



TEACHER'S GUIDE

GRADES 3-4
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' Burial and Resurrection

Mt 27:51-61; 28:1,5-8; **Mk** 15:38-16:8; **Lk** 23:47,50-24:8; **Jn** 19:31-42

Looking Back at Lesson 11

Jesus Is Crucified

Matthew 27:31b-44; Mark 15:20b-32; Luke 23:26-39; John 19:16-24

Aim: What did Jesus do to pay for the sins of the world?

Truth: Jesus willingly let himself be crucified to pay for the sins of the world.

Application: Jesus was crucified to pay for our sins also.

Response: We are very thankful that each of us can say, "Jesus died for me!"

Lesson Summary: At the order of Pilate, Jesus was led to Calvary and crucified. To the anger of his enemies, the soldiers nailed a sign above Jesus' head that read "JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS." In fulfillment of Scriptures, Jesus' clothing was divided among the soldiers. Jesus was then mocked and insulted as he suffered for the sins of the world.

Memory Treasures: *John 3:16; Ephesians 1:7; *The Second Article of the Apostles' Creed (explanation)



What do Jesus' death and resurrection show?

The miraculous signs at Jesus' death, the fulfillment of Scripture, and his resurrection all show that Jesus is God's Son, the Savior.



Application: Jesus is our God and Savior.

Response: By God's grace, we believe that Jesus is God's Son, our risen Savior.

Lesson Summary: What Jesus had said and done and the miraculous signs at Jesus' death convinced even a Roman captain that Jesus was the Son of God. The piercing of Jesus' side and his burial in a rich man's grave fulfilled prophecies of Scripture. Early Easter Sunday morning, the women who went to the tomb were astonished to see the stone was rolled away and to hear an angel tell them, "Jesus has risen from the dead."



Romans 3:24
Romans 8:1
Colossians 2:9



Sabbath—the Jewish day of rest, on the seventh day of each week



See Franzmann, *Bible History Commentary: New Testament*, Volume 2, pages 933-960 and 971-981; The People's Bible: Albrecht, *Matthew*, pages 424-436; Wicke, *Mark*, pages 225-234; Prange, *Luke*, pages 253-257; Baumler, *John*, pages 253-255.



Dear heavenly Father, as I learn the many ways you showed that Jesus is your Son and my Savior, chase away all fear and doubt. Let me be filled with confidence as I read about the miraculous signs, the fulfillment of Scripture, the angel's message, and the empty tomb. Amen.



WORSHIP

Sing: Sing “God Loved the World So That He Gave” (hymn 391:1-4), which reminds us that God forgives our sins for the sake of Jesus, his Son.

Pray: Dear heavenly Father, we thank you that your Son paid for all our sins. Thank you for forgiving our sins for his sake. Amen.



Tell the children that we can learn a lot about a person by the things that person does. For example, if a woman wins the Olympic gold medal for swimming, it shows us that she is probably healthy, athletic, and hard-working. If a man risks his life to save ten people from a fire,

it shows that he is probably brave, strong, and caring. Point out that the things we’ve seen Jesus do also show us a lot about him. Ask what each of the following shows about Jesus:

- Jesus became hungry and tired. [*He is a true man.*]
- Jesus walked on water and stopped a storm. [*He is powerful; he is God.*]
- Jesus healed many people who were sick or disabled. [*He is powerful, kind, and caring.*]
- Jesus told many wonderful parables. [*He is a good teacher; he is wise; he understands God’s Word.*]
- Jesus was willing to suffer and die to save us. [*He is unselfish and full of love.*]



In today’s lesson Jesus’ death and resurrection show us something else about him. Today you’ll learn **what Jesus’ death and resurrection show.**



Note: Remember there are *To Do at Home* activity options in a separate file on the *Teacher’s Guide CD*.

Alternate Lesson Plan



Sing: Sing “Go to Dark Gethsemane” (hymn 104:1-3) as a reminder of what

Jesus did to pay for our sins.

