



TEACHER'S GUIDE

GRADES 1-2
YEAR 1 | SPRING

Sunday School



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*I am the light of the world.
Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness,
but will have the light of life.*

John 8:12
(NIV 1984)



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Jesus Is Crucified

11

Mt 27:31-44; Mk 15:20-32; Lk 23:26-38; Jn 19:16-22



Why did Jesus let himself suffer on a cross?



Jesus let himself suffer on a cross to take away the sins of all people.

Application: Jesus earned our salvation by suffering and dying for us.

Response: We value the gift of salvation as our most precious possession.

Lesson Summary: Immediately after Pilate handed down the death sentence to Jesus, Jesus was led out of the city to be crucified along with two thieves. Once at Calvary, Jesus was nailed to a cross and placed between the two criminals. Those around him mocked the Lord, but he did not become angry. Rather, he willingly suffered the torment that should have been ours.



***John 3:16**
***The Second Article**
of the Apostles' Creed



crucify—a form of punishment in which a criminal's hands and feet were nailed to a cross and the person was left there to die



See Franzmann, *Bible History Commentary: New Testament*, Volume 2, pages 884–906; The People's Bible: Albrecht, *Matthew*, pages 413–418; Wicke, *Mark*, pages 221–225; Prange, *Luke*, pages 248–251; Baumler, *John*, pages 247–249.



Dear Lord, I praise you for willingly suffering on the cross for me. Help my students and me realize the depth of your caring for each and every sinner in the world. Amen.

Looking Back at Lesson 10

The Lord's Supper

Matthew 26:1-5,14-29; Mark 14:1,2,10-25; Luke 22:1-23; John 13:1,2,21-30

Aim: Why did Jesus give the Lord's Supper to his disciples?

Truth: Jesus gave the Lord's Supper to his disciples to remind them of his suffering and death and to give them forgiveness of sins.

Application: Believers who take the Lord's Supper receive forgiveness of sins.

Response: Children can watch this special meal and remember that Jesus gave his body and blood to forgive their sins.

Lesson Summary: At the Passover meal, Jesus pointed out that Judas would betray him. Later Jesus began a new meal—the Lord's Supper—for the forgiveness of sins.

Memory Treasures: *Matthew 26:41a; Mark 10:45; *The Eighth Commandment (with explanation)

Alternate Lesson Plan



Sing: Review the refrain of “The King of Glory Comes” (hymn 363) with

the children. Explain that Jesus is the King of glory who deserves our thanks, love, honor, praise, and obedience. Sing or say the stanzas, and have the children join you in singing the refrain.

Pray: Dear Jesus, you are our King of glory! Thank you for living, dying, and rising to save us. Help us give glory to you here on earth until we live with you forever in heaven. Amen.

**Show a globe.**

Ask the children what a globe represents.

[*Earth, world.*] Ask how many of the world’s people sin and deserve to be punished in hell.

[*All people.*]



God sent Jesus to earth to suffer in our place so that we don’t have to suffer in hell. **Listen to find out why Jesus let himself suffer on a cross.**

**WORSHIP**

Sing: Sing the liturgical song “Glory Be to God” (hymnal, pages 16 and 17), which gives glory to God for his gift of a Savior.

Pray: Read the sentences of the following prayer, and have the children respond to each with “Glory to God in the highest.”

Teacher: God, you love all people and promised to send a Savior.

Children: Glory to God in the highest.

T: You sent your Son, Jesus, to live a perfect life for us.

C: Glory to God in the highest.

T: Jesus suffered and died so that we can live forever in heaven.

C: Glory to God in the highest.

All: Amen.



Tell the children to imagine that they are going to a park. Ask them whether they would still go if they knew that along the way they would trip, fall, and break a leg. [*Responses.*] Explain that Jesus knew exactly what would happen to him when he let his enemies capture him and put him on trial.



