



TEACHER'S GUIDE

PREKINDERGARTEN-KINDERGARTEN
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 Put on the Cross

Matthew 27:32-44; Mark 15:21-32; Luke 23:26-43



Aim Why did Jesus let himself be nailed to a cross to die?



Truth Jesus wanted to save all people from their sins.

Application: God sent his Son, Jesus, to suffer and die to save sinners.

Response: We thank Jesus for suffering pain and death on a cross to save us.

Lesson Summary: After Pilate's soldiers led Jesus out of the city, they nailed him to a cross. Jesus asked his Father to forgive the people who crucified him, and he brought to faith one of the robbers being crucified. Jesus endured terrible pain as he willingly suffered and died to take away all sins.



1 Timothy 1:15



See Franzmann, *Bible History Commentary: New Testament*, Volume 2, pages 884-913; The People's Bible: Albrecht, *Matthew*, pages 414-418; Wicke, *Mark*, pages 221-225; Prange, *Luke*, pages 248-251.



Thank you, dear Jesus, for enduring excruciating pain as you suffered punishment in my place. Give my students and me peace, joy, and comfort in knowing that you have saved us from our sins. Amen.

Looking Back at Lesson 10

Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet

John 13:1-17

Aim: Why did Jesus act like a servant for his disciples?

Truth: Jesus acted like a servant for his disciples to show he loved them.

Application: Jesus wants us to love and serve other people.

Response: We serve others out of love for Jesus and them.

Lesson Summary: On the night before Jesus died, he acted like a servant for his disciples—he did the lowly job of washing their feet. By this Jesus taught the disciples to love and help one another.

Memory Treasure: Mark 10:45

Alternate Lesson Plan



Sing the following words to the tune of “Are You Sleeping?”

You could sing the first half of each line, and then have the children echo you.

Jesus died. Jesus died.
Took away, took away
All my sins, all my sins.
Thank you, Lord! Thank you, Lord!



Have the children raise their hands if they would let someone:

- give them a high five
- shake their hands
- hurt them



You and I try to keep people from hurting us. But Jesus let his enemies hurt him.

In our Bible lesson today, we will learn why Jesus let himself be nailed to a cross to die.



WORSHIP *Optional: pictures of Jesus, a lamb, a cross, and a group of people.*

Sing or say the words of “O Christ, Lamb of God” (hymnal, page 23 or 35).

- O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us your peace. Amen.

Optional: Display the pictures. Point or have a child point to the appropriate picture as you and the class sing or say the words.



Read and discuss the following pretend story:

Jeffrey and his dad were at a baseball game. Dad reminded Jeffrey to watch the hitter in case he would hit a foul ball at them. But Jeffrey looked at the girl selling cotton candy and didn't see a ball coming right at him. His dad reached out just in time to stop the ball from hitting Jeffrey's face. But the ball hit Dad's hand so hard that it broke a bone.

Ask the children how Dad showed love to Jeffrey. [*He let himself be hurt so that his son wouldn't be hurt.*]



There is someone who let himself be hurt in far worse ways, and that someone is Jesus. **In our Bible lesson, we will learn why Jesus let himself be nailed to a cross to die.**



As you tell the story, make the following simple sketches on the **board** or a large sheet of **paper**:

- hateful faces of several enemies
- a heart (Jesus letting himself be killed because of his love for us)
- a hand with a nail pointed toward the palm
- three crosses
- a heart with a cross inside (one robber coming to faith in Jesus as his Savior)

The **high priest** and other **leaders of the church** hated Jesus and wanted to **get rid of him**. So while Jesus was their prisoner, his enemies **decided he should die**. But because they were **not allowed to put anyone to death**, they **took Jesus to Pilate**, the ruler of the land. After **Pilate** talked to Jesus, he **realized** that Jesus had **done nothing wrong** and did **not deserve to die**. But Pilate wanted to **please the enemies**, so he **said** that Jesus should be **crucified** (hung on a cross to die).

Jesus had **done nothing wrong** or **bad**. He **did not deserve** to be **hung on a cross**. He **did not deserve to die**. Jesus was **letting himself be killed** because he **loves us** and **wanted to save all people** from their sins.

