



Objectives: To explain that:

- Jesus died on the cross for our sins. He is the only one without sin, so only he could take the penalty for our sin.
- Jesus' perfect sacrifice means that we can have forgiveness of sin, and we can ask him to be the ruler of our lives.
- Jesus chose to go through this suffering even though it was very painful because he loves us very much.

"I Wonder" Questions:

What do you see in this picture? (a cross, someone on the 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...

Lesson Summary:

The greatest story ever told is the story of God's love for us when Jesus died on the cross. Jesus was the only person without sin, perfect and innocent. He was the only one who could take the penalty for our sin. Jesus **chose** to suffer and die as the perfect sacrifice for ALL people for ALL times.

Even though it was painful, Jesus chose to do this. He would not be taken away from his Father's plan because he knew that it was the only way to overcome the power of sin and death in the world. He laid his life down so that our sins could be forgiven and we could live with him, now, and also forever. He knew that new life, new hearts and a new kingdom would begin from this sacrifice.

Today, and any day, we can thank Jesus for his forgiveness and ask him to live in our hearts. He can reign in our lives as King.

Let's thank him for this wonderful love! Stretch out your arms as wide as you can to help you remember that God's love is as wide as the ocean and as high as the heavens above. (Luke 23, John 19, Matthew 27 and Mark 15 tell the events around the crucifixion)

Suggested Questions: What does this story tell us about Jesus? (He was without sin, innocent, he loves us very much, 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, I am very thankful)

- 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 innocent, he was also God)
- How much does God love us? (stretch out your arms: as wide as the ocean and as high as the heavens above)

Bible Memory Verse:

"This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us." (1 John 3:16a – NIV)