesus was treated?

Why do you think Jesus asked to be delivered from the crucifixion?

Prayer and Praise: Talking with God, sharing our lives with Him, thanking Him, and asking for His guidance.



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Triumphal Entry

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for drawing or writing related to the Triumphal Entry.

Last Supper

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for drawing or writing related to the Last Supper.

In the Garden

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for drawing or writing related to the events in the Garden of Gethsemane.

At Jesus' Trial

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for drawing or writing related to Jesus' trial.



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Easter Week Timeline

Palm Sunday: the triumphal entry

Turning the tables in the Temple

The Last Supper

- The first communion

- Washing the feet of the disciples

- Declaration of Peter's denial

- Declaration of Judas' betrayal

Praying in the garden of Gethsemane

Jesus asks for deliverance

Judas' betrayal with a kiss

The cutting of the soldiers ear/healing

Jesus' arrest

Jesus' trial in front of the Sanhedrin

Jesus' trial in front of Pilate

Freeing of Barrabas

Flogging and mocking of Jesus, crown of thorns

Journey to the Skull

A sign is placed above Jesus' head

The criminal asks for forgiveness

Jesus asks that his persecutors be forgiven

They divide Jesus' belongings

Jesus is given vinegar to drink

Jesus gives up his spirit

Darkness comes over the land

Timeline Continued.

An earthquake shakes the land

The dead are released from their tombs and appear to others

The curtain in the temple is ripped

The soldiers do not break Jesus' legs

He is taken off and prepared for burial

He is buried in a tomb

The tomb is guarded and a large stone placed at the entrance

The tomb is found empty

Angels announce that Jesus is not there

Mary goes to tell the disciples

Jesus appears to his disciples



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Week: Five Easter Series

Goal To understand the elements of the crucifixion.

Worship
10-15
Minutes

Introduce
Verse

This is how we know what love is. Jesus Christ laid down his life for us.

1 John 3:16

Teaching
10 Minutes

Last week we learned about Jesus' trial. Today we are going to learn about his crucifixion.

When people are crucified it is a very sad and long process. It is an extremely painful way to die. Here is what happened to Jesus.

Read Matthew 27:27-44



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Follow Up
10 Minutes

Option A

Make a crown of thorns

Materials needed: blackberry thorn branches (or any other kind of sharp, thorny branch,) twine, string, or fishing line

Have the students create a crown of thorns using the blackberry branches. Shape them by gently bending them into a circle and tying them with twine.

Option B

Make the "King of the Jews" sign

Materials needed: pieces of wood, one per group or one per child, permanent markers

Have your students print: "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews" on their wood pieces

Small
Group/
Talents
Time
15 Minutes

How do you feel about the way Jesus was to die?

Why do you think Jesus was crucified?

Prayer and Praise: Talking with God, sharing our lives with Him, thanking Him, and asking for His guidance.



Goal

To understand the exchange between the criminal on the cross and Jesus, and to understand what happened when Jesus died.

**Worship
10-15
Minutes**

**Introduce
Verse**

This is how we know what love is. Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. John 3:16

**Teaching
10 Minutes**

Last week we learned about Jesus' crucifixion. Today we are going to learn about another person who was also crucified that day.

Read: Luke 23:39-43

This is what happened when Jesus died.

Read Matthew 27:43-54

**Follow Up
10 Minutes**

Option A Ripping the temple curtain demonstration

Materials needed: a large, red piece of fabric

On the day that Jesus died several things happened. One was that the temple curtain was ripped in two. Before Jesus' death, in the temple in Jerusalem, a curtain surrounded the "most holy place" where God resided. When Jesus died, that curtain ripped in two signifying that God no longer was there.

Instead of God residing in the temple, we have the Holy Spirit residing in our hearts.

Have two students hold the large piece of red fabric while you explain the role of the curtain. Then you can rip the fabric in two by cutting a small slice in the top of the fabric. Pulling on the curtain should rip it easily.

Option B

Earthquake demonstration

Materials needed: a large cookie sheet covered with damp sand, rocks to signify the tombs, a mounded hill to signify the skull (the area where the crosses were set)
Show your students the various elements on the cookie sheet: the tombs, the skull, etc.

Have them help you "shake" the cookie sheet to move the stones and disrupt the scene.

Talk about earthquakes, and what happened on the day Jesus died.

**Small
Group/
Talents
Time
15 Minutes**

Because Jesus died as our sacrifice, we are allowed to have a relationship directly with God. How does that affect your life?

How can you accept Jesus into your life?

Prayer and Praise: Talking with God, sharing our lives with Him, thanking Him, and asking for His guidance.



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Week: Seven Easter Series

Goal To understand the burial and resurrection of Jesus.

Worship
10-15
Minutes

**Introduce
Verse**

This is how we know what love is. Jesus Christ laid down his life for us.

1 John 3:16

Teaching
10 Minutes

Last week we learned about how Jesus died.

Today we are going to learn about how they buried Jesus, then most importantly, how he came back to life.

Read. Matthew 27:57-66, 28:2-10

So, Jesus was resurrected, just as he said. He came back to life and appeared to his friends and family.

This is one way we know that Jesus is God.



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Follow Up 10 Minutes

Option A **Option A.** Create the tomb and stone using clay

Materials needed: Clay

Using the description from the Bible, create the tomb and stone with clay.

Option B. The folded burial cloth demonstration

Materials needed: strips of white linen, white cloth representing the burial cloth (about the size of a table napkin)

Read: John 20:3-7

John mentions the folded burial cloth in this account. That is significant because it is separate from the linens, folded not scattered or piled.

There are different thoughts on why the cloth was folded. Some believe it was because it proves that the body was not stolen. Jesus himself removed it and folded it neatly.

Others believe it has to do with the Jewish traditions of master and servant. A master would fold his napkin if he was coming back to the table; crumple it if he was done. From this perspective, Jesus might be saying that he is not done, but will return.

Whatever perspective you chose to emphasize, this detail is in worth the discussion. Using cloth, show the difference between folded and scattered. The intentionality of folding is in itself important. Jesus, no doubt, folded the cloth.

Option B

Small Group/ Talents Time

15 Minutes

Now that you know the whole story of Easter, what are your thoughts?

How does our Easter compare to the world's Easter?

Prayer and Praise: Talking with God, sharing our lives with Him, thanking Him, and asking for His guidance.

**Foundations
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**The Talents Project
Children's Church**

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