

## Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Matthew 26:36–28:10; John 18:1–20:18

**MAIN POINT:** Jesus died on the cross to save people from sin, and He is alive.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Romans 6:9

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** Who saves us from our sin? Only Jesus saves us from sin.

2

**INTRODUCE THE STORY**  
(10–15 MINUTES)  
**PAGE 108**



**TEACH THE STORY**  
(25–30 MINUTES)  
**PAGE 110**



**APPLY THE STORY**  
(25–30 MINUTES)  
**PAGE 116**



## Leader BIBLE STUDY

God's law for the people was plain. Read Deuteronomy 6:5. But God's people, and all people, have broken the law. We have loved other things more than we love God. That is sin.

Jesus' purpose for coming to earth was to save us from our sin. (Matt. 1:21) Why did Jesus have to die? Why couldn't He just say, "You are forgiven"? God is just and requires due payment for sin. To simply forgive sin without requiring a payment would be unjust. According to God's Word, the payment of sin is death. (Rom. 6:23) But not only is God just, He is also loving. That is why Jesus was willing to die in our place.

Jesus came to live and die to show God's love to us (Rom. 5:7-8) so that whoever believes in Him might not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16) Jesus came to die so that we would be forgiven. (Eph. 1:7) Jesus came to die to bring us to God. (1 Pet. 3:18)

Jesus died on the cross to satisfy the wrath of God toward sin. Jesus' resurrection proved that God was satisfied with Jesus' sacrifice, and forgiveness and life are found in Him. (See 1 Cor. 15:17.) If Jesus had died but not been raised up, He would have been like military leaders who died without a throne. (Acts 5:33-37) But Jesus conquered death, just as He said He would. (John 2:19-21)

Jesus' resurrection gives us hope for our resurrection. (Rom. 6:5) Romans 8:11 says that the same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead will raise our bodies to life.

Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection are not the end of the story, but the center of it. Everything that was written about Jesus in the Old Testament and spoken by the prophets was coming true. As you teach kids this Bible story, emphasize the gospel: the good news of who Jesus is and what He has done.



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Additional resources for each session are available at [gospelproject.com](http://gospelproject.com). For free training and session-by-session help, visit [www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject](http://www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject).

# The BIBLE STORY

## Bible Storytelling Tips

## Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection

*Matthew 26:36–28:10; John 18:1–20:18*

• **Sketch the story:** As you tell the story, sketch pictures to accompany key words. Examples include sleeping friends, a crowd of angry people, a crown of thorns, a cross, a tomb, and a stone.

• **Vary your tone:** Use a concerned, somber tone of voice when telling about Jesus' crucifixion. Use a controlled yet energetic tone when telling of His resurrection.

Jesus came with His disciples to a place called Gethsemane (geth SEM uh nih). He **prayed to God, "Father! If it is possible, take this suffering away from Me. But only if it is part of Your plan."** While Jesus prayed, the disciples fell asleep. Jesus said, "Get up. It is almost time."

**Suddenly Judas arrived with a large crowd.** Judas kissed Jesus so the crowd would know who Jesus was. **The crowd arrested Jesus.** Peter tried to stop the men, but Jesus told Peter not to. Jesus' followers ran away, but Peter stayed nearby. Three times, people asked Peter if he was a follower of Jesus. Peter said he was not.

**The crowd took Jesus to the high priest. The high priest asked, "Are You the Messiah, the Son of God?"** Jesus replied, "Yes, that's right."

**The high priest said, "He has spoken against God. He deserves to die!"** The religious leaders did not want to believe Jesus is God's Son.

**When morning came, the religious leaders led Jesus to Pilate, the governor. "Are You the King of the Jews?" Pilate asked. "Yes, that's right," Jesus replied.**

**Pilate asked the crowd what he should do. "Crucify Him!" they said.** Pilate did not think Jesus had done anything wrong, but he handed Jesus over and said, "Do whatever you want."

**The governor's soldiers put a scarlet robe on Jesus. They made a crown of thorns and put it on His head. Then they mocked Him, "Here is the King of the Jews!" Then they beat Him and led Him away to be killed.**

**The soldiers nailed Jesus to a cross.** They put a sign above His head that said, **THIS IS JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS.** **Two criminals were crucified next to Him.**

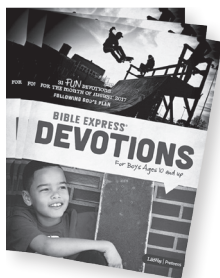
Darkness covered the land. Then **Jesus cried out, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”** Jesus shouted again and then He **died.** Suddenly, the curtain in the temple sanctuary split in two, from top to bottom, and there was an earthquake. One of the men guarding Jesus’ body said, “This man really was God’s Son!”

