



4

The Crucifixion



Key Passages

- John 1:12, 3:16, 14:6, 19:30

Lesson Focus

- Jesus died on the Cross for sinners.

Lesson Overview



Come On In

Students will complete the Peter's Denial Coloring Sheet as a review of Lesson 3 and/or play with play dough.



Circle Time

Prayer—Using the Flip Chart Prayer Page, discuss prayer and give each child the opportunity to pray after determining what type of prayer you will offer today.

God's Word—Jesus came to earth to die on the Cross. When He died, He took the punishment for sinners. Sinners who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus can be saved because Jesus died on the Cross.

Song Time—Students will sing songs to help them remember the lesson of the day. Lyrics to the songs are found on the Flip Chart Song Page and the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.



Activity 1: Heart and Cross Relay

Students will review the lesson as they play a relay game.



Activity 2: God Loved the World

Students will cover a cross with heart stickers to remind us that Jesus died because He loves us.



Memory Verse Review and Activity

Students will review the memory verse as they play a game and recite/sing the verse. Give them an opportunity to repeat the verse with you or say it themselves.



Applying God's Word/Snack

Students will review the lesson while enjoying the snack for the day.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



FOR THE TEACHER

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.



COME ON IN

- Print one Peter's Denial Coloring Sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.
- Provide play dough if appropriate.

- Peter's Denial Coloring Sheet for each student
- Crayons
- Play dough
- Cookie cutters



CIRCLE TIME

- Practice the songs on the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.

- Stuffed animal for prayer time
- Bible
- Lesson Flip Chart
- Quarter 2 Flip Chart



HEART AND CROSS RELAY

- Print and cut the Question Hearts from the Resource DVD-ROM.
- Attach the Question Hearts to a wall within easy reach for the students.
- Draw one large cross on the board or on a poster.

- Question Hearts attached to wall
- One large cross drawn on the board or on paper
- Masking tape
- Poster putty



GOD LOVED THE WORLD

- Print one copy of the God Loved the World Worksheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.
- Bring in the materials listed.

- God Loved the World Worksheet for each student
- Crayons
- Heart stickers
- Optional: small hearts cut from colored paper
- Optional: glue sticks



MEMORY VERSE REVIEW AND ACTIVITY

- No extra preparation necessary.

- Flip Chart Memory Verse Page



APPLYING GOD'S WORD/SNACK

- Prepare and bring snacks.

- Student Take Home Sheets
- Lesson Flip Chart for Review
- Snacks



Prepare to Share

SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages listed above with this background.

The sinless Son of Man had come to seek and to save the lost (Luke 19:10). He would be led like a lamb to the slaughter (Isaiah 53:7). He would not open His mouth but willingly accept and finish the plan the Father had in place since the beginning of time. After the illegal and unjust arrest and conviction of Jesus, He was sentenced to death—crucifixion on the Cross (John 19:16).

At the time, this was one of the most disgraceful and humiliating forms of death. Pilate had Jesus scourged, and He was mockingly crowned with a painful crown of thorns that was pressed into His head (John 19:1–2). In a very weakened state, He was led out to carry the very cross He would be nailed to and killed upon. He was headed to Golgotha where the crucifixion would occur (John 19:17). Because of His weakened state, the authorities compelled Simon, a Cyrenian, to assist Jesus with the cross (Mark 15:21). Jesus was offered wine with myrrh in order to lessen the pain He was about to endure, but He refused it (Mark 15:23). He was nailed through His hands and His feet to the cross. He was crucified between two criminals (John 19:18). The title Pilate assigned to Him, “King of the Jews,” was placed on the cross (John 19:19). As Jesus hung in agony, soldiers cast lots for His clothes (John 19:23–24), and people shouted insults at Him (Mark 15:29–30). In the midst of all of this, Jesus looked at His mother from the cross, spoke to her, loved her, and left her in the care of His friend and apostle John (John 19:26–27).

After this, knowing that all things were now accomplished, Jesus said, “I thirst!” This was the final Scripture to be fulfilled (John 19:28).

As Jesus suffered, many heard Him cry out to His Father, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” (Mark 15:34). And finally, as He gave up His spirit, Jesus said, “It is finished!” (John 19:30).

Jesus was physically distressed, no doubt. But when He felt that His Father had forsaken Him, this was a distress that went beyond the physical. What did Jesus mean? What was He feeling? It may have been at this point after suffering so immeasurably, knowing that He would soon die, that He also felt the weight and extent of God’s wrath on Him for sins He did not, nor could He ever, commit!

