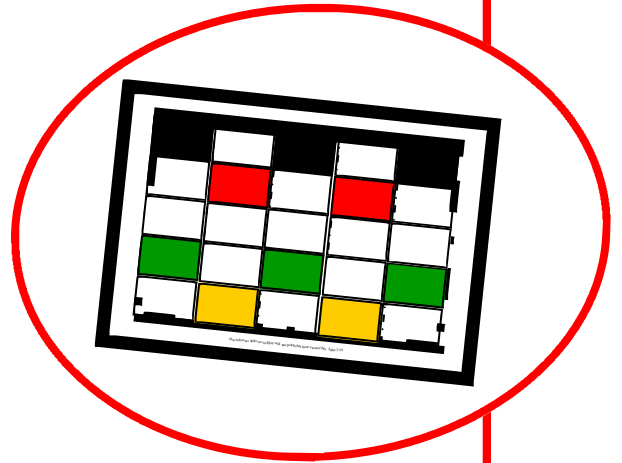


Day Three

KNOWING JESUS

- **Large Group**
 - Songs
 - Puppets
 - Opening Time: Personal Testimonies
 - *What Does it Mean to Have Jesus in Your Life?*
 - Memory Verse: Teams
- **Small Group**
 - Story: The Crucifixion and Resurrection
 - *Theme: Jesus Died to Take Away Our Sins*
 - *John 18:1-3,12-16,19-22,28a;19:16-18,28-34,38-42;20:1-8,19-20*
 - Craft: Place Mat
 - Learn God's plan to save us
 - Memory Verse Review
- **Large Group**
 - Story review questions



Day Three Opening

Pre-Rainbow Express Gathering

You will begin each day by knocking on doors and then playing games to help attract children to your Rainbow Express.

Song Time/Puppets

When it is time to begin your activities, have all the children sit down in a large group. It would be helpful to bring a tarp for them to sit on. When the children are together and seated on the tarp, begin your song time.

The Song Leader will come to the front of the group to lead songs. One or two others may also want to come to the front to help show motions. Be sure to have several songs ready to sing and that everyone in the group knows the songs.

TIP—The Large Group Leader should lead his opening monologue and serve as a sort of “master of ceremonies” to keep each activity flowing smoothly. He should not, however, tell the day’s Bible story. That will go much smoother in the small group time. Children listen more attentively in smaller groups.

During this time you will also have the puppets sing their song(s). Doing the puppet show in between songs can help keep the children’s attention. You are provided with one song for each day. If the children are responding well and enjoy the puppet music, it is okay to perform more than one of the songs and repeat the songs from day to day.

The Opening

Each day the Large Group Leader will welcome the children and provide an introduction to the day’s themes and activities. The more creative and engaging the Large Group Leader acts, the more interested and involved the children will be during the large group. Prepare ahead of time by making a fun costume.

The Large Group Leader will come to the front of the group and explain the day’s theme before the children divide into their small groups. What is provided here is a guide for the day’s opening. Do not simply read from this page. Read through the discussion guide repeatedly and be able to lead it from memory. Do not feel that the Large Group Leader has to memorize and recite this page. It is not necessarily intended to serve as a script. Rather, use it as a suggestion to help you know how lead the opening time.

It is so wonderful for all of you to be here today. All week we have been learning about people that knew Jesus. Today we are going to hear from a couple of other people. They are going to share with you how they know Jesus. *(Have two or three people in your group briefly share how they asked Jesus to be in their life. When they finish, continue with your large group time.)* All of us here love Jesus. We know Jesus. Jesus is part of our lives. We want you to know Jesus, too. Now we are going to learn more about Jesus. We’re going to learn about the most important thing Jesus ever did to help us.

Memory Verse Activity

When the Large Group Leader finishes his opening time, the Memory Verse Teacher will come to the front to lead the memory verse activity. The large group memory verse activity for day three is “Teams”. Have your poster of the memory verse available. Read through the verse all together several times to practice. Divide your children into teams. Have the teams compete saying the memory verse many different ways: loudest, softest, fastest, slowest, telephone style, English, Spanish, with hand motions, etc.

