

MD KIDS Preschool CURRICULUM

Week 25: The Crucifixion (from Luke 23:26-49)

To the Teacher:

This week we look at the death of Jesus, the perfect Lamb who was slain so we might live. This is a heavy story, but crucial to our faith. Allow the kids to sit in the heaviness for a bit to start to see the cost Jesus paid... but remind them at the end that he didn't stay dead!

Big Idea and Missio Basic: Jesus allowed himself to be killed by the very people he came to save, so that they could have life. What love!

Starter Ideas: You may choose to set up all or some of these activity centers for the children to play with or do as they arrive. Help children with the activities. Kids can stay in one center or travel to more than one.

1. Cross Craft: <https://pin.it/hkwe2jajvmxs5z> or <https://pin.it/y5wknp7omjphp7>
2. Free Play: Allow the kids to play with the classroom toys. (dolls, basketball, cars, tea party set, dress up, etc)
3. Coloring Page: Set out the stations of the cross coloring pages and crayons and allow the kiddos to color.

Circle Time: When all the kids have arrived and have had time to participate in at least one center, walk around the room and have each child follow you around the circle until you have a line with everyone in it. Lead them to the circle for prayer time. (Like playing follow the leader.)

Welcome Song: (To the tune of "Are You Sleeping?")

Welcome, [Name]

Welcome, [Name]

Hear God's Word

Hear God's Word

We can trust in Jesus.

We can trust in Jesus.

Welcome, friends.

Welcome, friends.

Repeat until every kid and adult has been welcomed.

Jesus taught us to share peace. We share peace in a special way by repeating Jesus' special words. Jesus used these words of peace when

the disciples were scared. Jesus said, “Peace be with you.” We share the peace of Jesus. During worship we can say, “Peace be with you.”

Make sure kids are sitting in a circle on the floor. Kneel down in front of each person/kid and share God’s peace by shaking their hand and saying, “Peace be with you.” Remember to honor those kids who do not want to be touched! **Let’s all say Jesus’ words of peace. “Peace be with you.”** Repeat a few times before moving on to prayer.

Prayer Time:

Praying for Others: Ask the kids if they have anything that they would like to have prayed for. Share requests and then have someone pray for them. Remind the kids to pray for friends throughout the week.

Praying Together: (*touch your nose for ‘smell’, your ears for ‘hear’, etc.*)

*God, help us use our **ears** to **hear** you, our **eyes** to **see** you, and our **brains** to **understand** your word. Thank you Jesus that you live in a body like ours.*

Father, we are sorry for every thought, word, and action that is against Your kingdom. We know that rebelling against the Giver of Life can only mean death. Thank You for sending Jesus to take that death for us, so that we can have life with You forever. Give us new life by Your Spirit. Amen.

Discussion to introduce the Story:

Have you ever done something wrong and worried about the consequence? What would it be like if you got in trouble, but somebody else came and took your punishment for you? How would you feel?

Story: from Luke 23:26-49

[READ]

After Jesus ate one last meal with his friends, one of them, Judas Iscariot, betrayed him and brought men to capture Jesus. The disciples were scared. Even Peter, who said he would never leave Jesus, denied knowing him because he was afraid of what would happen to him. The men who captured Jesus mocked him. They brought him before the religious leaders and the Roman officials, who condemned Jesus to die.

And as they led him away, they grabbed a man named Simon from Cyrene, who was passing through town, and made him carry the cross behind Jesus. A large crowd of people followed him, including women who were mourning and crying for him. But turning to them, Jesus said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and the children of Israel.”

Two criminals were also led away to be executed with Jesus. When they arrived at the place called The Skull, they crucified him there, along with the

criminals, one on the right and one on the left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, because they do not know what they are doing." And they took his clothes from him.

The people stood watching, and even the leaders were scoffing: "He saved others; let him save himself if this is God's Messiah, the Chosen One!" The soldiers also mocked him. They came offering him sour wine and said, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" They wrote above him: 'This Is the King of the Jews'.

Then one of the criminals hanging there began to yell insults at him: "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!"

But the other criminal said to him: "Don't you even fear God? You're facing the same punishment! We are punished rightly, because we're getting back what we deserve for the things we did, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." And Jesus said to him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three, because the sun's light failed. The curtain of the sanctuary was split down the middle. And Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I entrust my spirit." Saying this, he breathed his last breath.

When the Roman soldier saw what happened, he began to glorify God saying, "This man really was righteous!" All the crowds that had gathered for this spectacle went home mourning, beating their chests. But all who knew him, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching everything.

[Reflection Questions]

- Why did Peter deny he knew Jesus?
 - He was scared.
 - He wanted to save himself because he didn't fully understand yet that it was Jesus who would save him.
- Why do you think Jesus told the women to cry for themselves and their children, instead of crying for Jesus?
 - Jesus knew he was going to be with his Father and would rise from the dead.
 - He wanted them to be more concerned with what would happen to them, especially if they did not trust in Jesus.
- One of the criminals next to Jesus mocked him, but the other stood up for him and seemed to believe Jesus was the King. Isn't it amazing that even though he did wrong things and was a criminal, his trust in Jesus could save him?

- When Jesus died, the sky went black and the curtain in the temple tore.
 - Jesus is Creator of all things, including the sky. The sky went black because all of creation felt the pain of Jesus' death!
 - In the temple, there was a very thick curtain that kept people separate from the presence of God. When Jesus died, the curtain tore down symbolizing he has made it possible for all people to draw near to God's presence, if we trust in him!
- Though Jesus' death was sad, we must remember what happens next in the Story... do you know?

Snack Time: Let's take a big stretch! Pause for kids to stretch and get the wiggles out. Clean the table for snack time. Help the kids wash hands together before delving into today's snack. Sing songs while you wash hands. You can give them each a wipe or a squirt of hand sanitizer. Have the children have a seat at the table. Today's snack is veggie straws. Make sure none of the kids have an allergy to them. Begin passing out the napkins, goldfish or veggie straws, and cups of water.

BLESS Activity: *For kids to do during the week*

Bless: Do something nice this week for somebody else without them knowing or without them having to ask. Do not expect anything in return, just do it to love them.

Optional Playground Time: If you have extra time please feel free to take the kids to the playground. Please be mindful that preschool class playground time does not start until 12PM.

Closing Prayer:

Dear God,

Thank you for your word, The Bible.

Thank you for sending Jesus in a real body so we can get to know you.

Help us to trust that your word is true.

Thank you God, Jesus and Holy Spirit.