In this act of bearing God’s wrath upon Himself, Jesus finished the work the Father had sent Him to do; the work of redemption was now complete. The punishment for sin had been poured out on the perfect Lamb of God. The debt for sin was paid in full for all who would follow the Lord Jesus Christ.

This is the wonder of the gospel! God demonstrated His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. We are justified by His blood. And because Jesus was willing to take the wrath upon Himself, we shall be saved from the wrath due us for our sin (Romans 5:6–9).

In God’s gracious and merciful plan, He made His only Son, Jesus Christ, who knew no sin, to be sin for us. Jesus took the sin, the wrath, and the punishment. In exchange, believers receive the precious righteousness of God that is the very nature of Jesus Christ and the promise of eternal life with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (2 Corinthians 5:21).

As we meditate on the truth of Jesus’s death and what it accomplished for sinners who would one day believe, we can see what led the Apostle Paul to declare in his letter to the Romans,

Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God!
How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!

“For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has become His counselor?”
“Or who has first given to Him and it shall be repaid to him?”

For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen (Romans 11:33–36).

HISTORICAL/APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

People sometimes ask who killed Jesus. Who was responsible for His death? Was it the Romans, the Jewish leaders, the Jewish people? The answer is yes . . . and more.

Certainly, the Jewish leaders had a hand in Jesus’s crucifixion. God tells us in His Word that it was the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders of the people who plotted to take Jesus by trickery and kill Him (Matthew 26:3–4). The Jewish leaders demanded that

Jesus be killed rather than the criminal Barabbas (Matthew 27:20). The power and reputation of Jesus threatened these Jewish leaders. They felt compelled to be rid of Him and plotted His death (John 11:47–50, 11:53).

The people of Israel also participated in the death of Jesus as they shouted, “Crucify Him, crucify Him!” during His trial (Luke 23:21).

However, in the end, it was the Romans, under the authority of the governor, Pontius Pilate, who actually authorized the crucifixion. Jesus’s death was physically carried out by Roman soldiers, who erected the cross, drove the nails into His hands and feet, and pierced His side (Matthew 27:27–37).

This corporate responsibility for Jesus’s death is confirmed in Scripture. It was Herod, Pilate, the Gentiles, and the people of Israel together who cooperated to kill Jesus (Acts 4:27). And this was an unusual conspiracy as these groups were often at odds with one another but united together to murder the Savior. And let us not forget that we, too, caused the Savior’s death. It was our sin for which He died.

But that is not the only answer to the question of who killed Jesus. As we search God’s Word, we will come to understand that, amazingly, the death of Jesus Christ was ordained and accomplished by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God Himself (Acts 2:23, 4:28).

The prophet Isaiah spoke of Christ’s torture and death nearly 700 years before it occurred. And Isaiah wrote that it pleased the Lord to bruise Him and put Him to grief. God’s plan had always been that His Son’s soul would be an offering for sin (Isaiah 53:10).

In what sense did it please the Lord? God the Father was pleased that His eternal plan of salvation was fulfilled (Ephesians 1:4). He was pleased that the death of His Son would bring eternal life to many (Matthew 1:21). He was pleased to demonstrate His love for sinners through such a magnificent sacrifice (Romans 5:8).

Yes, it ultimately was God Himself who determined, before the foundation of the world (1 Peter 1:20; Revelation 13:8), to send His Son to live a perfect life, to die, and to be raised again from the dead so that sinners could be forgiven. In fact, this would be the ONLY possible way sinners could be reconciled to the holy, perfect, righteous God.

And yet, here lies the paradox—the tension between man’s responsibility and God’s sovereignty. For in spite of God’s pre-determination of Christ’s death, each man will be held responsible for the role

he played in completing God’s plan. It was still an act of “lawless hands” as Peter said (Acts 2:23). And Jesus Himself said He must go as had been determined, but woe to the one who betrayed Him (Luke 22:22).

The death of God the Son—Jesus Christ—on the Cross is undoubtedly the most horrific sin ever committed. And yet in it, we see the absolute sovereignty of God. In spite of the evil perpetrated, God’s infinitely good and eternal plan was perfectly fulfilled. The Cross shows us more clearly than anything else that God’s perfect purposes will be accomplished in spite of, and even through, the evil intentions of sinners (Romans 8:28).