After the Memory Verse Teacher finishes, divide the children into small groups to continue.

Day Three Scripture

John 18:1-3,12-16,19-22,28a;19:16-18,28-34,38-42;20:1-8,19-20 (NIV)

When he had finished praying, Jesus left with his disciples and crossed the Kidron Valley. On the other side there was an olive grove, and he and his disciples went into it.

Now Judas, who betrayed him, knew the place, because Jesus had often met there with his disciples. So Judas came to the grove, guiding a detachment of soldiers and some officials from the chief priests and Pharisees. They were carrying torches, lanterns and weapons.

Then the detachment of soldiers with its commander and the Jewish officials arrested Jesus. They bound him and brought him first to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it would be good if one man died for the people.

Simon Peter and another disciple were following Jesus. Because this disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the high priest's courtyard, but Peter had to wait outside at the door. The other disciple, who was known to the high priest, came back, spoke to the girl on duty there and brought Peter in.

Meanwhile, the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching.

"I have spoken openly to the world," Jesus replied. "I always taught in synagogues or at the temple, where all the Jews come together. I said nothing in secret. Why question me? Ask those who heard me. Surely they know what I said."

When Jesus said this, one of the officials nearby struck him in the face. "Is this the way you answer the high priest?" he demanded.

Then the Jews led Jesus from Caiaphas to the palace of the Roman governor. Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified.

So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). Here they crucified him, and with him two others—one on each side and Jesus in the middle.

Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips. When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Now it was the day of Preparation, and the next day was to be a special Sabbath. Because the Jews did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down. The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other. But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water.

Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jews. With Pilate's permission, he came

PREPARATION TIP—We have included the scripture today's story is taken from. Before you learn the children's version of the story (next in this packet) you will be using to teach at Rainbow Express, please read through the verses. Pray and ask God to help you understand the scripture and the point He wants you to help the children understand.

and took the body away. He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs. At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid. Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. Then Simon Peter, who was behind him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen. Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed.

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

Day Three Small Group

Small Group Story Time

The text provided here is to serve as a guide for you while you tell the story. Read it through several times and be able to tell it from memory. It is not important to be able to recite this story word-for-word. Your goal is to be able to translate the story as it is written in the Bible (see previous pages) to a level children will understand. Use the wording included here as suggestions to help you make these concepts understood by elementary age children. Feel free to adapt these words to fit well with your own style.

Today's Story: The Crucifixion and Resurrection

This week we have been learning about Jesus and what it means to know Him. The first day we learned how John met Jesus. We learned that John was happy to learn that Jesus came to help people. Yesterday we learned about Jesus helping a blind man. That blind man learned to believe in Jesus as God's Son.

We have learned that Jesus came to help us by dying on the cross for us. Jesus took the punishment for the bad things we did. He made a way to get rid of our sins so that we can be God's best friend. Today we're going to learn this story.

Jesus and the disciples were having dinner on a Thursday night. John and the other disciples could see that Jesus seemed sad. Do you know why Jesus was sad? He knew that it was almost time for Him to die.

Remember that we learned about some church leaders who did not like Jesus. They did not like Jesus helping people or telling them about God's love. These church leaders decided they wanted to kill Jesus to get rid of him. They had convinced one of the disciples, a greedy man named Judas, to help them find Jesus so that they could kill Him.

Jesus knew what was going to happen. He could have run away. He could have hid. He could have stopped Judas. Jesus did not do any of these things. He knew that He had to die so that He could help us. Jesus watched Judas leave to go get the church leaders. Then he took the disciples to a garden to pray.

Judas went to the church leaders. They gave him some money for helping them. Then Judas took a group of soldiers to find Jesus in the garden. The soldiers came with swords to capture Jesus. Judas knew that Jesus would be praying, so he took the soldiers straight to Jesus.

When the disciples saw Judas coming with the soldiers, they became scared. They ran away and hid. The soldiers tied Jesus up and took him away. They took Jesus to the home of Caiaphas, the leader of the church leaders. Caiaphas wanted to have Jesus killed.

John and another disciple named Peter followed the soldiers to Caiaphas' home. They wanted to know what was going to happen to Jesus. They were very careful to make sure the soldiers did not see them. Peter and John were afraid that they would get in trouble for being friends of Jesus.

