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JESUS IS CRUCIFIED

Crucifixion and Sorrow

1 | Teacher's Notes

Scripture John 19

Objectives To explain that

- Our lessons are all a part of a bigger story which is the story of the Forever Kingdom. This big story is found in the Bible.
- Jesus died on the cross for our sins. He is the only one who was without sin, so he could take the penalty for our sin.
- The disciples were sad and confused. They expected Jesus to “set up His kingdom” here on earth. But instead, the Forever King had been hung on the cross and was dead. They must have wondered whether Jesus really was the Forever King.
- Jesus’ perfect sacrifice means that we can have forgiveness of sin, and we can ask him to be the ruler of our lives.

Memory Verse “This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us.” (I John 3:16a – NIV)

ACNA Today's story of the crucifixion is connected to the following Catechism questions:

Catechism Q 57 Why did Jesus suffer? ...Jesus suffered for our sins so that we could have peace with God...

Connection

Q 58 In what ways did Jesus suffer? In his agony and desolation on the cross, he suffered in my place for my sins...

Q 336 Is it possible for you to keep all God's commandments? ...no...

Q 337 Since you cannot keep God's commandments perfectly, what has Jesus done on your behalf? ...as the perfect human, Jesus suffered death for me upon the cross, for the sins of the whole world...

**Suggested
Materials,
Props, and
Costumes****Big story props:**

- Crown - or picture of a crown
- Large Bible.

(These props relate to the bigger story of the Forever Kingdom, and will be used for every lesson. The crown will be referred to as the Kingdom Crown.)

Lesson props: cross, small red hearts (for children to write their names on and tape to the cross), felt pens and tape

Costumes: none

Memory Verse: (Found on the last page of this lesson plan) Print out and place in large Bible.

2 | Lesson Outline

Welcome	As the children arrive ensure each one is personally welcomed and everyone knows each other's name.
Greeting & Collect for Purity	Light the candles Say the Greeting and Collect for Purity (see Resource Section)
Prayer of Confession	Say the Prayer of Confession (see Resource Section) Extinguish the candles
Music	Books of the Bible - New Testament Also choose another song from the Resource Section
Review of foundations	Choose from the following as appropriate: The Lord's Prayer, The Apostles Creed, The Ten Commandments or The Greatest Commandment <i>For more information on how to teach these, see Resource Section</i>
Reading	Memory verse (Printed out and placed in large Bible – invite older child to read)
Poster Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss this week's poster. • Ask "I wonder questions" – these will be answered during the story. <p><i>Poster discussion is found in Section 3 and on the back of the poster</i></p>
Props/Costumes	Take a few moments to arrange the narrator and actors. (Props should already be set up prior to the start of the class.) Big story props: Kingdom Crown, Large Bible
Bible Story	<i>Proceed with story and life application found in Section 4.</i>
Related activities	<i>After the story, proceed with related activities found in Section 5.</i>
Preparation for Communion & leaving class	Gather the children together for the Preparation for Communion prayer before exiting the classroom. <i>See Resource Section.</i>

3 | Poster Discussion

Poster

(During the poster discussion, explain any difficult words in the story.)

What do you see in this picture? (a cross)

Is there anything you wonder about? *(if any child wonders about the colourful swirling lines, point out that it is the artist's way of showing that something very important happened on this day)*

I wonder why we have a cross in this picture?

I wonder who the cross was for?

Let's find out more in our story...



4 | Story and Life Application

CROWN: *Point to the crown and say: 'Today we are continuing our big story of God's Forever Kingdom.'*

BIBLE: *Hold up the Bible and say: 'Our story today is from the Gospel of John, in the New Testament. We know that it is a true story because it comes from the Bible and all the words in the Bible are true.'*

LESSON SUMMARY: *The teacher reads the lesson summary from back of poster.*

STORY:

TEACHER: Let's try an exercise to see how much you love something. I am going to say a word and if you "love it a lot" then I want you to spread your arms apart, as wide as you can. If you "love something a little" then I want you to hold your arms/hands close together (*illustrate to the children*).