Pray: Dear Jesus, thank you for being willing to go to Gethsemane, the judgment hall, and Calvary for us. Bless our studies today as we continue learning how you saved us. Amen.



Ask what happened to Jesus on Good Friday. [*He was*

crucified.] Ask why he let that happen. [*To pay for the sins of the world.*]



In today’s lesson you will learn what happened after Jesus died. Listen carefully

for the answer to the question, **What do Jesus’ death and resurrection show?**

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



Sketch the story as you tell it. Draw such things as the three crosses on Calvary, Jewish

leaders talking to Pilate, Joseph and Nicodemus, the sun setting (labeled “Friday”), the garden near Calvary, the grave in the hillside, the stone in front of the grave (erase the stone later), the sun rising (labeled “Sunday”), Mary running away from the grave, the angels, and smiling women. Don't worry about being artistic—stick figures are fine! But if possible, add interest by using **colored chalk or markers**. And, if you wish, allow children to help draw parts of the story as well.



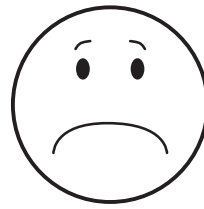
Have the children listen for the following key words in the story and do

the actions indicated whenever they hear them:

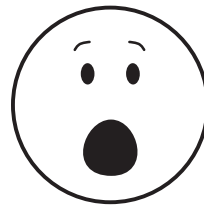
- *Die, died, dead*—clap your hands together once.
- *Roll, rolled*—roll your hands.
- *Rise, rising, risen*—raise your arms up in the air.



Give each child three small (dessert-sized) **paper plates**. Draw and label the following three faces on the board:



sad



amazed



happy

Have the children draw each of the three faces on individual plates. As you tell the story, stop at the places marked with an asterisk (you may wish to highlight these), and have the children hold up their plates to show how they think the person(s) in that part of the story felt.

It was about three o'clock on **Good Friday afternoon** when **Jesus died**. At that moment God sent some **miraculous signs**. The thick, heavy **curtain** that hung **in the temple ripped** from top to bottom. The **earth shook**, and heavy **rocks split** apart. In addition, **graves opened** up, and many **believers** who had died **came back to life**. When he saw the earthquake and some of the other miracles, the **Roman captain** in charge of the crucifixion said, “**Surely** this was the **Son of God**.”*

The **Sabbath Day** would **begin at sunset**, and the **Jewish leaders** did **not want** the **bodies** of Jesus and the two criminals hanging **on the crosses during the Sabbath**. So they **asked Pilate to order** his soldiers to **break the legs** of the crucified men. That way they would **die more quickly**, and their bodies could be taken down.

Pilate gave the order, and his **soldiers went** to Calvary. There they **used heavy clubs** to **break the legs** of the **two criminals**. But when they **came to Jesus** and saw that he was **already dead**, they did **not break his legs**. But just to **make sure** that Jesus was really **dead**, one of the soldiers took his **spear** and stabbed it **into Jesus' side**. **Blood and water flowed** out from the wound. In this way **two Old Testament prophecies** about the Savior were **fulfilled**: “**Not one** of his **bones** will be **broken**” and “They **will look on** the **one** they have **pierced**.”

Now there were a **few Jewish leaders** who **believed in Jesus** as the Savior, but they had been **afraid to follow** him **openly**. **One** of these secret believers **was Nicodemus**. He was the man who had come to Jesus one night and talked to him about the kingdom of God. **Another** was a **rich man named Joseph**, from the town of Arimathea.

Joseph went to Pilate and boldly **asked** him for permission to **bury Jesus**. Once Pilate granted his request, **Joseph and Nicodemus** took Jesus' **body down** from the cross and prepared it for burial.* They **wound** long strips of **linen cloth around** the body, layer after layer. Between the layers they **put sweet-smelling spices**. Then they wrapped a separate piece of **cloth around his head**.