Inside the house, Caiaphas was talking with Jesus. He asked Jesus many questions about who He was and what He taught. The church leaders were angry. They knew that Jesus was telling the truth. They did not want people to believe in Jesus. They decided they were

PREPARATION TIP—When you tell the story use as many interactive elements as you can. You are going to be outside talking to kids with short attention spans. Keep them involved so they will hear the story!

Remember that involving the children will help them pay attention. Use hand motions and sound effects. Have your children repeat things back to you. Ask questions.

DO NOT READ TO THE KIDS. TELL THEM THE STORY! Even though you will be telling and not reading the story, have your Bible open to the story in your lap. This will help the children recognize that the story comes from the Bible and is not simply a fairy tale or something we have made up.

Helpers: While the story teller is teaching, sit with the children and be a good example by listening to the story. Watch for children who need special attention.

ready to kill Jesus. The church leaders took Jesus to the governor. There they got permission to kill Him on a cross.

The church leaders and soldiers put a big, heavy wooden cross on Jesus' back. They took Jesus to a hill outside the city, along with two criminals that were also going to be killed.

They put Jesus on the cross. Soldiers hammered nails into Jesus' hands and feet. They stood the cross up and left Jesus hanging there to die. John cried and watched as Jesus hung on the cross.

Remember that Jesus still had all God's power. He could have escaped whenever he wanted. He could have gone back to Heaven and left all of us with our sin problem. Jesus stayed on the cross because He loves us so much. He wants to help us get rid of our sin. Jesus knew that His job was almost done.

After taking a drink, Jesus said "It is finished." Jesus knew He had finished what He came to do. Then Jesus died. To make sure He was dead, the soldiers poked a spear into His side. Then they took His body off the cross.

Two men that believed in Jesus got permission to take care of His body. They came and wrapped His body in a long cloth like a blanket. They took Jesus' body to a cave and laid it inside. They rolled a giant rock in front of the cave so that nobody could go in and out.

Jesus died on a Friday. All day Saturday Jesus' friends and the people that believed in Him stayed hidden. They were sad that Jesus was dead. They were also afraid. Jesus' friends were worried that the church leaders that killed Jesus would come looking for them, too.

Early Sunday morning, a woman named Mary that believed in Jesus decided to go visit His body. She went to the cave to see Him, but when she got there, she found something very surprising. The giant stone was gone from the front of the cave. Jesus' body was gone. Mary was confused. She went to find Peter and John. When Peter and John heard that Jesus was gone, they hurried to the cave. When John saw that the cave was empty, he became very happy. "Jesus is not here!" John told Peter. "He has come back to life. Jesus is not dead any more!"

Peter and John hurried back to tell the other disciples. "Jesus is alive!" They said. "Jesus has come back from the dead! He really is who He says He is!" That night the disciples were together. They talked about everything they had heard. Was it really true? Did Jesus come back to life?

The disciples had all the doors and windows closed and locked. They were afraid that the church leaders would come to find them. Suddenly, Jesus came into the room. The disciples were amazed. "Do not be afraid," Jesus told them. Jesus showed them His hands and feet. He showed them where the spear had pierced His side. The disciples were very happy. Jesus really had come back to life!

The disciples finally understood what Jesus had told them all along. Jesus really is God's Son. He really does love all of us. He really does want to forgive our sins. All we have to do is ask Him. He will come to be a part of our lives. He will take away all the bad things we have done. He will help us know what to do. We would love to help you know how to have Jesus in your life.

Prayer Time

Take this time after the story to pray with the children in your small group. Ask them for things they would like to pray about. Tell God how awesome He is. Ask Him to help you and the children in your small group to listen to God and obey Him. Pray that the children in your group will get to know God and feel the love He has for them.

Craft

While still in your small groups, lead the children in making the craft for the day. The craft time is not only a way to reinforce the lesson, but it also allows time to get to know the children in your small group. During this time, ask them questions about their families, friends, and school. Invest in their lives.