On **Friday morning**, Pilate's soldiers **took Jesus out of the city** to crucify him. They brought Jesus to a place called **Calvary**. There the soldiers **pounded nails** through his **hands** and **feet** into a wooden **cross**. Jesus hung on the cross to **carry out God's plan to save us**.

Two men were crucified with Jesus. They were **robbers**. **One** robber was on **Jesus' right side**, and the **other** was on his **left** side.

Jesus was **suffering very much** on the cross. But he was **not angry**. Jesus **loved** all people. He **wanted to forgive all** people. Jesus **even loved** the **people** who **put him on the cross** to die. Jesus prayed, "**Father, forgive them for what they are doing** to me. They **do not understand**." The enemies did **not know** they were **killing God's Son**. They did **not know** that **Jesus let them** put him on the cross because **he wanted to die to take away everyone's sins**.

Many of the **enemies made fun** of Jesus as he hung on the cross. They **laughed** at Jesus and said, "**If you are the Son of God, come down** from the cross!" The **soldiers** also **made fun** of Jesus. And, for a while, the **two robbers also laughed** at Jesus. But **later one** of them **stopped** because he finally understood and **believed** that Jesus was his **Savior**.

Yes, Jesus is the **Savior**. He **let himself** be put to **death** on a cross to **take away the sins** of all people.

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



Either attach a **heart sticker** or use a washable **marker** or **heart stamp** to make a heart on one hand of each child and on one of your hands. Tell the children that as you tell the story, they should raise the hand with the heart whenever they hear the words *loved*, *save us*, or *take away sins*. Cue by raising your hand for those words.



As you tell the story, have the children join you in doing the following actions:

- Make a hateful face like the enemies had.
- Shake your head "no" to remind you that Jesus did nothing wrong.
- Cross your fists over your heart to remind you of Jesus' love in dying for you.
- Pretend to pound a nail.
- Show two fingers to represent the two robbers.
- Point and laugh.
- Make a cross with index fingers and hold it over your heart to represent one robber coming to faith in Jesus as his Savior.



You need pictures made from **Copy Master 2**, a paper or craft foam **heart**, a **nail**, and a **student lesson picture**.

Do Have the children sit in a circle with you. Then follow these steps for one of the copy master pictures. Then do the same activities with the remaining pictures.

- Pass the picture around the circle.
- Have one or more children tell what sin they think is being pictured.
- Read the caption.
- Ask what might happen if they sinned in that way. [*Get in trouble with parent/teacher; be punished; have a time-out.*]

Say Those pictures showed a few ways we sin. But even though the ways we sin might be different each day, the punishment we deserve is always the same. We deserve to suffer in hell because of our sins.

Do Show the heart.

Ask But who loves us very, very much? [*God.*]

Say God showed his great love for us by sending his Son, Jesus, to suffer and die to take away our sins.

Do Read the memory treasure.



discuss

You need a picture of baby Jesus made from **Copy Master 2S**, a **Bible**, a **nail**, pictures of the enemies and the soldiers made from **Copy Master 1**, a **paper heart** with many dark marks (to represent sins), and a **cross**.

Do Show the picture of baby Jesus.

Ask Who is this baby? [*Jesus.*]

Say God sent his Son, Jesus, into the world for a very important reason.

Do Open a Bible and read 1 Timothy 1:15.

Ask Why did Jesus come into the world? [*To save sinners.*]

Do Lead the children in saying the passage.

Say God sent his Son, Jesus, to suffer and die to save sinners like you and me.

Ask What does it mean to suffer? [*To hurt very much.*]

Do Show a nail.

Say Jesus suffered as he was nailed to a cross to die.

Do Show the pictures of the enemies and the soldiers.

Say Jesus suffered as the enemies and soldiers made fun of him.

Do Show the marked heart, and explain that the marks stand for sins.

Say Jesus suffered the punishment for our sins.

Do Show a cross.

Say He let himself suffer and die on a cross because he wanted to save all people from their sins.