Joseph owned a new tomb that had been carved out of a hillside. It was located **in a garden** very close to Calvary. Joseph had **planned** to use it for his **own burial**, but now he and Nicodemus **buried Jesus there**. This **fulfilled** the Scripture **prophecy** that said, "He was given a **grave with the wicked** and **buried with the rich**." After the two men had placed Jesus' body in the tomb, they rolled a **large stone in front** of the entrance.

Mary Magdalene and some **other women** who were followers of Jesus **watched** everything that happened.* They had **wanted to help** bury Jesus, but it was **too late in the day** to bring more spices to finish the burial. **No more work** could be done **until** the **Sabbath** was **over**. So they **left** the tomb, **planning to** prepare some spices and **return on Sunday morning** to finish burying Jesus' body properly.

It was **still dark on Sunday morning** when the women **started out** for Jesus' tomb. As they walked along, they **wondered**, "**Who will roll the stone away** from the entrance to the tomb for us?"

The **sun** was just **rising** as they **entered the garden**. When they got within sight of Jesus' tomb, they stopped and stared. The **heavy, round stone** had been **rolled away**. The entrance to the grave was **wide open!** What could have **happened?*** **Mary Magdalene** immediately turned and **ran** back to Jerusalem **to tell the disciples** about this!

The **other women entered** the tomb and looked around. They were shocked to see that the **body of Jesus was not there!*** Suddenly **two angels** stood before them. They were **dressed in white clothes** that gleamed like lightning and dazzled the women's eyes. The **women were terrified**, and they quickly **bowed** to the ground.

Then **one** of the **angels said** to them, "**Do not be afraid**. You are **looking for Jesus**, who was crucified. But **why** are you **looking for the living among the dead?** He is **not here**. He **has risen** from the dead, just **as he said** he would. **Come** here and **look** at the place where they put his body. Then **go** quickly and **tell Peter** and the **other disciples** that Jesus has risen from the dead!"

Then the **women remembered** that **Jesus had told** them he would **rise from the dead**.* They were frightened but at the same time were **filled with great joy**. They **hurried** from the tomb and started back to Jerusalem **to tell the disciples** the news: **Jesus had risen!**



Try to engage all students. Since we are teaching God's Word, it is important that all students understand what is being taught.

Some students may seem like they are not interested in participating or they don't want to raise their hands. Call on them for answers and participation anyway.

If they cannot answer some of the difficult questions, give them easier ones to answer. It may help to call a student's name before asking a question. This helps students concentrate and be prepared to answer.



You will need
student lessons
and highlighters.

Do Divide the class into groups of three to five students. Give each group one or more student lessons and a highlighter, and have the groups find and highlight on the student lessons each part of the story that gives proof that Jesus is God's Son and the Savior. When the groups are done, have them share their answers. Write the answers on the board in a word web, with the following groupings:

Miraculous Signs

Temple curtain tore
Earth shook
Rocks split
Believers came back to life

Fulfillment of Scripture

Bones not broken
Side pierced
Buried with the rich

Resurrection

Tomb was empty
Angels said Jesus had risen
Jesus raised himself, as he said

Ask the children how knowing that Jesus is God's Son and their Savior will help them in the following situations:

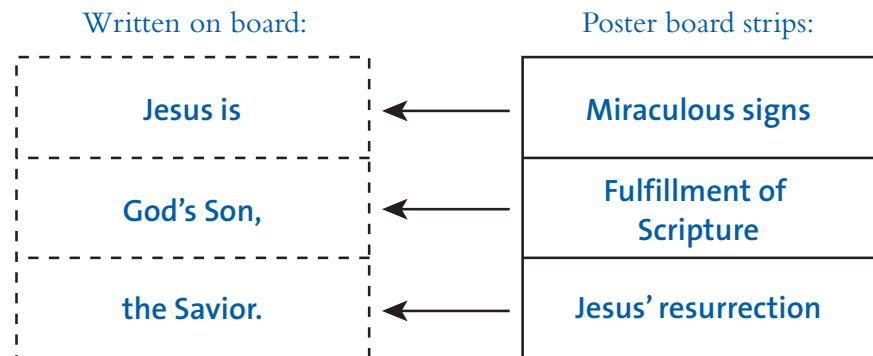
- They feel guilty for doing something wrong, like cheating or stealing. *[They can remember that since*



discuss

On three pieces of **poster board**, write "Miraculous signs," "Fulfillment of Scripture," and "Jesus' resurrection."