Jesus knew he would have to suffer and die to pay for the sins of all people. **Listen carefully to our lesson to find out why Jesus let himself suffer on a cross.**



As you tell the story, draw on the **board** simple pictures of the following items:

- a road leading to a rocky area (Calvary)
 - nine o'clock
 - spikes and a hammer; hands and feet
- a cross
 - a sign on the cross (add “THIS IS JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS”)
 - two laughing faces; then change one face to a sad, speaking face

The Jewish leaders had **brought Jesus to Pilate**, the **Roman ruler** of the Jews, hoping that Pilate would **agree that Jesus must die**. Pilate **knew** that he **should set Jesus free** because Jesus had **done nothing wrong**. But Pilate felt that it was more important to **please the Jewish leaders**. So he **ordered his soldiers to crucify Jesus**.

Pilate's soldiers **took the purple robe** that they had used to make fun of Jesus off him and **put Jesus' own clothes back** on him. Then they **led Jesus out of the city** of Jerusalem to a place called **Calvary**. There the **crucifixion** would take place.

A large **crowd followed** Jesus to Calvary. **Some** of these people **hated Jesus** and were glad to see him suffer. **Others** were **his friends**, people who **loved him**. Still others were **only curious**. They wanted to **see what was going to happen**.

The soldiers **made Jesus carry the cross** on which he would be crucified. But Jesus was **very weak** from the beatings he had received. Soon he **could not carry** the heavy cross any farther. The **soldiers then stopped** a man named **Simon**, who was passing by on his way to Jerusalem. They **made him carry the cross** the rest of the way to Calvary.

The soldiers also led **two other men** to be crucified with Jesus. The men were **thieves** who had done many wicked things.

It was about **nine o'clock on Friday morning** when Jesus and the crowd came to Calvary. There the **soldiers nailed** Jesus' hands and feet to the cross. Then they also **crucified the two thieves**. One thief's cross was placed **on the right side of Jesus**, and the other, **on his left**.

Pilate had told the soldiers to put a sign at the top of Jesus' **cross** so that the people would know **why he was being put to death**. The sign said, “THIS IS JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING

Note: You'll need to use the story in the adjacent column.



Duplicate and enlarge **Copy Masters 1** and **2** so that the pictures can

be seen easily by the children. Cover up the pictures, and reveal them one by one as you tell the story. After showing picture 1, the path to Calvary, draw three crosses on the rocky area. When telling about the thieves mocking Jesus, use a **pencil** to draw laughing mouths on the two faces (picture 4). After telling about the thief who came to faith, erase one laughing mouth and draw a smile.



Show one or two **large spikes** or **nails** as you tell how Jesus was nailed to a

cross. After you have finished telling the Bible story, have the children hold their arms out straight for two minutes or longer. They may tire sooner. Remind them that there is no pain or discomfort people can suffer that comes close to the pain Jesus suffered for all people.



You need a **picture of Jesus and magazine pictures of earthly**

blessings to attach to the board during the discussion. Save the pictures for Close (Alternate).

Say Pilate gave in to Jesus' enemies and ordered that Jesus be crucified.

Ask What does it mean to be crucified? *[To be nailed to a cross and left there to die; it was a slow, agonizing death saved for the worst of criminals.]* What did the soldiers make Jesus do on the way to Calvary? *[Carry his cross.]*

Say Jesus had probably been awake all night. Soldiers had beaten and whipped him. Carrying a heavy cross was difficult and painful.

Ask What did the soldiers do when Jesus could no longer carry his cross? *[They called Simon from the crowd to carry it.]* How were the two thieves (robbers) very different from Jesus? *[They had broken the law, but Jesus had done nothing wrong.]*

Say Jesus was suffering and dying for the thieves. He suffered and died for the first two sinners, Adam and Eve. He suffered and died for people who lived long ago, people who

OF THE JEWS.” This sign made the **enemies** of Jesus **very angry**. They wanted Pilate to **change the sign** to say, “This **man said** that he is the **king of the Jews**.” But Pilate told them, “**What I have written**, I have **written**. I will **not change** it.”