**Jesus was buried in a tomb.** A stone was sealed in front of the tomb so that no one could steal Jesus’ body.

**On the third day, Mary Magdalene (MAG duh leen) and the other Mary went to the tomb. Suddenly there was an earthquake. An angel of the Lord rolled back the stone and sat on it. The angel spoke to the women, “Don’t be afraid! I know you are looking for Jesus, but He is not here. He has been resurrected, just like He said He would.”**

**The women left the tomb quickly. They ran to tell the disciples the good news. Just then Jesus met them.** The women worshiped Jesus. **“Don’t be afraid,” He told them. “Go tell My disciples to meet Me in Galilee. They will see Me there.”**

*Christ Connection: The crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus is the center of the gospel. We deserve to die because of our sin, but Jesus died in our place. He was the blood sacrifice made once and for all for the forgiveness of sin. God was pleased with Jesus’ sacrifice and raised Jesus from the dead to reign as King over all creation. We are forgiven only through Jesus. (Acts 4:12)*



**WANT TO  
DISCOVER  
GOD’S WORD?  
GET  
BIBLE EXPRESS!**

Invite kids to check out this week’s devotionals to discover how God’s Word can help them grow in the gospel. Order in bulk, subscribe quarterly, or purchase individually. For more information, check out [www.lifeway.com/devotionals](http://www.lifeway.com/devotionals).

# Introduce the STORY

**SESSION TITLE:** Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Matthew 26:36–28:10; John 18:1–20:18

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## Welcome time

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group. Prompt kids to identify the biggest event of their lives so far. Was it a birthday? The birth of a sibling? A move to a new city? Invite kids to share about their experiences.

**SAY** • Those are some big events! Today we are going to hear about some of the most important events to ever happen. These things happened more than two thousand years ago, but they changed everything.

## Activity page (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Once and for All” on the activity page. Kids should begin at the cross for each blank and follow the instructions, and then write the letter in the blank.

**SAY** • What word did you reveal in this puzzle? (*sacrifice*) In Old Testament times, God’s people made sacrifices to pay for their sins. Today we will hear the story of how Jesus was the perfect sacrifice, once and for all.

- “Once and for All” activity page, 1 per kid
- pencils or markers

## Session starter (10 minutes)

### OPTION 1: Minute challenge

Give each kid a piece of paper and a pencil. Explain that they will have one minute to list as many items for the category you announce.

Sample categories: places to praise God, ways to praise God, reasons to praise God, times to praise God

After one minute, kids must put their pencils down and share their answers. Kids should cross off their lists any answers that other kids also listed. Applaud the player with the most unique answers. Play again with a new category.

**SAY** • Today we are going to hear about a time when people shouted praises to Jesus. We'll find out why in just a moment.

### OPTION 2: It's empty!

As kids watch, place a rock or paper wad beneath two overturned cups. Show that nothing is under the third cup. Quickly move around the cups. Try to confuse the kids about the position of the empty cup. After several seconds, invite a volunteer to guess which cup is empty. Lift the cup to reveal what is (or isn't) underneath. Then play again.

To make the game more difficult, turn away from the kids and mix up the cups. Then ask one person to guess which cup is empty. Allow her to poll the audience to see if they agree before lifting the cup.

**SAY** • You were looking for the empty cup. In the Bible story we will hear today, people expected to find Jesus' body in His tomb but when they got there, the tomb was empty!



- paper
- pencils
- timer

- foam or paper cups, 3
- rocks or paper wads, 2

## Transition to teach the story

# Teach the STORY

**SESSION TITLE:** Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection

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## Countdown

• countdown video

Show the countdown video as your kids arrive, and set it to end as the session begins.

## Introduce the session (3 minutes)

• leader attire

• Bible

*[Leader enters carrying a Bible.]*

**LEADER** • Hello, everyone! I am so glad to see you. This is such a special day because we are celebrating a great event. It happened long ago, but it changed everything! Does anyone know what event that is? *[Allow kids to respond.]*

We are remembering Jesus' crucifixion—when He died on the cross for our sin—and we are celebrating His resurrection: On the third day, He rose from the dead! Jesus is alive! I won't tell you the whole story just yet. Let's get started.

## Big picture question (1 minute)

**LEADER** • Do you remember our big picture question? We heard it last week: *Who saves us from our sin?* The answer is, *Only Jesus saves us from sin.* Sin separates us from God because God is holy. But God loves us,

and He sent His Son, Jesus, to save us from our sin. Think about that as we hear the Bible story today.

## Giant timeline (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline or big story circle. Point to the section labeled “Jesus Saves.”

- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle

**LEADER** • Our last Bible story was called “Jesus’ Triumphant Entry.” Toward the end of Jesus’ ministry on earth, Jesus rode into the city of Jerusalem on a donkey.

### **People welcomed Jesus to Jerusalem as their King.**

That happened at the beginning of the week. By the end of the week, people’s feelings about Jesus had changed. Today’s Bible story is about what happened at the end of the week.

## Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Matthew 26:36–28:10; John 18:1–20:18. Use the Bible storytelling tips on the Bible story page to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “Jesus’ Crucifixion and Resurrection.”

- Bibles
- “Jesus’ Crucifixion and Resurrection” video
- Big Picture Question Poster
- Bible Story Picture Poster

**LEADER** • The religious leaders decided that they wanted to get rid of Jesus. They didn’t like that people were praising Jesus and following Him. So they made a plan and paid Judas, one of Jesus’ disciples, to betray Him. They did not accept who Jesus is.

When Jesus said that He is the Son of God, they didn’t believe Him. They said He was guilty of blasphemy. *Blasphemy* is an attitude of disrespect for God. Jesus did not do anything wrong, but the leaders believed He had committed a crime by claiming to be God.

Is Jesus the Son of God? Yes! He is fully God



and fully man. But the religious leaders convinced the crowd in Jerusalem that Jesus should die. The people who welcomed Jesus and praised Him at the beginning of the week when He rode into the city on a donkey now hated Him.

Jesus knew it was time for Him to do God's plan to save people from sin. God sent His Son into the world to be the Savior. The Bible says that sin requires a payment of death, so Jesus was going to die to pay the price for our sin.

On the third day, God raised Him from the dead. Jesus' resurrection shows us that God accepted Jesus' payment for our sin. Jesus rose from the dead, and He is still alive today. At Easter, we remember Jesus' death for us and celebrate His resurrection. **Jesus died on the cross to save people from sin, and He is alive.** Because of His sacrifice, we can have forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Let's say our big picture question and answer: *Who saves us from our sin? Only Jesus saves us from our sin.*

## Christ connection

**LEADER** • The Bible says that we have all sinned, and the fair punishment for sin is death. Our sin separates us from God, and nothing we do could make up for our sin. That is some very bad news.

But the gospel is good news! God loved us and sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to rescue us from sin. Jesus did this by living the perfect life we cannot live. He died the death we deserve. Jesus died in our place!

We can receive Jesus' gift of forgiveness and salvation by trusting in Him as Lord and Savior.

Tip: Use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.

God was pleased with Jesus' sacrifice for our sin, and He raised Jesus from the dead. Jesus is the King over all creation. We are forgiven only through Him.

### **Key passage (5 minutes)**

Show the key passage poster. Lead the boys and girls to read together Romans 6:9.

• Key Passage Poster  
• "Romans 6:9" song

**LEADER** • **Jesus died on the cross to save people from sin, and He is alive.** The Bible says that the penalty for sin is death. Jesus died the death we deserve. Because Jesus rose from the dead, we know that He fully paid the penalty for sin and conquered the power of sin. When we trust in Him, God forgives our sin and we have freedom from the power of sin. Let's sing.

Lead boys and girls in singing "Romans 6:9."

### **Discussion starter video (4 minutes)**

**LEADER** • When you hear good news, do you keep it to yourself or tell others? Think about that as we watch this video.

• "Unit 32, Session 2"  
discussion starter  
video

Show the "Unit 32, Session 2" discussion starter video.

Then lead kids to discuss the following questions:

- What happens when we don't share good news with others?
- Why is Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection good news for sinners?
- Why should we tell others about Jesus?

**LEADER** • This is the gospel: **Jesus died on the cross to save people from sin, and He is alive.** God forgives everyone who trusts in Jesus and gives us eternal life.

• “Wonderful” song

## **Sing (4 minutes)**

**LEADER** • The gospel is good news for sinners. Jesus gave His all for us and brings us new life. This is wonderful! Let’s sing.  
Sing together “Wonderful.”

## **Pray (2 minutes)**

Invite kids to pray before dismissing to apply the story.

**LEADER** • Lord God, thank You for the gift of Jesus. Thank You, Jesus, for taking upon Yourself the punishment we deserve. We look to You in faith as our Savior. Stir in our hearts a passion for Your glory. Amen.

## **Dismiss to apply the story**

## The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.



**God rules.** Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.



**We sinned.** Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



**God provided.** Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.



**Jesus gives.** Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.



**We respond.** Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus. Provide *I'm a Christian Now* for new Christians to take home and complete with their families.