Attach **tape or a magnetic strip** to the back of each piece. On the board, write "Jesus is God's Son, the Savior" as shown in the diagram. Cover the words on the board with the poster board pieces in the order shown. Remove each piece when indicated, thus revealing the truth of the lesson.



Ask What miraculous signs did God send when Jesus died?
[The curtain in the temple ripped, the earth shook, rocks split apart, graves opened, and believers came back to life.]

Why do you think God sent these signs? *[To show that Jesus is his Son.]*

What was even a Roman captain led to say about Jesus?
[That he was the Son of God.]

Do Remove the top poster strip from the board. (Explain that as you remove the strips the class will discover the truth of the lesson.) Then tell the children that after hearing about the miracles at Jesus' death, someone said, "Those things remind me of what happened at Jesus' baptism." Ask them what that person might have meant. *[At Jesus' baptism miraculous signs—the Holy Spirit coming down in the shape of a dove and God the Father speaking from heaven saying, "This is my Son . . ."—showed that Jesus is God's Son. The miracles at Jesus' death serve the same purpose. They show without a doubt that Jesus is God's Son.]*

Ask Because of the Sabbath, what did the leaders not want to happen? *[The bodies to be on the crosses on the Sabbath.]*

Do Explain that God's Old Testament laws said to bury a person on the same day he was put to death (Deuteronomy 21:22,23).

Say Pilate ordered his soldiers to make the men on the crosses die more quickly by breaking their legs. But the soldier who went to Jesus saw that he was already dead.

Ask How were two prophecies then fulfilled? *[The soldier didn't break any of Jesus' bones, and Jesus' side was pierced.]*

Say Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus then took Jesus' body down and buried it.

Ask How was another prophecy fulfilled then? *[Jesus was buried in a rich man's grave.]*

Say Even after his death, the things that were done with Jesus' body fulfilled Bible prophecies.

Ask What does this show? *[That Jesus is the promised Savior.]*

Why do you think God put all those Old Testament prophecies in the Bible? *[To show us that since Jesus fulfilled every prophecy about the promised Savior that God gave in the Old Testament, he is the Savior.]*

Do Remove the second poster board strip.

Ask How did the men close the tomb? *[By rolling a stone in front of the entrance.]*

Do Ask or tell the children why this was done. *[To keep robbers and animals out.]*

Say Because the Sabbath was about to start, Joseph and Nicodemus weren't able to finish burying Jesus properly. So a group of women who loved Jesus returned to the grave early on Sunday morning to finish the job.

Ask What did they see as they came near the tomb? *[The stone had been rolled away.]*

Say Immediately Mary Magdalene ran to Jerusalem to tell the disciples.

Ask What do you think she was going to tell them?
[Answers will vary.]

What did the women discover when they entered the tomb?
[Jesus' body wasn't there, but angels were!]

What did the angels say Jesus had done? *[He had risen from the dead.]*

Why should the women have known that this would happen?
[Jesus had said that he would rise from the dead.]

Say The angels told the women to tell Peter and the other disciples that Jesus had risen.

Jesus really is their Savior, God has forgiven that sin. It is gone—as if they had never done it.]

- They are afraid to die. *[They now know that God has accepted Jesus' payment for all sins, so they will go to heaven.]*
- They are so lonely that they even wonder if God loves them. *[They know that God loves them so much that he even sent his own Son to die for them.]*



Ask Besides Jesus' death, what else happened on Good Friday? *[His burial.]* And what happened on the following Sunday? *[Jesus rose from the dead.]* What do Jesus' death and resurrection show? *[The miraculous signs at Jesus' death, the fulfillment of Scripture, and his resurrection all show that Jesus is God's Son, the Savior.]* How would you answer the question, "Who is Jesus?" *[Jesus is our God and Savior.]*

Say By God's grace, we believe that Jesus is God's Son, our risen Savior.