We cannot leave the topic of the Crucifixion—and who was responsible for it—without a careful examination of our own hearts. We who have come to faith in Christ are also guilty of His blood, shed on the Cross for us. He died to pay the penalty for our sins (Romans 5:8, 6:23). Therefore, we should live in way that shows gratitude for what Jesus has done. He has redeemed us by His precious blood (1 Peter 1:18–19). He bore our sins in His own body on the tree that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds we have been healed (1 Peter 2:24–25).

If you belong to Christ, you may rejoice! For this is an amazing plan of God—that through the perfect life and death of Jesus Christ, He who knew no sin became sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him (2 Corinthians 5:21). Oh, what a Savior we serve! And what hope we have in Him!

For more information on this topic, see the Online Resource Page.



BEFORE THE THRONE

Lord Jesus, you have your love upon us! You became sin so that we sinners could escape the wrath of God we deserve. This plan of redemption was in place from before the creation of the world—and you kept your promise. Your perfect plan wove through thousands of years of history until on the Cross, the promised Savior finished the work you sent Him to do. Jesus, you took the wrath of God that I deserve! How can I do anything but humbly worship you in gratitude with my life? Compel my students to see your great love and respond in a similar way. To you be the glory!

► As you teach, refer often to the Lesson Flip Chart Page to keep the children engaged. When reading the lesson Scriptures, stand up, be enthusiastic, look at the children, and emphasize the answers to the questions you will be asking. This will help to keep the children interested.



COME ON IN

As children arrive . . .

- They will color the Peter's Denial Coloring Sheet as a review of Lesson 3.
- If there is time, they can play with play dough.

During this time you should be at the door welcoming the children as they come in and directing them to sit down at the tables and begin the activity. Have an aid/helper ready to engage the children with the activity.



REVIEW

Using the Flip Chart, quickly review the previous lessons with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the Lesson Flip Chart Pages. Remind the children of each lesson's focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



Circle Time

In an orderly manner, have the children assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs. Bring your Lesson Flip Chart, Bible, stuffed animal for prayer time, Quarter 2 Flip Chart, and any other props you brought or prepared for this lesson.

PRAYER

This prayer time is designed to get children to begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to get them to understand that they can pray. Use a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—or an appropriate object to pass around the circle as each child gets his/her turn to pray. Only the child with the stuffed animal is allowed to pray or speak during this time. Using the same stuffed animal or other object all year will add continuity and structure to this time.

We start our Bible study with prayer. Let's pray. Turn to the Flip Chart Prayer Page. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there. Then determine which type you want the children to pray today.

- I love you prayers—Adoration
- I'm sorry prayers—Confession
- Thank you prayers—Thanksgiving
- Please prayers—Supplication

Today Confession is suggested. You might proceed this way:

Today let's say prayers of confession—and tell God how sorry we are for our sin against Him.

The prayers you begin with should be specific to your needs. This will model to the children that you believe God does care about all the details of your life, and you pray to Him about these things. Your example will increase their confidence in praying to God.

I'll start. Dear God, you are Holy and perfect so when I sin, it comes between you and me. I want my heart to be right with you, so I will

➤ Prior to making your transition to Circle Time, we suggest you take time for restroom breaks and hand washing.

➤ Preschoolers need to move. This is a good opportunity to get them to move. Make an orderly transition to the Circle Time. You can have carpet squares if you want to sit on the floor, or help them to move their chairs into the circle.

confess my sin and ask you to forgive me. I am so sorry for . . . (insert personal prayer).

Pass the stuffed animal around the circle giving all the children an opportunity to say a prayer telling God something they are sorry for.

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away, and we'll get into God's Word.

GOD'S WORD

These first five questions will be repeated each week this quarter. The repetition of these questions will help to solidify these simple but foundational truths in the children's minds at a young age.

- ? **Does God know all things?** *Yes. Nothing can be hidden from God.*
- ? **Can you see God?** *No. I cannot see God, but He always sees me.*
- ? **Can God do all things?** *Yes! God can do all His holy will.*
- ? **Where do you learn how to love and obey God?** *In the Bible alone.*
- ? **Is God's Word true?** *Yes! Every Word of God is true.*

The following activity should be repeated at the beginning of each lesson to encourage anticipation and enthusiasm for looking into the Word of God. Use a sticky note to mark today's passage before you begin.