Do Tell the children to listen as you read a pretend story about a boy who sinned. Then read the following story:

Caleb's family was invited to a friend's house for dinner. Before going, Caleb's dad told him he had to eat everything he put on his plate. Dad also told him to take only a small amount if he was going to try something new. But Caleb didn't listen. He saw something new that looked good, and he put a big scoop of it on his plate. When he took the first bite, Caleb realized he had made a mistake. He did not like that food at all!

Caleb felt terrible. He knew he had disobeyed his dad and would have to eat all of that bad-tasting food. But then Dad scooped the food off Caleb's plate and put it on his own. Caleb was so thankful that he gave his dad a big hug.

Ask Why didn't Caleb deserve his father's help? [*Caleb had disobeyed his father, even after his father had warned him.*]

Why do you think Caleb's dad took the extra food? [*He loved Caleb and wanted to help him enjoy the meal.*]

How did Caleb show thanks to his dad? [*He hugged him.*]

Say You and I have sinned many, many times, and we do not deserve God's help. But God still sent his Son, Jesus, to help us.

Ask What did Jesus do to save us from our sins? [*He took the punishment we deserve. He suffered and died to take away our sins.*]

We can't hug Jesus, but what are some things we can do to thank Jesus for saving us? [*Obey him; sing praises; say thank-you prayers; give offerings; show love to others.*]

Say Jesus loves and took away our sins. We thank him for suffering pain and death on a cross for us.

CLOSE Show a nail.

Ask Why did Jesus let himself be nailed to a cross to die? [*To take away our sins.*]

Do Lead the children in saying the memory treasure.

Ask What do we say to Jesus for suffering pain and death on a cross to save us? [*Thank you!*]

Do Sing the following words to the tune of "Praise Him, Praise Him." *Suggestion:* Sing one line at a time, and have the children echo you. Then sing the song in its entirety.

Thank you, thank you, thank you,
my dear Jesus!

You saved me; you saved me.

Thank you, thank you, thank you,
my dear Jesus!

You saved me; you saved me.

Do Lead the children in saying the passage with you. Then show a nail.

Say Think of how much it would hurt to be nailed to a cross. (*Pause for a few seconds.*) Think of how it would hurt to have people make fun of you as you were suffering and dying on a cross. (*Pause for a few seconds.*)

Do Show a student lesson picture.

Say Jesus suffered those things for us.

Ask What do we say to Jesus for suffering and dying to take away our sins? [*Thank you!*]

Do Teach the children to sing the following words to the tune of "Praise Him, Praise Him."

Thank you, thank you, thank you,
my dear Jesus!

You saved me; you saved me.

Thank you, thank you, thank you,
my dear Jesus!

You saved me; you saved me.



Ask Why did Jesus let himself be nailed to a cross to die? [*He wanted to save all people from their sins.*]

Do Have the children say the memory treasure with you.

Ask What do we gladly tell Jesus, our Savior? [*Thank you.*]

Do Have the children add the missing words as you pray, "Jesus, thank you for suffering

and dying on a [\[cross\]](#). Thank you for taking away our [\[sins\]](#). Amen.”



Parent Idea: Have each family member use a nail from the attached paper or a real nail while doing the second student lesson activity.

Note: Attach a section of nails made from **Copy Master 3**.



at Home

Parent Idea: Look up Luke 23:32-43 in your family Bible and read the verses to your child. Then do the first activity on the student lesson. *Challenge:* See if your child can identify the word that Jesus used when he referred to heaven. (See verse 43.)



MEMORY TREASURE

1 Timothy 1:15

OPTIONAL

mid-week Lesson

- Have the children sing or say the Gospel response (hymnal, page 18 or 30) as their response in the following litany:

Teacher: Jesus, you lived a perfect life for us.

Children: Praise be to you, O Christ!

T: Dear Jesus, you suffered and died on a cross to save us.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

T: Thank you, Jesus, for taking away our sins.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

- Use **Activity 1** (Story Character Pictures and Questions) under **Lesson Activities** to review the story.