Do Sing "Go to Dark Gethsemane" (hymn 104:4) as a reminder that Jesus' final step in saving us was to rise from the dead.

Ask Why do you think Peter was mentioned specifically? *[Peter had denied knowing Jesus and was probably feeling guilty and ashamed.]*

Say Other people had been raised from the dead—the young man of Nain, Jairus' daughter, and Lazarus.

Ask Why was Jesus' resurrection different from theirs? *[Those people did not bring themselves back to life—they were raised by Jesus' power. Jesus raised himself. Only God can raise people from the dead.]*

Since Jesus raised himself from the dead, what does this show about him? *[That he is God's Son and our Savior.]*

Do Remove the final poster strip.

Ask Why is it important for us to be absolutely certain that Jesus is God's Son and our Savior? *[We are saved through faith in Jesus as our Savior. Since we know Jesus is our Savior, we can trust that he has earned forgiveness for all our sins.]*

CLOSE

Say We can learn a lot about someone by the things that person does. But the most important person we need to learn about is Jesus.

Ask What do Jesus' death and resurrection show? *[The miraculous signs at Jesus' death, the fulfillment of Scripture, and his resurrection all show that Jesus is God's Son, the Savior.]*

How would *you* answer the question, "Who is Jesus?" *[Jesus is our God and Savior.]*

Say By God's grace, we believe that Jesus is God's Son, our risen Savior.

Do *Pray:* Dear Father, thank you for sending your Son to be our Savior. Thank you also for letting us learn about his death and resurrection, which won our salvation. Amen.



Romans 3:24

Note to Teacher: Explain that we are justified (declared not guilty, forgiven) through the work of Jesus our Savior.

Romans 8:1

Colossians 2:9

Note to Teacher: Explain that Jesus is God's Son—the Deity (God) in human form.

OPTIONAL

mid- week Lesson

- Remind the children that we have much to be thankful for—we have a Savior, who loves us so much that he died for our sins! Then read responsively or sing Psalm 118 (hymnal, page 108)—a psalm of praise and rejoicing.
- Use **Activity 1** under **Lesson Activities** to review the story.
- Use **Activity 2** to write acrostics that will review what Jesus did to save us.
- Close by singing “I Know That My Redeemer Lives” (hymn 152:1,2,8) to express confidence and joy because our Savior lives!

Lesson Activities

1. Review

Riddle Review

Purpose: To review the story by writing and solving riddles.

Procedure: Write the following on the board:

- priest in the temple
- Roman captain
- soldier
- Pilate
- Jewish leader
- Nicodemus
- Joseph of Arimathea
- Mary Magdalene
- woman who followed Jesus
- angel

Have each child choose one of the people listed, or assign them privately. Tell the children to pretend that they were in Jerusalem during the time of the lesson. Then have each child write a few sentences about what happened, writing from the viewpoint of the person he or she chose or was assigned. The children should not tell which persons they are writing about but rather should write in the form of riddles. (Example for the priest in the temple: “It was about three o’clock on Friday afternoon. I was offering a sacrifice in the temple. Suddenly I heard a loud tearing sound! The thick temple curtain had been torn in half, but no one was nearby who could have done it! Who am I?”) Then give each child a chance to read his or her riddle to the class, having the class solve it.

2. Application

Acrostic Poems

Purpose: To write acrostic poems about what Jesus has done for us.

Procedure: Have the children work individually or with partners to write acrostic poems about what Jesus has done for us. Have them choose a base word to write vertically on the page and fill in a phrase or statement that begins with each letter of the word. The children may use base words such as God’s Son, Savior, Risen, or Jesus. Example:

God sent Jesus, his
Only Son, to
Deliver us from
Sin.

Salvation is
Ours.
Now we can go to heaven.