We are going to start out today by looking into God's Word, the Bible. *Hold up Bible. God's Word is true, and we can trust what it says. But where should we look? One of you will help me with that. We're going to play Bible Pass Around. Whoever ends up with the Bible must hold it very carefully until it is time to look in it. When it is time to read, you can bring it to me, and we'll open it to see what we are going to talk about! Here's what we're going to do. I want everyone to count with me up to the number *choose a number. You may also choose to practice the alphabet, recite the books of the Bible, sing one of the lesson songs, or recite the memory verse as you do this activity.* We'll start right here. Hand the Bible to the first student. As we say each number (or word) you must carefully pass the Bible to the person beside you—remember, we don't want to drop it or tear it. Then when we get to the last number (or word), whoever has the Bible will hold on to it until we are ready to start our lesson. Are you ready? Let's begin. *You may want to have the student with the Bible stand next to you until it is time to open it. Continue with the lesson when finished with Bible Pass Around.**

Refer to Lesson 1 Flip Chart Page. **We have been talking about Jesus in our lessons. Jesus had gone out to the garden at night to pray. His friend Judas came to the garden with soldiers! The soldiers arrested Jesus and took Him away.**

Refer to Lesson 2 Flip Chart Page. **The Jewish leaders hated Jesus and wanted to kill Him with stones! They took Jesus to Pilate the governor. Pilate thought he had power over what happened to Jesus.**

Bible Pass Around

► Before Bible Pass Around, place a sticky note in your Bible to mark the first passage to be read.

► When the Bible Pass Around Activity is completed, continue with the lesson.

? But Jesus knew where Pilate's power came from! Where did Pilate's power come from? *God.*

Right. Jesus knew that only God, not Pilate, has control over everything. What happened to Jesus was God's plan.

Refer to Lesson 3 Flip Chart Page. On the night Jesus was arrested, Peter followed behind to see what would happen. Peter was so afraid!

? What did Peter say when a girl asked if he was a friend of Jesus? *He said he didn't even know Jesus.*

? Was that true? *No!*

Peter loved Jesus very much. When Peter thought about what he had done, he felt really sorry and cried.

Refer to Lesson 4 Flip Chart Page. Now the people who arrested Jesus wanted Jesus killed because He said He was God! They were really angry! And the people got their way. Jesus would be killed. It is very sad. But remember, this was God's plan. Jesus died so sinners could be forgiven and go to heaven.

? How was Jesus killed? *On the Cross.*

Yes. Jesus was killed on the Cross. The Bible tells us that the people were very mean to Him. They hurt Him badly. They spit on Him. And they made fun of Him. They made a crown of sharp thorns and put it on His head. Then He had to carry a heavy cross to the place where they would kill Him. All of this is very sad. But all of this is good news for sinners!

How could this be good news? We are going to find out! Remember, everything that happened to Jesus was part of God's plan to make a way for sinners to go to heaven. Let's read from the Gospel of John now. Listen to this! *Make this a special time as the student brings the Bible, and he/she opens it to where the sticky note is. Show the students where the book is. Let them look at it. Carry it around your circle.*

I'm going to read John 19:30. Jesus said something very important when He was on the Cross just before He died. I am going to read that. Listen carefully! *Read John 19:30 emphasizing "It is finished."*

? What did Jesus say? *John 19:30. It is finished.*

What was finished? We know that His life on earth was finished because He died. But Jesus was talking about something else. Let's find out what Jesus was talking about.

? *Refer to Quarter 2 Lesson 1 Flip Chart.* Remember this picture? Why did Jesus come to earth? What was His mission? *Allow discussion. To save sinners.*

Jesus came to die on the Cross. He came to save sinners.

? Who is a sinner? *We all are sinners.*

John 19:30

► Re-read the verses or the portion of the verse(s) that answer the questions you are asking of the text. The children should hear God's Word and know they can answer questions from it. It is not too hard for them.

The Bible says that we are all sinners. But Jesus died on the Cross so all people who are sorry for their sins and turn to Jesus can be saved. They can be with Jesus in heaven forever. That was Jesus's mission. He came to die on the Cross for sinners. And He finished what He came to do.

Refer to the Quarter 2 Flip Chart Memory Verse Page (John 14:6). Now, if Jesus had not died on the Cross, then no one could get to the Father and to heaven. Jesus is the only way, the only truth, and the only life that can save sinners! Our last memory verse told us about that. Let me read it for you.

John 14:6

► Read John 14:6 from your Bible or the Memory Verse Page. Or have students say it with you.

? **How can sinners get to the Father in heaven?** *Re-read John 14:6 emphasizing "No one comes to the Father except through Me." Allow discussion.*

We can only get to heaven through Jesus. There is no other way! If Jesus didn't die, no one could have eternal life. Jesus had to die. This was God's plan to save sinners!