- Read and discuss this story:

Micah was helping Dad with a project in the garage. As he reached into a box to get a nail, Micah said, “Ouch! I got poked!”

“Are you okay?” Dad asked as he stopped to look at Micah’s finger. When he saw that it was not bleeding, Dad said, “Micah, you were hurt a little bit by that nail. Now think of how much Jesus must have hurt when he was nailed to a cross.”

Micah thought for a moment. Then he said, “Jesus must have been hurting *a lot*.”

“Yes, Micah, he was,” Dad answered. “Jesus was being hurt by those nails, but he was also suffering the punishment that all of us deserve for our sins. He took the pain and suffering for us so we would not have to suffer forever in hell. Jesus did that because he loves us and wants us to live in heaven with him someday.”

Micah pointed to some nails and asked, “Dad, could we use those nails and some wood to make a cross for my room? Then whenever I see it, I’ll remember what Jesus did to save me.”



“That’s a great idea,” said Dad.
“Let’s make one for your room
and one for mine.”

- Why did Jesus suffer and die on a cross?
[To save all people from their sins.]
- What are some ways you could use your voices to thank Jesus for saving you? [Say prayers; sing hymns.] Your hands? [Give offerings; clean church; help others.]

Optional: Do **Activity 4** (Nails and Crosses) under **Lesson Activities**.

- Close by repeating the litany used to begin the **Optional Midweek Lesson** activities.
- Choose and use the **Lesson Activities** that best meet the needs of your students.

Lesson Activities

1. Review

Story Character Pictures and Questions

Purpose: To review the story by using pictures to answer questions about the main characters.

Procedure: Give each child a copy of **Copy Master 1**. Read each of the following questions, and have the children mark the corresponding picture as indicated.

- Who let himself be nailed to a cross to die so he could save all people from their sins? Color (mark) that person red. [Jesus.]
- Who pounded the nails into Jesus’ hands and feet? Color (mark) those people yellow. [Soldiers.]
- Who were hung on crosses to die because they had done sinful things? Color (mark) those people blue. [Two robbers.]
- Who at first laughed at Jesus but later stopped because he finally understood and believed that Jesus was his Savior? Use purple to circle that person. [One robber; children likely will circle the smiling one, but if they don’t, that’s okay.]

- Who made fun of Jesus and were glad that soldiers nailed him to a cross? Color (mark) those people green. [Enemies.]

Story Pictures

Purpose: To use pictures to review the story.

Procedure: Color and cut out pictures made from **Copy Master 1**. Attach small pieces of felt to the back of each picture. Attach the pictures to a flannel board one at a time, and have the children tell the story events that correspond to each picture. *Variations:* (1) Have a child pretend to be a teacher and display the pictures on a flannel board while telling the story. (2) Make puppets by attaching craft sticks to the backs of the pictures. Give each of five children one of the puppets. As you tell the story, have the children come and show their puppets when they hear you mention those people.

2. Application

Thank-You Litany

Purpose: To use a litany to thank Jesus for saving us from our sins.

Procedure: Color and cut out pictures made from **Copy Master 2**. Have the children practice

saying their response together before you start the following litany. Show each picture as you say your line, and have the children respond after you.

Teacher: (*Show picture 1*) Dear Jesus, sometimes we sin by wanting money that is not ours.

Children: Thank you for suffering and dying to save us from our sins.

T: (*Show picture 2*) Dear Jesus, sometimes we sin by not paying attention when people are teaching us your Word. (response)

T: (*Show picture 3*) Dear Jesus, sometimes we sin by not sharing toys with others. (response)

T: (*Show picture 4*) Dear Jesus, sometimes we sin by getting angry when our parents say no to us. (response)

T: Dear Jesus, we are sorry for the many sins we think, say, and do each day. (response)

Variation: Have each child draw a picture of a way people sin. Have the children take turns showing their pictures and describing the sins. After each picture, have the children say their response.

3. Music

To Take Away My Sins

Purpose: To sing a song that thanks Jesus for taking away our sins.

Procedure: Teach the following words to the tune of “Mary Had a Little Lamb.”

