

God's Plan: 2 SAVE Us!

Bible Story

The Salvation Solution

Luke 22—24:35

Why did Jesus
have to die?

Bible Verse

Preschool: Jesus died so that we can be with God. (See 1 Peter 3:18.)

Elementary: "For Christ also suffered for sins once, the righteous for the sake of the unrighteous, that he might lead you to God. Put to death in the flesh, he was brought to life in the spirit"

1 Peter 3:18

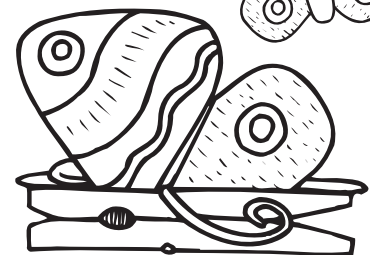
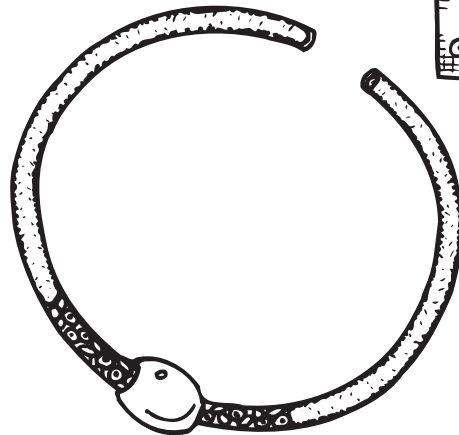
Jesus died and
rose again so that
you can live as
a member of
God's family.

Session Goals

1. PARTICIPATE in telling the story of Jesus' death and resurrection.
2. TALK ABOUT God's plan for us.
3. THANK God for sending Jesus to make a way for us to be forgiven of our sins and live as members of God's family.
4. CHOOSE to be forgiven and live as a member of God's family.

Spark Principle— Transformation

Transformations occur when something new is introduced to an existing object and changes the object. Jesus changes us.





Cross

For centuries, the shape of the cross has reminded people of the sacrifice Jesus made by dying on a wooden cross for our sins. When you see a cross,

you can remember that Jesus died and that He rose again! Jesus died and rose again so that our sins could be forgiven.

Heart Prep

Today we come to the greatest of all events. We were created to be companions of the Father, but sin separated us from God. Christ died on the cross to make a way for us to get back to God. He paid the wages of sin with His own life, that we might be brought into fellowship with the Father. Listen to His prayer: "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34). This is the only way an unholy people can approach a holy God.

Others have died for a good cause, but the grave was the end. Jesus Christ rose again the third day according to the Scriptures. He appeared to Mary Magdalene (John 20:11–18), the other women (Matthew 28:1,8–10), Peter (1 Corinthians 15:5) and the disciples on the way to Emmaus (Luke 24:13–35).

What effect did all these appearances have on the disciples? They knew in whom they believed; they knew that He had conquered death and that He was a risen Master and Lord and Savior.

The cross upon which Christ died has become the focal point of all history. The cross was the triumphant goal of Christ's life—the one thing to which He had been looking forward, not from the beginning of His earthly life, but from the beginning of time itself. He was "the Lamb who was slain" (Revelation 13:8). Surely salvation is God's greatest plan and His greatest miracle.

Bible Story Recap

Jesus and His friends were in danger because the religious leaders wanted to find a way to get rid of Jesus. And if they were mad at Jesus, they were probably just as mad at Jesus' friends!

Jesus gathered with His friends to eat a special meal called the Passover meal. Jesus tried to tell His friends that some terrible things were going to happen to Him. Jesus knew it was time for those things to happen, just as God had planned.

After their meal, Jesus and 11 of His friends went to pray. Another friend, Judas, had made secret plans to help the chief priests arrest Jesus. Soldiers came to the garden and took Jesus away, even though He had done nothing wrong!

Later, Jesus was taken to a hill outside the city and nailed to a cross. Jesus knew that what was happening was necessary to pay the price for people's sins. Jesus cried out, "It is finished!" Then He died.

On Sunday, some women went to Jesus' tomb. The stone that had sealed the tomb was rolled away, Jesus' body was gone and two men in shining clothes said to the women, "Jesus isn't here! He has risen!"

The women remembered! They were so happy! The women turned and ran back from the tomb. They told everything to Jesus' friends. Some of Jesus' friends ran to the tomb to see if it was true. And it was! The tomb was empty!

Daily Recap

At the end of each session, take time to reflect on what happened. Use these questions as a guide:

- 🕒 What worked well today? Pray for the energy to finish VBS strong.
- 🕒 If you have extra time, use this lesson to talk to children about how God forgives us in a special way during the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- 🕒 As you prepare for the final session of VBS, pray for each child by name. Ask God to water the seeds that were planted today.