Let me read another verse for you. It is John 3:16. Listen to this verse. *Read John 3:16 emphasizing the answers to the questions below.*

? **Who is this verse talking about?** *John 3:16. God.*

? **What does God love?** *John 3:16. The world.*

? **Who did God give because of His love?** *John 3:16. His Son.*

? **Who is God's Son?** *John 3:16. Jesus.*

? **Those who believe in God's Son, Jesus, will have something. What will they have?** *John 3:16. Eternal life.*

God loves sinners so much that He gave His Son, Jesus, to die on the Cross. And whoever believes in Him will not have to be punished forever for sin. That's why Jesus died on the Cross—so sinners can be forgiven and have eternal life with Him in heaven!

Do you see? Jesus is the only way. But sinners need to be sorry for their sins. Sinners need to believe in Jesus. And sinners need to trust in Him and know that He can forgive sins.

Refer to Lesson 4 Flip Chart. Jesus died on the Cross for sinners. And remember, this was always God's plan because He loves His children.

I want to read one more verse to you. It talks about sinners who believe in Jesus. It tells us something special about those who believe in Jesus. *Read John 1:12 emphasizing "children of God."*

? **When sinners believe in Jesus and receive Him what will they become?** *John 1:12. Children of God.*

Yes! You see, we may think it is terrible that Jesus was killed on the Cross. But it was always God's plan. And it is the only way sinners can be forgiven. God's plan is good! Jesus made a way for sinners to be forgiven when He died on the Cross.

John 1:12

If we are not sorry for our sin and do not believe in Jesus, then we will be punished for our sin. BUT if we are sorry for our sins, turn away from sin, and trust in Jesus, we can become children of God! Our sins will be forgiven, and we can be with God in heaven one day!

SONG TIME

Turn to the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page. Our memory verse says, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” Let’s sing “Matthew 28:19” together. Sing the Memory Verse Song two or three times.

Turn to the John 14:6 Flip Chart Memory Verse Page from Quarter 2. Now let’s sing “John 14:6.” Jesus is the ONLY way. He will show us the truth. We can only have eternal life through Jesus. Sing the Memory Verse Song two or three times with clapping and stomping.

Turn to the Flip Chart Song Page. The Bible says we can only get to heaven through Jesus. If Jesus had not died on the Cross for sins, no one could have eternal life. That’s the gospel news, and we can tell our friends about it! Let’s sing “Tell the Gospel News.” Sing together.

Repeat songs as time allows. You may want to add hand motions, stomping, marching, or instruments.

➤ Turn to the Flip Chart Song Page and Flip Chart Memory Verse Page during this part of the lesson.

➤ Lyrics can be found on the Flip Chart Song Page and the Song Sheet at the end of this Teacher Guide.



Heart and Cross Relay

MATERIALS

- Question Hearts attached to wall
- Large cross drawn on the board or poster
- Masking tape
- Poster putty

INSTRUCTIONS

Use masking tape to make a starting line. The students will take turns running to the heart wall to retrieve a Question Heart. They will bring it back to the teacher to read. If the class answers correctly, the student will run to the Cross Poster and place the heart on the cross. Every student should have a chance to run the relay. If the students miss the question, give the answer and have the student place the heart back on the heart wall and repeat the question later in the game.

We are going to play a relay game. We are going to take turns. When it is your

turn, you get to run to the heart wall and bring one heart back to me. I will read the question on the heart and everyone can try to answer the question. If we can answer the question, you can put the heart up on the cross. If no one gets the answer, then you will need to put the heart back on the heart wall. Okay, let’s get ready.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

- ? Refer to the cross on the board. **Look at this cross.** What does it remind us of? Jesus died so sinners can be saved.
- ? And what do all the hearts on the cross remind us of? God loved sinners so much that He sent Jesus, His Son, to make a way for them to be forgiven.



God Loved the World

MATERIALS

- God Loved the World Worksheet for each student
- Crayons
- Heart stickers
- Optional: small hearts cut from colored paper
- Optional: glue sticks

INSTRUCTIONS

Print one God Loved the World Worksheet for each student. Students will color the cross and cover the cross with heart stickers.

Today we're going to cover the cross on our coloring sheets with hearts to remind

us that Jesus loves sinners and was willing to die so that sinners could be saved and forgiven. First you need to color the cross; then we'll use the stickers.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

God always had a plan! When Jesus died on the Cross, He took the punishment for sinners! Every sinner who believes in Him can be forgiven and will go to heaven! All those who believe in Jesus's name can be children of God!



