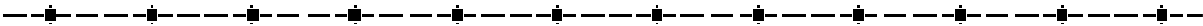


# GOD'S BIG PLAN

## Jesus Gives His Life for You Matthew 26:47-27:66

**Supporting Scriptures:** Mark 14:32-15:47; Luke 22:39-23:56; John 18:1-19:42  
Gen 3:15; Ex 12; Ps 22; Is 53; Acts 2:21; Rom 5:6-21, 10:9-13; 1Cor 15:3; Jms 1:19-25



**Lesson Goals:** To see that we are lost and helpless in sin and slaves of the enemy.  
To see that God kept His promise to send Jesus to crush the enemy's head.  
To see that Christ died for all sinners.

**Scripture Memory** When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners.  
Romans 5:6 (NLT)

**NOTE:** Familiarize yourself with this story. Don't read it. Tell it as a STORY. To reinforce that these ideas are not your own, hold your Bible as you tell the story.

**The Lesson:** Let's review what we have learned so far. (Review the previous stories, focusing on Adam and Eve's sin as well as the first Passover. Encourage more and more students to share.)

How many of you remember Adam and Eve? Where did they live? (The Garden of Eden.) What did they do there? (Visited with God.) Were they happy? (Yes.) Did they stay in the garden forever as a happy couple? (No.) Why not? (They chose to sin, or disobey God.) What were the consequences of their sin? (Death.) They didn't die immediately, did they? But their lives were different after that. They began to grow old, they fought with one another, they were selfish. Do you also remember that with God's punishment came a promise? What was the promise? (That one day, one man would crush Satan's head.)

Does what Adam and Eve did affect us at all? (Yes.) Adam's sin didn't just affect Adam. Sin entered the world because of him. Sin makes us enemies with God. Because of sin, death came to everyone, too. Well, what can we do? Can I be okay with God if I pray three times a day, or maybe go to church everyday, or what if I volunteer to help others? Won't those things make me right with God? Let's see where our story leads us . . .

**READ: John 18:1-4 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)**

Jesus knew everything that was going to happen to Him and He didn't run away and hide. When Judas came with the leaders and the soldiers who carried swords, Jesus went to meet them. The soldiers tied Jesus' hands and arrested Him, even though He had done nothing wrong. Jesus could have called an army of more than 70,000 angels to rescue Him, but that wasn't what God wanted. God had made us all a promise and Jesus was the One through whom God would keep that promise. Jesus would obey God, no matter what.

From the garden, Jesus was taken to an illegal night-time trial. The leader of that very trial was the man who, without even knowing what he was predicting, had said, "It's better if Jesus dies for all of us, so that we can still have our place and power." From that day on, they had planned to arrest Jesus and kill Him. And as badly as they wanted Jesus dead, they didn't have any proof to convict Him. Many people came and told lies about Jesus, but their stories didn't agree. Jesus kept quiet during all of this. "Aren't you going to answer any of these charges?" they asked. And still Jesus didn't answer. "Are you the Promised One we've been waiting for? Are you the Son of God?" they continued. At this, Jesus answered. "I am," He said, mean-

ing that not only was He the Son of God, but He was also God. Oh, how they reacted! “No more witnesses! We’ve heard enough!” They didn’t believe Jesus, and claiming that He was God, when they believed it to be a lie, was enough for them to sentence Jesus to die. But the leaders had a problem. Their law didn’t permit them to kill.

The Jewish leaders found their solution in the Roman governor, Pilate. Early Friday morning, they handed Jesus over to him. The only problem was that Pilate couldn’t find anything wrong with Jesus, certainly no reason to have Him killed. Pilate also knew that the leaders were just jealous, so He called them back together. By this time a crowd had gathered. “Jesus has done nothing to deserve death. I’ll have Him whipped, but then I’ll let Him go,” Pilate told them. The crowd didn’t like this decision. All together they shouted, “Kill Him! Crucify Him! Give us Barabbas instead!” Now Barabbas was a trouble maker. He was in prison for fighting against the country’s rulers. He had even murdered someone. Pilate couldn’t believe what He was hearing. But the people knew that during the Passover Feast, Pilate usually let one prisoner go free. And the crowd wanted to free the murderer!

Pilate gave in to the people. He sent Jesus away to be whipped. It was an awful beating with the infamous “cat-of-nine-tails,” a whip laced with sharp metal, stone, or pieces of glass. Jesus was beaten until His back was raw. Roman soldiers made fun of Jesus by dressing Him in a purple robe. They twisted thorns together to make a crown and put it on His head. They handed Him a stick and went on and on laughing at “the King of the Jews.” After making fun of Him, they led Jesus away to be nailed to a cross. They made Him carry His own cross, but on the way out of the city, they forced a man named Simon to carry it up the hill. Once there, they nailed Jesus to His cross. Clang, clang, clang, rang the hammer on the nails as they were driven into Jesus’ wrists and feet. The cross was lifted up and there Jesus hung. It was nine o’clock in the morning when they crucified Him. The hours wore on and Jesus’ body grew tired of struggling to breathe. In the middle of the day, the sky became dark. From noon to three o’clock, the whole land was covered with darkness. At about three o’clock, Jesus cried out. With the weight of my sin and your sin upon Him, Jesus felt far away from God for the first time ever. “I’m thirsty,” Jesus said. And He took a little of the strong vinegar that was given to Him. And then, knowing that He had done absolutely everything that God sent Him to do, Jesus said, “It is finished.” Then He bowed His head and he died.