Many people made fun of Jesus as they walked by the cross. They said, “**If you are the Son of God, come down** from the cross.”

The **Jewish leaders also laughed** at Jesus and said, “He **saved others**, but he **can't save himself**.” They said to Jesus, “**If you are the Son of God**, why don't you **come down** from the cross? **Then we will believe** in you.”

Even **the thieves** who were being crucified with Jesus **made fun** of him. But **later, one** of the thieves **stopped** doing this when he **understood and believed** that **Jesus was his Savior**.

Although Jesus was **suffering greatly**, he **did not become angry**. He **willingly suffered** and died so that all **people could be saved**.



discuss

Have a **pencil** handy. Duplicate (enlarge, if desired) **Copy Masters 1 and 2**, and cut the pictures apart to show and then attach to the **board**

during the discussion. Print the following words on the backs, and save the words for **Close**.

Picture 1: “We thank”

Picture 2: “and praise”

Picture 3: “our Savior”

Picture 4: “Jesus.”

Ask What did Pilate order his soldiers to do to Jesus? *[Crucify him.]*

Where did the soldiers lead Jesus?
[Out of Jerusalem to a place called Calvary.]

Do Show the picture of the path to Calvary.

Ask What did the soldiers make Jesus do on the way to Calvary?
[Carry his cross.]

Why do you think Jesus could no longer carry his cross?
[He was tired and hurt. The cross was heavy. He had been up all night.]

Why do we remember a man named Simon?
[The soldiers chose him to carry Jesus' cross the rest of the way.]

- Say** Two thieves (robbers) and the perfect Son of God were crucified on Calvary.
- Do** Draw three crosses on the first picture. Then have a child turn it over to reveal “We thank.” Attach the paper to the board.
- Ask** What can we do to thank Jesus for suffering for us?
[Possible responses: tell others about him; give offerings; obey his commandments.]
- At what time of the morning was Jesus crucified? *[Nine o'clock.]*
- What did the soldiers do to Jesus to hang him on the cross?
[They put nails in his hands and feet.]
- Do** Show picture 2, and point to the time and the nails.
- Ask** Even though Jesus is God, why were the soldiers able to crucify him? *[Jesus let this happen so that he could take away the sins of the world.]*
- Do** Have a volunteer turn over the picture to reveal “and praise.” Attach the paper to the board after the first picture.
- Say** Jesus deserves our praise for allowing himself to be killed in this horrible way even though he had done nothing wrong.
- Do** Show picture 3.
- Ask** What did the sign at the top of Jesus’ cross say?
[“THIS IS JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS.”]
- How did Jesus’ enemies feel about what the sign said?
[They were angry because they did not believe Jesus was their king or their Savior.]
- Do** Have a volunteer turn over the picture to reveal “our Savior.” Attach the paper to the board.
- Ask** What did the people in the crowd and the two thieves do?
[They made fun of Jesus.]
- Do** Using a pencil, draw laughing or talking mouths on the two faces on picture 4.
- Say** But one thief listened to what Jesus said on the cross and came to faith in him.
- Do** Erase one mouth, and draw a smile.
- Say** That man was like you and me because he believed in Jesus as his *[Savior]*.
- Do** Have a volunteer turn over the picture to reveal “Jesus.” Attach the paper to the board, and read the entire sentence.

are living now, and for people not yet *[born, living]*.

Do Attach the picture of Jesus to the board.

Ask What does that make us want to say and do? *[Thank Jesus; praise him; love him.]*

Say Pilate put a sign at the top of Jesus’ cross to show why he was being crucified.

Ask What did the sign say?
[“THIS IS JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS.”]

Say The words were true! Jesus had lived in Nazareth, and he was the one God had promised to the Jews. But he had done nothing wrong to deserve death.

Ask Jesus is God, so why didn’t he just come down from the cross? *[He loves us and wanted to suffer and die to take away our sins.]*

Say Jesus also shows love to us in other ways. He gives us many blessings while we live on earth.