3. Music

Easter Praise

Purpose: To learn and share Easter hymns of praise.

Procedure: Have the children sing a hymn of praise such as hymn 154:1,2,5: “Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks”; hymn 157:1,2,4: “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”; or hymn 399: “To God Be the Glory.” Or teach the children the songs “Low in the Grave He Lay” by Robert Lowry and “This Is the Day” by Natalie Sleeth (*Let All the People Praise You*, Northwestern Publishing House).

Optional: After the children have practiced singing the hymns and songs listed and possibly other Easter hymns, take them “Easter caroling” to a local nursing home or to congregational shut-ins.

4. Art

Note Holders

Purpose: To make butterfly note holders that will remind the children of Jesus' resurrection.

Procedure: Explain to the children that a butterfly is a symbol of Jesus' resurrection. A caterpillar makes a chrysalis (some children might think it's a cocoon) and appears to be dead, but then it transforms into a beautiful butterfly. Then have the children make magnetic butterfly note holders as follows:

- Have the children cut butterfly shapes approximately 5" x 3" from colored foam craft sheets (available from craft stores). Have them cut small geometric shapes from foam scraps of various colors and glue the shapes on to decorate their butterflies.
- Help each child attach a magnetic strip to one side of a spring-type wooden clothespin. Then have the children glue the butterfly to the other side of the clothespin.
- Have the children make small notes with messages such as "Jesus Lives" to clip in their holders.

5. Review and Apply

Picture This!

Purpose: To complete sentences and draw pictures about the lesson.

Procedure: Have each child complete **Copy Master 1**. The answers are as follows:

1. curtain, 2. rocks, 3. spear, 4. Nicodemus, 5. stone, 6. angel

Message: Jesus is God's Son, the Savior.

Prophecies Fulfilled (Challenge)

Purpose: To match Old Testament prophecies to the ways Jesus fulfilled them, find passages in which Jesus said that he would rise, and complete sentences about the lesson's meaning.

Procedure: Have each child complete **Copy Master 2**. The answers are as follows:

Part One:

Psalm 34:20—Neither Jesus' legs nor any other bones were broken when he was crucified.

Isaiah 53:9a—Jesus was buried in a rich man's (Joseph's) tomb.

Zechariah 12:10b—A soldier pierced Jesus' side with his spear.

Part Two: Matthew 17:22b,23; Mark 10:33,34; and Luke 9:22 should be circled.

Part Three: Answers will vary. Examples of possible sentence endings: rose from the dead, is God's Son, is my Savior, is alive.

6. Other Ideas

Jesus Is My Savior

Purpose: To make little books that will remind the children of the events of Holy Week and Easter Sunday.

Procedure: Give each child a duplicate of **Copy Master 3** (both pages) and two brass paper fasteners. Have a variety of construction paper on hand. The children will also need scissors, glue, and crayons or markers. Have them follow these directions:

1. Finish page 1. Draw the rest of the palm branch. Color the picture.
2. Finish page 2. Cut out wafers (small pieces of bread) from paper and glue them next to the one wafer already on the page. Color the picture.
3. Finish page 3. Draw the rest of the tree. Color the picture.

4. Finish page 4. Draw a flame for the torch or cut one out of orange paper. Color the picture.
5. Finish page 5. Draw thorns on the crown or make some out of brown paper. Color the picture.
6. Finish page 6. Draw the crosses on Calvary. Make the sky dark.
7. Finish page 7. Color the picture. Cut a stone from gray, brown, or black paper. Glue the stone over the opening of the grave.
8. Finish page 8. Color the picture brightly! Add the words “Jesus rose” to the sentence.
9. Cut out the pages. Make front and back covers out of colored paper cut the same size as the inside pages. Write “Jesus Is My Savior” on the front cover and decorate it.

10. Punch a hole at each X on the left side of the pages and at the same spots on the covers. Put all the pages in order. Put them together with two brass fasteners.

Encourage the children to share their completed books with family and friends.