Memory Verse Review and Activity

Matthew 28:19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

MATERIALS

- Flip Chart Memory Verse Page

INSTRUCTIONS

Using the Memory Verse Page, say each word or phrase and have the students repeat.

After the review, divide the entire class (including teachers) into three groups. You can do boys and girls to start and then mix it up by age, by hair color, oldest or youngest in the family, etc. Using the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page, say a word or phrase of the memory verse and do some sort of action—sit down, stand up, spin in a circle, touch your toes, etc. The groups will "echo" what you say and do as you repeat the verse. Continue several times. You can whisper, shout, squeak, etc. Change it up. This will help them learn.

We're going to practice our memory verse. I'm going to say the verse, and you repeat after me. As you review, point to each picture on the Flip

Chart Memory Verse Page. After reviewing, move on to the echoing game.

Now, we're going to play our echoing game. I want Group 1 to repeat what I say and do, then Group 2, and then Group 3 until we are all the way through our verse. Follow my actions and repeat my words as we go! Stand up and get ready now.

You may want to sing the Memory Verse Song instead of saying the verse. When finished, see if anyone can say the verse using the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

We should tell people about Jesus because it is good news! God wants all people to know that He sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the Cross for sinners. Anyone who turns from his sins and believes in Jesus will be in heaven with God some day! Let's tell everyone we know about the good news!



Applying God's Word/Snack

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

After thanking God for your snack, review today's lesson using the Flip Chart.

The people who were angry with Jesus wanted to kill Him because He said that He is God. So they killed Jesus by nailing Him to the Cross. But this was God's plan. Jesus said, "It is finished." He had done all He had to do. Now sinners who believe in Jesus's name can be children of God! They can be forgiven and go to heaven to be with Jesus forever!

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

It is terrible that Jesus was killed on the Cross.

? But whose plan was it? *God's plan.*

Yes. It was always God's plan. God is in control of everything!

Jesus died for sinners. It was the only way sinners, like you and me, can be forgiven. You see, the sin that is in us keeps us separated from God. God hates sin and must punish it! But Jesus took the punishment for sins on the Cross. And God's Word says that everyone who believes in Him, trusts Him, is sorry for his sins, and turns away from his sins, can be a child of God and spend forever with Him in heaven!

➤ Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the children to practice the memory verse this week.



Group Prayer Time

- Thank God for Jesus who died on the Cross for our sins.
- Praise God for Jesus who is the only way to God, the only truth, and the only life.
- Pray that we will turn from our sins and trust in Jesus.

Do you still have more time? Review the past quarters using the Flip Charts, add another coloring sheet, recite and review the current and past memory verses, sing more songs, bring out play dough. Keep the children occupied with intentional, God-centered activities until their parents come to pick them up.

Song Sheet

MATTHEW 28:19

(To the tune of "Are You Sleeping?")

Shout: **Matthew 28:19!**

Go therefore and make disciples

(Are you sleeping? Are you sleeping?)

Of all the nations, baptizing them

(Brother John? Brother John?)

In the na-ame of the Father

(Morning bells are ringing,)

A-and of the So-on

(Morning bells are ringing.)

And of the

(Ding, ding, dong!)

Holy Spirit.

(Ding, ding, dong!)

Shout: **Matthew 28:19!**

JOHN 14:6

(To the tune of "Jesus Loves Me")

Jesus said to him, "I am

(Jesus loves me, this I know.)

The way, the tru-uth, and the life.

(For the Bible tells me so.)

No one comes to the Fa-a-ther

(Little ones, to Him belong.)

Except by Me."

(They are weak,)

John fourteen six.

(But He is strong.)

Think of fun ways to sing. Get children in a circle holding hands. They can go in one direction and at each verse quickly reverse direction. Put one or more than one child in the middle of the circle. Go around them then move in and back out! Get them into a straight line. Have them follow you around the room.

TELL THE GOSPEL NEWS

(To the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell")

Oh, tell the gospel news.

(The farmer in the dell,)

Oh, tell the gospel news.

(The farmer in the dell,)

Jesus . . . He is Alive!

(Hi-ho, the derry-o!)

Oh, tell the gospel news.

(The farmer in the dell.)

Christ gave His life for us.

He died upon the Cross,

So He could conquer sin and death,

And we can be with God!

We are free from sin.

We are free from death.

If we put our hope and trust—

Our hope and trust in Him!