Do Have the children name some earthly blessings. Attach the magazine pictures to the board next to the picture of Jesus.

Say These are all wonderful gifts that God gives us on earth.

Do Draw a large gift box on the board.

Ask Which of these blessings is the one we value the most? [*Jesus.*] Why? [*Jesus willingly suffered and died to take away our sins.*]

Do Have a child place the picture of Jesus inside the gift.

Say There is nothing that we have that is more important than our loving Savior!



You need the pictures from **Discuss** (Alternate).

Ask What did Jesus do on Calvary to earn our salvation (the forgiveness of sins and life in heaven)? [*He suffered and died on a cross.*]

Do Point to the pictures.

Ask Of all the blessings God gives us, which is the one we cherish the most? [*Jesus and the salvation he earned for us.*]

Do Pray:

I'm a sinner; I was lost.
Lord, you died upon a cross,
Suffering pain and agony.
Thank you, Lord, for saving me.
Amen.



Student Idea: How many crosses are on display in your home?

Think about this as you do the second student lesson activity.

Say Jesus earned for us the gift of salvation. That means our sins are forgiven and Jesus has homes for us with him in heaven. The salvation that Jesus earned for us on the cross is the most valuable thing we have!

CLOSE Point to the sentence from **Discuss**.

Do Read the sentence with the children.

Ask Why do we thank and praise our Savior? [*He willingly suffered and died for us.*]

Say Jesus did everything to earn salvation for us.

Ask What is salvation? [*Forgiveness of sins and life in heaven.*]

Say Salvation is the most important thing we have.

Do Ask a volunteer to lead the class in a prayer, thanking Jesus for suffering and dying so that we can go to heaven. If the child has difficulty thinking of a prayer, offer the following words for the child to read:

Dear Jesus, thank you for letting yourself be hurt and killed on Calvary to take away my sins. Because of what you did, I can go to heaven. I love you, Jesus. Amen.



at Home

Student Idea: The memory treasure John 3:16 is often called the gospel in a nutshell. It tells the whole salvation story. Use the flip book you made as you memorize this important passage. Then use your book to share the passage with someone else.

Note: Send this note home with the flip book made in the application section of the optional **Midweek Lesson**.



*John 3:16

*The Second Article of the Apostles' Creed

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Teaching
tip

It's easy to use "church" words and assume our students know the meanings. Explain words such as *gospel* and *salvation* in ways the children understand.

OPTIONAL

mid- week Lesson

- Begin by reviewing the refrain of "The King of Glory Comes" (hymn 363) with the children. Sing or say the stanzas, and have the children sing the refrain with you.
 - Use **Activity 1** under **Lesson Activities** to review the story.
 - Before class use **Copy Master 3** to make a flip book (see directions that follow) so that you can show it to the children as you explain what each of the pictures symbolizes. Then have the children make their own flip books. Briefly explain the pictures as follows:
 - *heart*: God's love (loved . . .)
 - *earth*: world (the world . . .)
 - *hand*: the "giving hand" of God the Father (gave . . .)
 - *cross*: God's Son dying for the world (his . . . Son, . . .)
 - *open Bible*: God's Word, which teaches us about Jesus (whoever/everyone who believes . . .)
 - *fire*: the punishment of hell (not perish . . .)
 - *ring*: never ending (but have eternal/everlasting life.)
- Give each child seven **index cards** with a hole punched near the top of each one. Have the children color, cut out, and then glue one picture on each card. Then demonstrate how to put their pictures in order and bind them with a loop of **yarn** or place them on a **metal ring** to make a flip book. They can flip through the pictures as they practice reciting the passage. Encourage the children to thank and praise Jesus often for his wonderful gift of salvation. *Suggestion*: Have the children take their flip books home to practice the John 3:16 memory treasure or to share the good news of Jesus with a family member. Use the note included in **To Do at Home**.
- *Pray*:
I'm a sinner; I was lost.
Lord, you died upon a cross,
Suffering pain and agony.
Thank you, Lord, for saving me. Amen.
 - Choose and use the **Lesson Activities** that best meet the needs of your students.