Place Mat

Supplies:

Scissors, Tape, Construction Paper Strips (1 ½" X 11"): Black (1 per child), Red (1 per child), White (1 per child), Green (1 per child), Yellow (1 per child), Place Mat pages (1 per child)

1. Pass out a place mat to each child.
2. Fold in the sides in order to be able to cut along the dotted lines.
3. Give each child one strip of each of the 5 colors.
4. Weave the colors in through the slits in this color order: black, red, white, yellow, and green. As the children are weaving their strips in go over what each of the colors mean. Use this time to talk with each child one-on-one about asking Jesus into their heart.
5. Tape the strips at the end of the paper to keep strips in place.
6. Have the children tell you what each color means. Practice several times to confirm they are understanding the plan of salvation.

Memory Verse Activity

Each day the small group time will include a Memory Verse Activity. The Memory Verse time is one of the most important activities of the day. We want these children to remember God's word and why it is important to them. A list of potential activities is included in the back of this packet. Use a different idea from that list each day to help the children learn the words of the verse and to explain why it applies to their lives. (Some require extra preparation, so be sure to review the list in advance.) The memory verse for this week is

John 3:16—For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son that whoever believes in Him will not perish, but have eternal life.

When all the small groups are beginning to wrap up their memory verse activities, begin to re-gather the groups on the tarp for large group .

Day Three Closing

Closing Time

Each day you will end your Rainbow Express in a large group session. Have all the children return to the tarp where you started. Sometimes the movement from small groups to large group becomes distracting, especially to younger children. If you find your children becoming noisy as you return to your large group, consider singing a few songs to help everybody focus again.

The last thing you will do before games and snacks is to review the memory verse and the day's lesson. Have one person in your group dress up as John. This person can be, but does not necessarily have to be, the Large Group Leader. Many churches or school drama departments have costumes you might be able to borrow. If not, you can make a very simple costume out of fabric or linens. Another possibility is to use a puppet as John. Have John give a brief re-telling of the day's story in the first person. As John tells the story, have him frequently pause to let the children answer questions and fill in the blanks about the lesson. When you finish reviewing the story, have everybody say the memory verse together one last time.

Game Time/Snacks/Wrap-Up

When you are finished, pray together and be ready to play games until the end of the Rainbow Express program. After the game time, pass out snacks, clean up the area, and walk everyone home. Return to Mission Arlington to turn in your materials and attendance sheet.

Day Three Craft

Note-When explaining the meanings of the colors refer to the stripe and the sin it represents as dark rather than black.

DARK- This reminds us of sin. Sin is anything we do that is not what God wants us to do. The Bible says that everyone has sinned.

OSCURO- *Este representa el pecado. El pecado es cualquier cosa que hacemos que no complace a Dios. La Biblia nos dice que todos hemos pecado.*

RED- This reminds us of Jesus' blood. Jesus was God's Son and He died on the cross to pay the punishment for our sins.

ROJO- *Este representa la sangre de Jesús. Jesús es el Hijo de Dios y El murió en la cruz para pagar por las consecuencias de nuestros pecados.*

WHITE- This reminds us of our new lives. The Bible says that after we have accepted Jesus, we are brand new. He cleans out the sin that was in us. Jesus is in our lives! He will never leave!

BLANCO- *Este representa nueva vida. La Biblia dice que una vez que aceptamos a Jesús como nuestro Salvador, somos hechos nuevos. El limpia el pecado que estaba dentro de nosotros. !Esto es porque Jesús esta en nuestras vidas!*

GREEN- This reminds us that we are to grow as a Christian. In order to grow in our relationship with God, we need to pray, read the Bible, and hang out with other Christians by coming to Bible Study.

VERDE- *Este representa crecimiento como Cristianos. Para crecer necesitamos tener una relación con Dios. Esto es posible orando, leyendo la Biblia, y teniendo convivió con otros Cristianos por venir al Estudio Bíblico.*

YELLOW- This reminds us of Heaven! The Bible says that every person who has trusted Jesus to be his or her Savior will spend forever in Heaven with Him.

AMARILLO- *!Este representa el cielo! La Biblia nos dice que cada persona que ha puesto su fe en Jesús como Salvador estará por toda la eternidad en el cielo a lado de El.*

