

LIFE OF CHRIST
from the gospel of
Luke

Lesson 14

Journey to the Cross:
Jesus is Crucified

Luke 23:1-56

Life of Christ

Jesus is Crucified

Luke 23:1-56

Younger Verse

Jesus gave his life for us.

1 John 3:16

Older Verse

This is how we know what real love is: Jesus gave his life for us. 1 John 3:16

Bible Story



*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

Last week, we learned that Jesus was arrested. He was taken to the home of the high priest. The religious leaders asked Jesus if He was the Son of God. Jesus said that He was. They got very angry at Jesus because they did not believe He really was the Son of God.

After that, they took Jesus to the Roman governor in charge of that area, a man named Pilate. They said that Jesus had caused trouble among their people. Pilate asked Jesus if He was the Son of God. Jesus said, "Those are your words." Then Pilate told the religious leaders that he didn't find anything against Jesus.

But the people would not give up! They continued to say that Jesus was a troublemaker. Pilate found out that Jesus was from Galilee, so he sent Jesus to another leader who was over that area. His name was Herod. Herod had always wanted to meet Jesus because he wanted to see Jesus do a miracle. Herod asked Jesus many questions, but Jesus remained silent. The religious leaders continued to accuse Jesus.

Herod and his soldiers made fun of Jesus. They dressed Him in a kingly robe. Then they sent Him back to Pilate. Pilate again told the leaders that he did not find any reason to have Jesus killed. Pilate told them that he would have Jesus punished and then set free. But the people shouted that they wanted another man, Barabbas, set free instead of Jesus. Barabbas was a murderer, yet they wanted him released and not Jesus!

Pilate told the crowd he wanted to set Jesus free, but they began shouting, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" Pilate asked them why they wanted Jesus to die. He asked, "What wrong has He done? I find no reason to kill Him. I will have Him punished and set free." But the people would not stop shouting for Jesus to be crucified and for Barabbas to be released. The shouting grew louder and louder.

Finally, Pilate gave in to their demands. He released Barabbas to them. And he sent Jesus away to be crucified. A man named Simon of Cyrene was walking nearby, and the soldiers made him carry Jesus' cross.

When they reached a place called Golgotha, they hung Jesus on a cross. There were two criminals crucified with Jesus, one on either side of Him. Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, because they don't know

Lesson Goals

- Learn that Jesus suffered and died on a cross
- Understand why Jesus died on the cross

what they are doing.” The soldiers threw dice to see who would get Jesus’ clothes. And the religious leaders mocked Jesus, saying, “He saved others; if He is really the Son of God, He could come down from the cross!”

A sign was written and placed on top of Jesus’ cross. It said, “This is the King of the Jews.” One of the criminals on the cross beside Jesus told Him to save them if He really was the Christ. But the other criminal told him to leave Jesus alone because He had done nothing wrong.

The sky became dark for about three hours, because the sun did not shine. The curtain in the Temple was torn in two. Then Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Father! Into your hands I commit my spirit.” Then He died.

A man named Joseph of Arimathea took Jesus’ body down from the cross. He wrapped the body in linen cloths and placed it in a tomb carved out of rock. Then he sealed the entrance to the tomb with a large stone.

That may seem like the end of the story, but it isn’t! Three days after Jesus died, an amazing thing happened—He rose back to life! Jesus had told His disciples that this would happen, but they didn’t understand. We will talk more about the Resurrection next week.

Why did Jesus let the people say all those mean things about Him? After all, He had never done anything wrong! It wasn’t fair for Him to die. But that was God’s plan to save us! Jesus could have come down from the cross if He wanted to. But He hung there until He died so that our sins could be forgiven. His death was the payment for our sins. Without His death, we would not have a way to be made right with God.

Aren’t you grateful Jesus loved us enough to suffer and die for us? He offers us a gift—eternal life. This means having a relationship with God. Would you like to receive this free gift? It is available to all who will call on the name of the Lord.