**Review:**

Let’s review what you have learned. Who would like to retell the story? (Ask your group if anything was left out or told inaccurately.) Would anyone else like to retell the story?

Why did Jesus die? Had He done anything wrong? (No, but you and I have.) But can’t all the good things we do get us to God? No. We inherited our sinful hearts from the first man, Adam. Every single one of us has sinned. We are separated from God by our sin. But, God’s promise to Adam is available to us. The free gift of God is eternal life. When God kept His promise and Jesus died on the cross, Satan was defeated. God’s power to save is greater than any other power in this whole world, including the devil’s.

Is there anyone that God’s great love cannot reach? Is there anyone too bad to get into heaven? No! Jesus didn’t just die for rich people, and He didn’t just die for the Jewish people. Jesus died for all sinners. Jesus suffered what we should have suffered. Jesus came at just the right time and died for us sinners. There isn’t anyone that Jesus doesn’t want to have a friendship with. Will you accept the gift of God today?

**Planning for Next Week  
Lesson 41 • He’s Alive!  
Matthew 28:1-15**

# PRESCHOOL LESSON

**SING:** “Oh, How He Loves You and Me”

**SHARE:** On a Thursday night, many years ago, Jesus and twelve friends sat down to a special supper. Jesus wanted to share it with them before He died. During supper, Jesus reminded His friends of many important things. They left the room where they had eaten. They walked through the city of Jerusalem to a special garden where Jesus liked to go with His friends. Jesus knew that this would be the last visit there. Jesus knew everything that was going to happen to Him. He knew that soldiers were coming to arrest Him. Jesus didn't run away and hide. Jesus went to meet them. The soldiers tied Jesus hands' and arrested Him. But Jesus had done nothing wrong.

They left the garden, and many people told lies about Jesus. No one had any proof. But the leaders wanted Jesus dead. Early Friday morning they handed Jesus over to the Roman governor, Pilate. The only problem was that Pilate couldn't find anything wrong with Jesus. Pilate also knew that the leaders were just jealous. But by this time a crowd had gathered and the people shouted, “Kill Jesus! Crucify Him!” Pilate gave in to the people. He sent Jesus away to be whipped. Then, they led Jesus away to be nailed to a cross.

They made Jesus carry His own cross. But on the way out of the city, they forced a man named Simon to carry the cross up the hill. Once there, they nailed Jesus to His cross. Clang, clang, clang, rang the hammer on the nails. The cross was lifted up and there Jesus hung. It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified Him. In the middle of the day, the sky became dark. For three hours, the whole land was covered with darkness. At about three o'clock, Jesus cried out, “I'm thirsty.” And then, knowing that He had done everything that God sent Him to do, Jesus said, “It is finished.” Then He bowed His head and he died. Jesus was buried in a brand new cave by a couple of friends. He stayed there Friday and Friday night. He was in the tomb Saturday and Saturday night. But something amazing happened on Sunday! We'll talk about that next week.

**PRAY:** Thank you, God, for sending Jesus to die for me.

# LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- Memory Verse Activity - Make memory verse clocks. Cut round clock faces. Label with numbers, if desired, and the memory verse “Jesus came at just the right time.” Add hands, attaching them with paper fasteners (brads).
- Provide pictures of events from the last supper through the crucifixion. Encourage your students to order them correctly.
- Bring a crown of thorns.
- Provide a map of Jerusalem. Track Jesus’ movement from the Upper Room, through the streets, to the garden and on to Caiaphas’ house as well as Golgotha.
- Bring a wooden cross, hammer, nails, and small pieces of note paper. Encourage your students to write one, or more, of their sins on the paper. Fold each paper. Give older students a nail and allow them to nail that sin to the cross. For younger students, have an adult or older sibling do this. Explain that when we trust Jesus with our lives, when we choose to follow Him, He forgives our sins. He carried those sins in His body and died for those sins. Stress the importance to trust God for the strength not to continue in that sin.
- For older student and adults: Read Romans 5:6-21. Compare and contrast the first Adam with the “last Adam,” (Jesus-1 Corinthians 15:45).
- For older student and adults: Discuss Exodus 12, Psalm 22, and Isaiah 53. Discuss how each of these passages “predicted,” or prophesied, what actually happened. You might even want to make charts of what each passage says along with how it was fulfilled in Jesus. Talk about God’s Big Plan of providing a payment for our sins.