Lesson Activities

1. Review

Key Word Review

Purpose: To review the facts of the lesson by having children explain the significance of key words or phrases.

Procedure: Cut six crosses from brown construction paper, and write each of the following key words or phrases from the lesson on a separate cross: “Calvary”; “Simon”; “THIS IS JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS”; “9:00, Friday morning”; “people in the crowd”; “eternal life.” Then review the lesson by passing out the crosses and calling on children to explain the significance of the words on them.

2. Application

Good Friday

Purpose: To give reasons why the day Jesus was crucified is called *Good Friday*.

Procedure: Write “Good Friday” on the board. Explain that Christians often use this name for the day that Jesus was crucified. Ask the children to name things that were good about that day. They may be stumped by your question. If so, ask them what was good about that day for Jesus. [Humanly speaking, nothing.] But then ask what was good about that day for us. [Jesus took our sins away so we can go to heaven.]

3. Music

Songs to Sing

Purpose: To sing songs that reinforce the lesson application.

Procedure: Teach and sing one or more of the following songs:

- “Glory Be to Jesus” (hymn 103) is a popular Lenten hymn in which we give glory (praise) to our Savior.

- The refrain from “To God Be the Glory” (hymn 399) gives glory to God by praising him for the great things he has done, especially sending Jesus to be the Savior.
- “There Is a Green Hill Far Away” (*The Little Christian’s Songbook*, Concordia Publishing House) speaks of the events on Calvary and our response to Christ’s suffering there.

4. Art

Calvary Pictures

Purpose: To make pictures that remind the children of Jesus’ death on Calvary.

Procedure: Give each child a damp piece of 8½" x 11" manila or white construction paper. (To dampen, dip the paper in water and then blot between two towels.) Also give each child a 4" x 11" piece of green construction paper and scraps of black construction paper. The children should paint the damp paper with streaks of yellow, orange, and red watercolors. While the paint and paper are drying, they can cut a grassy area out of the green paper and three crosses out of the black paper. When the paper is dry, the children can glue the grass and crosses in place.

5. Review and Apply

Nonreader

Purpose: To complete sentences by coloring the answers inside a cross; to draw pictures of gifts, including our most precious gift—Jesus.

Procedure: Duplicate **Copy Master 4** for the children to complete. Do the first activity with the children. Explain the second activity, and then have the children work independently.

God’s Word in the Lesson: 1. cross: yellow; 2. nails: blue; 3. hands and feet: red; 4. laughing faces: green; 5. Jesus: blue; 6. heart (love): favorite color

God’s Word in My Life: Center picture: Jesus or a cross; other pictures will vary.

Reader

Purpose: To complete lesson sentences by coloring the answers inside a cross; to write a sentence that tells one good thing we could have said to Jesus as he hung on the cross.

Procedure: Duplicate **Copy Master 5** for the children to complete.

God’s Word in the Lesson: 1. crucify: yellow; 2. Friday: blue; 3. Simon: blue; 4. Calvary: blue; 5. hands, feet: blue; 6. king: yellow; 7. fun: yellow

God’s Word in My Life: Possible answers include “Thank you, Jesus”; “I love you, Jesus”; etc.

Challenge

Purpose: To determine whether story sentences are true or false, and to answer application questions.

Procedure: Duplicate **Copy Master 6** for the children to complete.

God’s Word in the Lesson: The true sentences are 2, 4, 5, 6, and 7.

God’s Word in My Life: 1. Savior; 2. to save all people, to pay for my sins, etc.; 3. praise him, thank him, worship him, etc.

6. Other Ideas

John 3:16

Purpose: To write the words of the John 3:16 memory treasure and to finish an illustration of its message.

Procedure: Duplicate **Copy Master 7** for the children to complete. Encourage them to share their work with friends or relatives who do not know Jesus.