Review Questions

1. What was the name of the Roman governor that the religious leaders took Jesus to? (Pilate)
2. Did Pilate find that Jesus had done anything wrong? (No.)
3. What did Pilate want to do with Jesus? (Have Him punished and set free)
4. What was the name of the man who was released instead of Jesus? (Barabbas)
5. What did Jesus say when He hung on the cross? (“Father, forgive them, because they don’t know what they are doing.”)

Life Application

Ask: Did Jesus have to die? Could He have come down from the cross?

In John 10:18, Jesus stated that no one took His life from Him. He said that He gave His life of His own free will, and that He had the power to do so.

In Philippians 2:8, it says that Jesus became “obedient unto death.” That means that He *obeyed* God by dying on the cross. Jesus’ death on the cross was God’s plan. God sent Jesus to earth save us from our sins. And it was God’s will for Jesus to suffer and die, to take the punishment for our sins.

Planning for Lesson 15
Jesus is Alive!
Luke 24:1-35

Preschool Lesson for Jesus is Crucified

In our last lesson, Jesus was praying in a garden. While He was there, Judas, one of the twelve disciples, came to Jesus with a group of people. They carried swords and clubs with them! They arrested Jesus and took Him to the religious leaders.

These religious leaders did not like Jesus. They did not believe He was God's Son. They wanted to get Him in trouble! So they made up stories that weren't true about Jesus. But Jesus did not say anything! He did not tell them they were lying.

Jesus knew that God had a plan. So He let the people say mean things about Him. Then the governor, Pilate, talked to Jesus. He couldn't find anything bad about Jesus. But all the people wanted Jesus to die!

When they reached a place called Golgotha, they hung Jesus on a cross. There were two criminals crucified with Jesus, one on either side of Him. Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, because they don't know what they are doing." The soldiers threw dice to see who would get Jesus' clothes. And the religious leaders mocked Jesus, saying, "He saved others; if he is really the Son of God, he could come down from the cross!"

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**Hands-on Activities
for
Jesus is Crucified**

Bring a long spike/nail to show the kids. Remind them of the nails they used to put in Jesus' feet and hands. You can also bring a thornbush (made into a crown if desired) to illustrate the crown of thorns Jesus wore.

Bring the Resurrection Eggs and teach the children about all that Jesus went through before and during the cross.

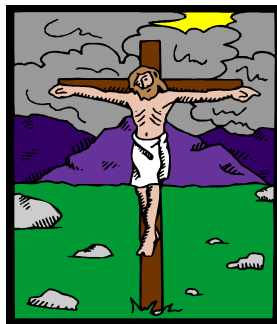
Sing, "Lord, I Lift Your Name on High." This is a great song because it summarizes what Jesus did and why He did it!

Have the kids cut out hearts from construction paper (or do it ahead). Write the Bible verse on the heart.

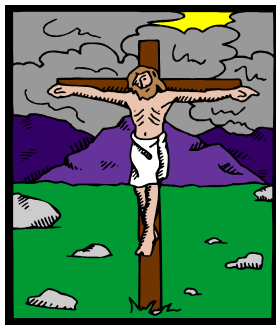
Crosses are easy to make using popsicle sticks. Just glue two together, and have the kids take them home as a reminder of Jesus' great love for us. You can add ribbon, flowers, or other decorations. Other types of sticks, such as cinnamon sticks, would work also.