Thank you, Jesus, for living for me,
Living for me, living for me.
Thank you, Jesus, for living for me
To take away my sins.

Thank you, Jesus, for suff’ring for me,
Suff’ring for me, suff’ring for me.
Thank you, Jesus, for suff’ring for me
To take away my sins.

Thank you, Jesus, for dying for me,
Dying for me, dying for me.
Thank you, Jesus, for dying for me
To take away my sins.

Jesus Died

Purpose: To sing songs about Jesus dying for us.

Procedure: Teach (review) one or more of the following:

- “Do You Know Who Died for Me?”  from **Copy Master 4**.
- “Jesus Loves Me, This I Know”  from **Copy Master 5**.
- “God Loved the World So That He Gave” (hymn 391:1).

4. Art

Nails and Crosses

Purpose: To make a reminder that Jesus let himself be nailed to a cross to save us.

Procedure: Before class, make brown paper crosses (about 9 inches going horizontally and 12 inches vertically). Duplicate the nails on **Copy Master 3**. Have the children color the nails and glue them to their crosses, one at the bottom and one at each side of the horizontal beam. The children could also print “For Me” on their crosses. *Variation:* Use craft foam crosses and real nails (file and dull the points for safety).

Crosses

Purpose: To make crosses as reminders that Jesus suffered pain and death to save us.

Procedure: Have the children do one or more of the following cross activities:

- Have each child cut two strips from black construction paper and glue them in the shape of a cross on another piece of paper. Have the child print “For Me” on the cross. *Variations:* (1) Glue a red heart on the cross to symbolize the love of Jesus. (2) Make a bulletin board. Use full sheets of black construction paper for the cross. Add a large red heart. Cut the words out of purple paper. When you get to the Easter account, have the children make lilies and butterflies to add to the scene.

- Give each child a white poster board cross about 8 inches high. Have the children tear or cut brightly colored tissue paper into small, irregular shapes. Provide paintbrushes and cups containing a mixture of equal parts glue and water. Have students “paint” the tissue paper pieces onto their crosses. Each piece must be covered with glue. Overlapping pieces is very pretty. Wash hands and brushes thoroughly when done.
- Stack sheets of newspaper on Styrofoam meat trays to make paint pads. Saturate each pad with black or brown tempera paint. Give each child a 12" x 18" sheet of purple construction paper that has a cross drawn as large as possible on the back. Have the children use onion or orange halves dipped in paint to stamp designs (to resemble wood grain) on the front sides of their papers. After the papers have dried, have the children cut out their crosses and glue them (wood-grain side out) to large sheets of colored paper. The children could also add the words “Jesus Died to Save Me!”

Collage

Purpose: To make a reminder that Jesus died to save all people.

Procedure: Give each child a 12" x 18" paper cross. Have the children cut out magazine pictures of people and glue the pictures to the crosses. Remind the children that Jesus suffered and died to save people from all countries and of all ages, sizes, and races.

5. Other Ideas

Work Out the Wiggles

Purpose: To move to a rhyme that thanks Jesus for suffering and dying to save us.

Procedure: Divide the class into two groups. The members of each group should stand side by side, and the two groups should stand at least 20 feet apart, facing each other.

Teach the class the following rhyme. Then join the first group in saying the rhyme, adding a clap and a step forward at each asterisk. Have that group “freeze” as you join the second group, and repeat the process. Continue until the two groups meet in the middle.

Thank you,* thank you,* thank you,* Jesus.*
You suffered* and died* so you* could save us! *

Action Rhyme

Purpose: To learn an action rhyme about Jesus taking away our sins.

Procedure: Say the following words and have the children join you in doing the actions. Repeat.

Who could take our sins away?
(*extend arms forward, palms up*)

Not you, not you, not I.
(*point to others, then self*)

For our sins we could not pay.
(*shake head “no”*)

Not you, not you, not I.
(*point to others, then self*)

Jesus took our sins away—
(*form cross with index fingers*)

Yours and yours and mine.
(*point to others, then self*)

“Thank you, Jesus!” we now say—
(*fold hands; bow head*)

You and you and I.
(*point to others, then self*)