# Apply the STORY

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## Key passage activity (5 minutes)

• Key Passage Poster

Show the key passage poster and guide kids to read it aloud together. Encourage kids to form pairs and say the key passage to a partner. Then call for volunteers who have memorized Romans 6:9 to recite it.

**SAY** • Jesus' resurrection proves His power over death!

When we trust in Jesus, we do not need to fear death. Our bodies may die someday, but we will live forever with God.

## Bible story review & Bible skills (10 minutes)

• Bibles, 1 per kid

• Main Point Poster

Form two teams. Ask teams the following review questions. Provide the Scripture reference and encourage kids to check the answers in the Bible.

1. Which of Jesus' disciples helped the crowd arrest Jesus? (*Judas, Matt. 26:47-49*)
2. Why did the crowd want to kill Jesus? (*He claimed to be God's Son, Matt. 26:63-66*)
3. What happened when Jesus died? (*The curtain in the temple sanctuary split in two and there was an earthquake; Matt. 27:51*)
4. Who rolled away the stone in front of Jesus' tomb?

(an angel of the Lord, Matt. 28:2)

5. *Who saves us from our sin? Only Jesus saves us from sin.*

**SAY** • The crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus is the center of the gospel. We deserve to die because of our sin, but Jesus died in our place. We are forgiven only through Jesus. (Acts 4:12) **Jesus died on the cross to save people from sin, and He is alive.**

## Activity choice (10 minutes)

**OPTION 1:** The gospel game

Guide boys and girls to form a circle. Each player should hold out his or her left hand toward the person next to him, hand open and palm up.

Each player then places her right pointer finger down into the middle of the palm of the person next to her. Explain that all players must keep their left hand flat until they hear the special word.

The first special word is *salvation*. When players hear the special word, they will try to grab the finger in their left hand while at the same time pulling their finger away from the person to their right.

Announce a new special word for each round.

- [Special word: *salvation*] The gospel is the good news, the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and *salvation*.
- [word: *everything*] God rules. Who is in charge at home? In the world, God is in charge. He created it all, so He is in charge of *everything*.
- [word: *punishment*] We sinned. Have you ever done something wrong? Everyone sins, or disobeys God. Our sin separates us from God. God provided. God



• The Gospel Plan Poster (optional)

is holy and must punish sin. God sent His Son, Jesus to take the *punishment* we deserve.

- [word: *gift*] Jesus gives. Jesus took our punishment for sin by giving His life, and He gives us His righteousness. God sees us as if we lived the perfect life Jesus lived. This is the best *gift* ever!
- [word: *turn*] We respond. Everyone has a choice to make. Will you trust Jesus as your Savior and Lord? You can *turn* from self and sin and *turn* to Him.

**SAY** • That was a fun game. If you have any questions about the gospel or what it means to follow Jesus, ask a teacher, your parents, or your pastor and we would be happy to talk about it.

#### **OPTION 2:** Make Bible book covers

Give each kid a paper grocery bag and a pair of scissors.

Help kids follow these steps to create Bible books covers:

1. Cut down the side of the bag and around the bottom to open the bag and lay it flat.
2. Cut the paper bag large enough to cover the Bible with about 2 inches of margin on all sides.
3. Position the open Bible over the center of the paper. Make creases by folding the paper over the top and bottom edges of the book.
4. Set aside the Bible and fold the paper at the creases so it is smooth and even.
5. Close the Bible and place it onto the paper, leaving about 2 inches on the right side.
6. Wrap the remaining paper around the front cover and crease the edge. Then remove the paper and fold at the crease to create a front sleeve.
7. Open the Bible and slide the front cover into the

- paper grocery bags,  
1 per kid
- scissors
- stickers or tape
- crayons or markers

front sleeve.

8. Close the Bible and make a crease with the paper against the back cover. Then remove the paper and fold at the crease to create a back sleeve.
9. Open the Bible and slide the back cover into the back sleeve.
10. Hold the cover in place with stickers or tape.

Allow boys and girls to decorate their book covers.

**SAY** • Through the Bible, God gives us the good news of the gospel: **Jesus died on the cross to save people from sin, and He is alive.** God loves us and wants to have a relationship with us. He sent His Son to earth to give His life for you and me. This is what the Bible is all about.

Option: Review the gospel with boys and girls. Explain that kids are welcome to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions.

## Journal and prayer (5 minutes)

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
- Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas. Then pray, thanking God for the gift of salvation through His Son.

As time allows, lead kids to complete "Jesus' Last Days" on the activity page. Kids should number the events in the order they happened.

- pencils
- Journal Page
- "Jesus' Last Days" activity page, 1 per kid

Tip: Give parents this week's *Big Picture Cards for Families* to allow families to interact with the biblical content at home.