**Jesus gave
his life for
us.**

1 John 3:16



**This is how we know
what real love is: Jesus
gave his life for us.
1 John 3:16**



Word Search

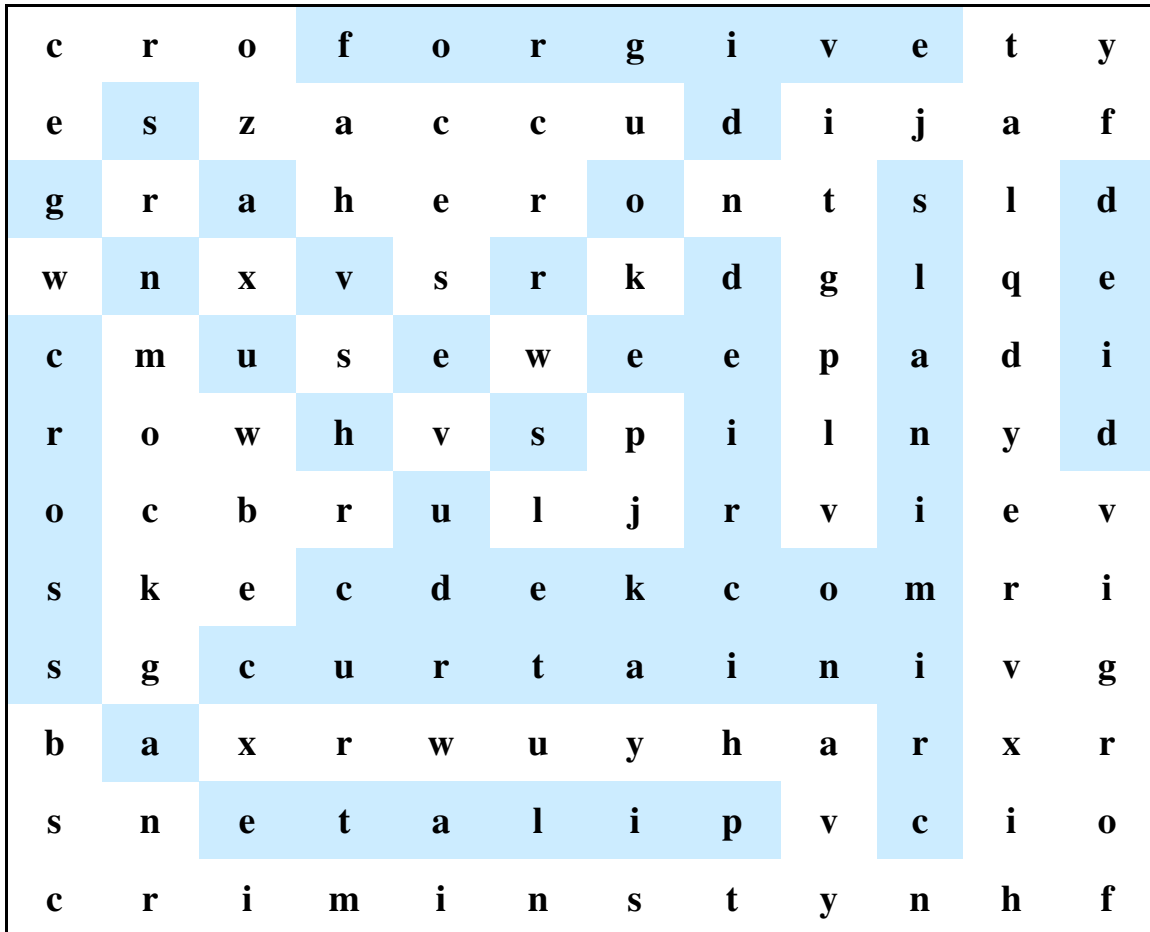
Jesus is Crucified

c	r	o	f	o	r	g	i	v	e	t	y
e	s	z	a	c	c	u	d	i	j	a	f
g	r	a	h	e	r	o	n	t	s	l	d
w	n	x	v	s	r	k	d	g	l	q	e
c	m	u	s	e	w	e	e	p	a	d	i
r	o	w	h	v	s	p	i	l	n	y	d
o	c	b	r	u	l	j	r	v	i	e	v
s	k	e	c	d	e	k	c	o	m	r	i
s	g	c	u	r	t	a	i	n	i	v	g
b	a	x	r	w	u	y	h	a	r	x	r
s	n	e	t	a	l	i	p	v	c	i	o
c	r	i	m	i	n	s	t	y	n	h	f

Pilate	Herod	accused
mocked	cross	criminals
save	forgive	hung
cried	died	curtain

Word Search

Jesus is Crucified



Pilate	Herod	accused
mocked	cross	criminals
save	forgive	hung
cried	died	curtain

Jesus said, "Father,

forgive

**them, be_ause they don't
kn_w
w_at they are do_ng."**