ACTION: *Say the following words and wait to see how the children show how much they love each of these items. Ice cream; swimming, school; vacation; going to bed; singing; spaghetti.*

TEACHER: Remember last week (*point to last week's poster of the arrest*), while Jesus was praying in the garden, a group of people and soldiers came to the garden and arrested him, and took him to Pilate. Pilate asked Jesus if he was a king. Jesus said that he was a king, but his kingdom was not of this world.

The people were telling Pilate to "crucify Jesus."

Pilate listened to the people, and ordered Jesus to be crucified. A heavy cross was put upon Jesus to carry, much bigger and heavier than the cross we have here.

ACTION: *Have a large wooden cross. Lay it on the ground and have the children touch it and try to lift it.*

TEACHER: The cross that Jesus had was so heavy and Jesus was so weak, he fell. Another man was made to carry the cross for him. When they walked up the hill of Golgotha, the soldiers stretched out Jesus arms on the cross and crucified him.

ACTION: *Teacher, stretch out your arms to symbolize Jesus being crucified.*

TEACHER: Remember at the beginning of the class how we showed with our arms how much we loved something? Show me with your arms how much you think Jesus loved us to die on the cross.

ACTION: *Children will stretch out their arms.*

TEACHER: Yes, when I look at a cross, I think of Jesus stretching out his arms REALLY wide because he loves you and me so VERY, VERY much.

But the disciples were very sad and confused to see Jesus dying on the cross. They expected Jesus to live until he became king here on earth. Instead, he had been hung on the cross and was dead. Some of his friends took his body down, wrapped it in linen and put his body in a tomb that was closed with a big rock. They must have wondered whether Jesus really was the Forever King.

However, Jesus, who is God the Son, was without sin and was the perfect sacrifice for us. He would have to die on the cross, and take our sin upon him, and shed his blood, so that people (you and I) could be forgiven and live with him in his Forever Kingdom.

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS:

- **What does this story tell us about Jesus?** (He was innocent, without sin, but loves us so much that he was willing to die for us, would not be taken away from his Father's plan, was obedient, he felt weak, he felt all the pain, he trusted the Father)
- **How does this story change my life?** (it changes everyone's life because now everyone can have forgiveness of sin)
- **How did Jesus' disciples feel when they saw Jesus dying on the cross?** (sad, confused, they didn't know that he would come back to life)
- **Why did Jesus choose to die on the cross?** (to take away our sins, so that we could be at peace with God and each other, to show God's love for us, so that we could be forgiven and live with him in his Kingdom, he was obedient to the Father)
- **Why could only Jesus take away our sins?** (because he was the only perfect man and he never sinned, he was also God)
- **How much does God love us?**

Life Application (this discussion can also take place during craft/activity time):

Ask the children if they or any of their friends could live their lives without EVER doing anything wrong or bad? (*their answer will be no, sometimes we all do something wrong each day, everyone sins.*) Then say: You are right, we can't always be perfect, but Jesus was and we are very thankful to him.

I'm going to give each of you a paper heart. Let's write our name on the heart and then we will tape it to the cross. As we do this, we will be saying to Jesus, "Thank you for dying on the cross for me, and forgiving my sins. I want you to be the king, ruler of my life. I want to follow you."

Give each child a paper heart, and have them write their names on the heart and tape it on the cross.

Let's pray together. (Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving for the sacrifice that Jesus made.)

5 | Response Activities

Kingdom News handout and colouring supplement

- Have the children complete the activities in the Kingdom News handout and colouring supplement.

Optional Activities

- Different learning stations, such as: a book table, modelling clay, colouring papers.
- Child's name on a heart and taped to a cross



Learning station: Exploring a pop-up book

"This is how we know
what love is:
Jesus Christ laid
down his life for us."

I John 3:16a